

# 31 1/2

## Issue 103



**Wilsonian  
Sailing Club  
Magazine**

**Summer 2012**



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the summer edition of 31 ½ and the first fully (well almost!) digital copy of the newsletter. I would like to start by saying thank you to Martin Smith for all his hard work as the previous editor and for all his help in handing the newsletter over to myself.

For this issue we have sent a digital version to most of you. Do let me know your comments on the new format and ways it could be improved. The advantage of going digital means not only reduced printing costs but we can have more colour, pictures and larger pages! So lots more space for articles. This does mean I am on the hunt for more pictures and stories so if you take any good shots from the shore or from the safety boat please do not forget to pass them on for the magazine.

We have not of course, completely dispensed with the paper copy of 31 ½. There will be some copies posted out to those who have requested it (do let me know if you haven't received a postal one and wanted one!) and also some copies for the clubhouse.

The Medway Marathon has marked the start of the summer and there are lots of events happening over at WSC the next few months, so read on to find out more...

Have a great summer's sailing and hope you like the new look 31 ½!  
Best wishes, your new editor

Amy Adams

(Laser 144908/V3000 3602 etc!)

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Front Cover: The South Kent gets under way

## NEWS

### Medway Marathon

The 49<sup>th</sup> Medway Marathon took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012. 15 WSC boats competed and a particular congratulations goes to Brian Lamb and Chris Pygall who came in second place, Chris Ashby and Nick Lett who came in fourth place and Jo Wicken who was the first female helm.

### Push the Boat Out Day July 21<sup>st</sup>

Please come and sail at Wilsonian Sailing Club on July 21st to celebrate 'Push the Boat Out' Day. The idea is to get as many people on the water as possible. There will be a Medway race you can join. Or you can take friends for a cruise. This RYA is sponsoring the day and we want to contribute to the number on the water. For more information contact Jeremy Drummond

### A 1-2 for WSC at the 3000 Nationals!

Peter Heyes and Amy Adams won the 3000 National Championships at Grafham Water in May this year. Congratulations also go to Dave Fenech and Alison Williams who came in second place and Jayne Lambert and Cathy Evans who came in eight place. Mike Gower also won a second place at a Vortex Open which was held during the same regatta.



## From the Commodore...

It was a early morning of the 21st April this year with a south westerly ready to invite the Kent Schools Sailing Association Open Regatta to their first event of the year hosted at WSC.

38 keen young people with varying sailing experience had briefing sessions before about precautions for river sailing and debriefing after the racing from Head Coach Sam Rowe of the RYA and assisted by Ed LeGassick . Lunch was served between 2 races in the morning and afternoon.

It was very really good to see all the young people enjoying themselves and being encouraged by parents and grandparents who watched avidly all day and ate lots of food and cake.

I awarded the prizes to winning sailors one of which was Quentin Bes-Green who had 2 x 5th positions and was the 1st Wilsonian sailor, well done!

A suburb day and thanks to Jo Wicken for organizing and all the WSC duty staff and volunteers for making it happen.

Many preparations and meeting have been held already for our other events this year the club Open Day on the 23rd June which is a free sailing taster for anyone visiting the club that might want to try out sailing. I have been to these meetings organized by Jeremy but sadly I won't be there on the day due to a family commitment of a 50th Birthday in Scotland but leave the running of this event in the capable hands of Jeremy Drummond and Mike Gower so I wish you all well and hope the



### **A Very Commendable Duty**

I heard of a special event happening in June which may not have been brought to light if we hadn't asked Ray Craddock who was CDO over the weekend and long time member of our club to help us with the Open Day event on the 23rd June.

Ray is being presented with a Bronze Award from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for his 7 years in Education Work with children in schools on Beach and Water Safety.

Well done Ray a very worthwhile duty.

Christine Godber

Above: Battle past buoy 31

## **From the Commodore continued...**

...day is busy and encourages some new members as it did last year. All the festivities of the Jubilee celebration Medway Council organized the Jubilee Festival at Gun Wharf close to the council officers by the river opposite St Mary's Island.

There was plenty of activity with stalls music and food. MYC had taken 4 boats situated on the grass and where were able to put up a large poster about our Open Day for us.

MYC also redirected their Saturday afternoon race down river so people could watch and prizes were given by the Mayor of Medway council Vaughan Hewett and it didn't rain for him!!!

I think they may be repeating the function next year so it would be a good idea to have a WSC boat on land to advertise the Club.

We have the Medway Dinghy Regatta on the weekend of the 7th /8th July this year we are trying the on line entry Sailracer but paper entries can still be used when signing in at the club .

This is always a busy time and although duties are all sorted out there will be some preparations that will need doing beforehand so if any of you have some spare time!!! (what's that !!) on the 6th July the committee would be grateful.

We are grateful to Mark Heather who offered to give coaching and an instruction weekend to the 2000 Fleet on the 14th /15th July.

Last but by no means least we have Junior Week 14th to 18th August with Ann Heather at the helm ably assisted by Jayne Lambert and another bumper year of 38 young people taking part.

I spoke with our landlord Andrew Brice last week and he is very pleased with the arrangement of the locking the gate in the evening I think he feels it much safer and also safeguards our part of the property and the dinghy park.

Enjoy your sailing and hope the sun will shine on us before too long

Christine Godber

# Medium Handicap Fleet Report

Perhaps I was wrong to commit that hope to print because we have had some perishingly cold days for the Spring series and the second Sunday of the Early Summer series. Despite the cold there have been some good sailing days for those venturing out

Despite the weather we have had **slightly** more boats sailing in the Spring Series. Last year we had a maximum of only 8 during the Spring Series and this year we had 9 in two of the races. Congratulations to the winners of the Series:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Belcher Laser
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Horner and David Brooker Buzz
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Jenkinson Laser

When the weather improves it would be good if more people were able to sail on a regular basis this year and improve the competition between us.

Members of the medium fleet have also had successes in other events. Matthew Love and the Foxwells came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the South Kent overcoming some very unseasonal weather, beating off hypothermia. The Foxwells are also joint leaders in the Commodores along with John Goudie and Brian Lamb.

Hope to see you on the water soon – we have some new members in the fleet so make them welcome when you meet them.

Graham Jenkinson

Laser 191856



Right: Quentin Bes Green gets off to a good start in the Commodore's Race

# Fast Handicap Fleet

Well believe it or not it is now officially summer; I know we had one fantastic sailing weekend in May but I was away at Grafham along with the 3000's so I'm not sure what conditions were like at home.. by the way congratulations to Peter Heyes and Amy Adams who were first in the 3000's with David and Alison second overall. I was down at the club this afternoon and the cold blustery wind blowing down the river made it more like March than June; hopefully by the time you are reading this all will have changed and we will be enjoying the full force of the British summer in all its glory (please feel free to insert reality here as you find it .....

We seem to have generally had enough wind, too much on occasions but it has just been so cold with predominantly easterly and north easterly winds. This has made course setting a bit of a task and with no class captain still ( come on, will someone please stick their head up and volunteer to do this, you must all be getting really bored with my reports ) it has largely been achieved by mutual agreement. We have had some good blasts from MY4 up to 22 although the obstacles of the edge of the navigable river always seem to appear too quick.

Chris Ashby and Mick Smith have rapidly got the Alto up to speed and it is good to see the 3 boats now having such close racing. I wonder who else may be tempted in there in the near future?? To me it certainly looks like an excellent boat for the conditions and type of courses that we regularly sail on. Chris has also had some great results in the RS100 especially on the lighter wind days when that boat seems to just move along so quickly and gracefully; must just be the way he sails it I guess.

The Spring series was won by Alto 115 which was helmed by Jo Wicken and Ian Parris on various occasions with either Jo or Lesley le Gassick up front; it was a pretty convincing win with myself coming in second closely followed by John Shenton and Steve Offer in the Osprey. A total of 22 boats entered which considering the wintry conditions that were mostly encountered is a good turnout. It bodes well for the rest of the season.

Away from home I have already mentioned the 3000's; I know that Martin Jones went to the Contender worlds in Florida. What a glorious place that sounds to sail! I gather he did quite well and had a great time; has the container made it back to the UK yet with your boat I ask? Has anyone else been away and found glory on other waters, spreading the words of the Wilsonians and our home waters?

Okay, I'm off to Kefalonia for a week now. I hope you all enjoy the Medway Marathon this afternoon, it looks like a good forecast for once. And for those going off to Minorca sailing have a great time; I can't wait to hear your tales of sun and clear blue saes upon your return

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water



Mike Gower

Editor: Many thanks to Mike for again writing the Fast Handicap report. As we go to print, the Fast Fleet Captain position is still vacant.

Left: The fast fleet prepares to start

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## Laser 2K Fleet Report

### So far...

Before kicking off the new season, we enjoyed a fantastic curry evening at the club, which attracted a tremendous response and proved to be a great success. A whole range of people were involved in helping to organise the evening, so rather than name everyone, I just wanted to say a big thank you to them collectively on behalf of everyone who enjoyed the evening.

Now the season has got under way, it feels really good to be back out on the water after all this time. Lauren and I certainly feel very rusty in the boat at the moment, but we are certainly enjoying our sailing once more.

The weather has not been particularly kind to us so far this year, and the water is taking its time to warm up but, despite all that, we have seen some very reasonable turnouts in the Fleet so far, with 11 boats having entered the Spring Series.

Congratulations to David Vettergreen, and his crews Janice and Peter Heyes, in winning the Spring Series.

It's great to have seen Paul Clark and his family joining in the early action, in their first season with us.

Andy Hockey and his various crews have made an excellent start to the season, having achieved some excellent results in the Spring Series, and constantly challenging for top place each week.

I am now hoping the great British summer will arrive sometime soon, and that we get to see even more 2Ks out on the water having fun.

### To come

- 1) **Medway Regatta** - 7th and 8th July

I hope to see a great turnout again in this year's Regatta. We will benefit once again from having our own start and prizes, so all we now need is to see a great turnout of 2Ks entering and enjoying the event. Come on guys, your Class Captain needs you!!

### NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

#### Broxbourne Sailing Club Annual Regatta - 8/9 September

Broxbourne's Regatta this year is to be held over the weekend of 8/9 September.

Always a great weekend of sailing and social enjoyment, on very different waters to our own, and all WSC members are cordially invited to join the usual contingent for this year's trip to the lovely Lee Valley Park. Indeed, the more the better.

Please contact Colin Treadwell for further details.

Please let me know in advance if you would like to join us, so that I can advise Broxbourne of likely numbers for catering purposes.

Colin Treadwell

01634 716226

07958 446589

[colin.r.treadwell@gmail.com](mailto:colin.r.treadwell@gmail.com)

Above: Nick sails his 2k on a sunny day (what that?!) in April.

## 2) **Training Day** - Saturday 14th July

We will be holding a training day on Saturday 14th July, covering boat set up as well as on-water practical tips and demonstrations. Mark Heather, of National Champion fame, has kindly offered to run the training day on our behalf this year. For those who may not know Mark that well, he is a great ambassador to the sport of sailing, with an excellent track record in a number of different classes of boat, is a very likeable and personable guy.

Mark is also aiming, for anyone interested, in going out on the water armed with a camcorder the following day to monitor how we do in the last of the two Late Summer Points races. He will then replay his recordings in the Clubhouse after sailing, so that we can see for ourselves how we sailed, what we might have done well, what we didn't do so well and what we could take from it for the future, all from our own first-hand experiences.

This will be an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to learn more about the boat, improve their techniques, gain more confidence in any aspects of 2K boat handling or simply to experience a re-fresher on vast experience.

**I cannot think of anyone, despite their current pedigree, not gaining something from the benefit of Mark's assistance, so please do try to make the training day if you possibly can. However, to enable Mark and I to plan the day, I would be most grateful if you would kindly let me know before the 14th July if you wish to come along to the training.**

## 3) **Laser 2000 Open Meeting (Millennium Series)** - 29th and 30th September

We will, for the first time ever, be hosting our very own Open Meeting this year. This will be our golden opportunity to showcase our Fleet and our Club to the wider 2K community, putting ourselves on the map, as it were, and to make the Class Association sit up and take notice of our large WSC 2K Fleet. We deserve to be noted and taken very seriously.

Please don't think that, just because this is a Class Association Open Meeting or a Millennium Series event, this is all about deadly serious racing for the benefit of the "hot-shots" only or that you needed to have raced in previous Millennium Series events. This is definitely NOT the case, as the event is open to everyone, regardless of ability, and the Class Association's desire, like my own, is to see as many members as possible joining in and enjoying the Class.

As with the Regatta, I would just ask if you could possibly make every effort to enter and enjoy the event, so that the entire 2K community get to see what we are all about.

## 4) **Broxbourne Regatta** - 8th and 9th September

This has always been a really fun weekend on safe, sheltered waters, and an opportunity to experience racing in a completely different type of environment. I should add that the event is as much about enjoying ourselves socially as well as the racing itself. Just ask anyone that's been before!!

We usually take along a good contingent of boats, and non-sailing companions, and always come away having enjoyed the weekend. I'm certainly hoping that we are well represented again this year. Please do let me know if are thinking of joining us this year, so that I can give an idea of likely numbers to Broxbourne for catering (etc) purposes.

As you can appreciate, there is plenty going on this year in addition to our normal Club racing, so I do hope you get to thoroughly enjoy your 2K sailing throughout the rest of the season, and let's just hope summer arrives sometime soon to make it even better.

# Medway Dinghy Regatta 2012

This year's Medway is fast approaching, and is to be held over the weekend of 7th and 8th July.

This is our premier event of the year, and always attracts an excellent turnout, with boats often travelling from as far afield as the Lake District, and even Scotland. This year is set to be the best yet.

A hosts, it would be great to see a massive turnout from our own Club members again this year, so please do make an effort to enter and enjoy the experience, whether you wish to sail (ideally) or even just to socialise (still good).

We have attempted to make life a little easier this year by accepting entries and payments on-line for the first time via the Sailracer website. Further details can be found in the Notice of Race for the event, which can be viewed/downloaded on the Club's website.

Below is a brief summary of this year's event:

## Racing

- 2 races on Saturday and 2 on Sunday, with 3 to count if all four races are completed
- REMEMBER Sunday racing kicks off at 10.00 hours !!
- Entry Fee - £5 for double-handed boats, £4 for single-handers
- 12 or more boats of the same Class entered and paid with prior arrangement prior to 10.55 on Thursday 5th July will qualify for their own separate Class and start
- 6 or more boats of the same Class entered prior to race 2 with race committee's discretion will qualify for their own Class (but will share their start with the relevant handicap fleet with which they would otherwise qualify)
- Prizes for individual race winners
- Perpetual prizes for Class winners
- Keepsake prizes for Class positions



## Catering/Social

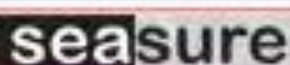
- Friday evening (6th July) - bar will be open and food available
- Saturday breakfast
- Saturday lunch
- Saturday evening BBQ followed by (gentle) music by a local band
- Sunday breakfast
- Sunday lunch
- Free raffle with excellent prizes donated by Hyde Sails
- Selection of real ales in the barrel, as well as the usual selection of bottled beers/lagers

Look forward to seeing you on the 7th July.

Colin Treadwell, on behalf of the Regatta organizing committee



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## South Kent Race

Below are the results from this year's South Kent Race...

Rank	Class	SailNo	HelmName	CrewName	PY	R1
1st	BLAZE	531	Matthew Love		1040	1
2nd	NATIONAL 12*	3452	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	1083	2
3rd	RS 800	978	Grahame Smith	Nicola Smith	820	3
4th	BUZZ	1000	Stuart Bailey	Zoe Bailey	1003	4
5th	RS 200	1488	Mark Heather	Ed Cowell	1057	5
6th	LASER RADIAL	169045	Qwentin Bes-Green		1110	6
7th	WAYFARER	10680	John Goudie	Ian Parris	1101	7
8th	RS 800	953	Andy Pickrell	Adam Smith	820	8
9th	LASER 4000	4496	David Mason	Stuart Mason	911	9
10th	WAYFARER	10614	Brian Lamb	Peter Horner	1101	10
11th	VORTEX A	1013	Mike Gower		945	11
12th	LASER 2000	2229	John Hewat	Paul Rodgers	1090	12
13th	BLAZE	544	Richard Metcalfe		1040	13
14th	ALTO	117	Chris Ashby	Martin Jones	915	14
15th	LASER 2000	2305	Nik Antonaides	Rebecca Scott	1090	15
16th	V3000	3602	Peter Heyes	Amy Adams	976	23.0 DNF
16th	WAYFARER	84	Roy Lapthorne	David Burfoot	1101	23.0 DNF
16th	LASER 2000	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert	1090	23.0 DNF
16th	LASER 2000	21914	Andy Hockey	Louise Somers	1090	23.0 OCS
16th	ALTO	115	Chris Pygall	Jo Wicken	915	23.0 DNF
16th	V3000	3608	Martin Brown	Max Caston	976	23.0 DNF
16th	OSPREY	1344	John Shenton	Steve Offer	944	23.0 DNF

## **Medway Dinghy Regatta Preparations**

The club would appreciate any help towards preparations for the Regatta

I shall be at the club from 14.00hrs on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and from 0900hrs on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Jobs required:**

#### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **1. Slip ways**

Pressure Wash

#### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June or Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

##### **2. Dinghy Park**

Tidy, pick-up rubbish and strim where necessary

Clear area around Barbeque and Generator

##### **3. Tract from car park to Dinghy Park**

Strim verge  
Sweep track

#### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

##### **4. Committee Room**

Prepare as Race Office

Clean, clear & tidy

Check tally wristbands

Entry forms, NORs, SIs, and Medway

Charts

##### **5. Race Box**

Clean, clear & tidy

##### **6. Boathouse & RIB Cage**

Prepare as office for computer entry of competitors and results

Table & chairs for two lap-tops & two printers.

Extension-lead with multi socket outlet

Prepare RIB Cage for Tally boards & signing off

Signage

##### **7. Road signage**

Install

##### **8. Car-park**

Mark out designated camping area  
Strim where necessary

##### **9. Balcony awning**

Welding lugs

Install

##### **10. Flags/Bunting**

Install

##### **11. Dinghy Park**

Empty dustbins

Clear area for visitor's boats

##### **12. Club boats**

Place sails, rudders and centreboards in appropriate boats

##### **13. Petrol**

Get all petrol containers filled including those in RIBs

**Roy Winnett, 01634 861664**

**roywinnett@care4free.net**



# FREE SAILING ON THE MEDWAY

## Wilsonian Sailing Club Open Day on Sat 23rd June 2012



Medway is Ready for  
**Olympics 2012**  
Come down and see what  
everyone is talking about



**Just turn up! Bring a towel and we'll provide a wetsuit, wet boots, life jacket and a boat.**

- › Open from 11am
- › BBQ available
- › Qualified sailors
- › Safe and secure
- › Pleasant surroundings
- › Free car parking

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For more details goto '[wilsoniansc.org.uk](http://wilsoniansc.org.uk)'  
or email '[info@wilsoniansc.org.uk](mailto:info@wilsoniansc.org.uk)'

To make the WSC Open Day a success we need to attract as many friends and potential members as possible.

All members can play a crucial role in this. Please can you:

- 1) Invite and persuade as many friends/colleagues etc to come and try sailing at the unique location of Wilsonian Sailing Club on June 23rd
- 2) Put up a copy of the WSC Open Day poster in your school or place of work or community centre

### **Volunteers:**

We have spoken to many and even if you have not be directly contacted we would be grateful to have your support on the day.

Visitors will be coming to the club from 11am to 4pm. We need to be ready for them.

Please can you plan to arrive at the club by 9.30am. There will be bacon rolls and tea available free for all volunteers when they first arrive.

We will have a volunteer briefing at 10am to plan for a successful day.

Saturday Skimmers will be taking place as we get ready.

Key tasks before visitors arrive are: getting RIBs and dinghies ready.

We will need volunteers until 5pm. The lunch BBQ will run from 12noon to 2pm.

See you there. Thanks,  
Open Day Committee



# sail for gold

**RYA**

## Push the Boat Out

21<sup>st</sup> July 2012

Show support for the British Sailing Team on  
**'Push the Boat Out'** day.

Let's get as many boats as we can out on the water and create an amazing spectacle, waving flags and wishing the Team 'good luck'.



Visit [www.rya.org.uk/sailforgold](http://www.rya.org.uk/sailforgold) to find out more information and to sign up to Sail for Gold today

## The Day We Cruised To Aylesford

Its twelve miles to Aylesford, its bright and sunny,  
and we're both wearing floppy hats.  
So hit it!



0930 Saturday morn and Dave (my crew from Crawley Mariners) & I are on the Medway, off the Wilsonian beach, in Hoo Bay waiting for the scout Wayfarer and accompanying motorboat to come and join us. A steady beat into a comfortable 2 to 3 with a rising tide slides us past Upnor Castle on the right (last used to try to keep the Dutch at bay) Chatham Dockyard Museum on the left and the huge sheds that were once used for overhauling the fleet, when we had one!

Onward past Rochester, looking quite different from the wet side than from the dry side (somehow much smaller). Our motorboat rushes ahead with their tape measure to check on the clearances under the Rochester rail bridge while Dave & I do a circuit around the rather rusty old Russian submarine moored just off Strood pier, not sure if it's floating or on the bottom. The man measuring the bridge deem all ok so we pass under, and onto, with at least a hundred foot of air above us under, the M2 motorway bridge. As we beat past the water ski club we realise that the lobster pot markers that we nearly collected are their ski slalom course.

Continuing past the very unpicturesque paper mills on one side and reed beds on the other, we sweep round another bend and it's almost like a small touch of the Amazon, overhanging trees into the water with a hint of something lurking in the undergrowth. The look of surprise on the riverbank strollers to see sailing boats so far up the Medway was quite amusing.

We work our way past another enormous paper mill (the one you can see from the motorway and just as unpicturesque). The wind steadily dies away and our motorboat takes us both in tow for the last mile or so, we motor past the olde worlde seminary called the Friars, an impressive Elizabethan stone built pad, bringing us up to the old stone bridge at Aylesford (far too low to get under). We drop sails and raft up to the motorboat and he ties up to the bank opposite Aylesford proper, all rather chocolate boxy. Our leader then informs us that the tide isn't cooperating and we've got twenty minutes to have our sandwiches and not visit the pub. With a worried look on our leaders face we are called back aboard and then have to paddle around while he wiggles the motorboat off the barge boards that he is hung up on. Success, and we are away on a falling tide and zero wind and a short towrope for a steady motor all the way home, which was more pleasant than it sounds on a classic sunny day. We are deposited onto the beach around about the 1600 time, after a most pleasant float.

It made such a nice change to be in a boat and not trying to stuff any boats that may be nearby, I have to recommend you all try it, you may even like it.



Colin M206.





## Jack Holt OBE: Designer of the Miracle

Paul Nudds

Jack Holt was one of the greatest small-boat designers that Britain has ever had. In a career spanning over 60 years, a quarter of a million examples of Holt's 40-odd designs, including the Cadet, Merlin, Mirror and Miracle dinghies, were built. Holt is the only British designer to have had three boats recognised with a classification from the International Yacht Racing Union. Latterly, the company he built up, Jack Holt Ltd, has switched the emphasis in its business from making boats to manufacturing and selling one of the biggest selection of boat fittings in the world.

He had sailed with the Sea Scouts as a boy, helping them with their boats, and bought his first boat, a 14ft dinghy in 1929, when he was 17, he set up business in a hut under Hammersmith Bridge where his late great-uncle John Holt had repaired boats. When building his first boat, Candlelight, he did not have enough money to buy a brass tack, let alone the metal shanks which every other builder used on their masts to hoist the sail. Jack Holt solved the problem by making a groove in the wooden mast through which the thick side of the sail was pulled up. This "boltrope" groove was laughed-at at the time but is now used by all small boats.

On his first visit to Cowes in the 1930s - Holt competed in the championship for 14ft boats, one of which he had built. His entry was looked upon with sneers by the sailing establishment. Though Holt did not win he made a good placing. He was busy in the Thirties building other boats, designed for eager sailors. His boat in the 18ft class was an outstanding success as was his 12ft National.

During the Second World War Holt built lifeboats and wooden copies of enemy planes for the Government, moving with his staff down the river, taking to a former oar-making works near Putney Bridge; it is still a Jack Holt shop, selling everything you could need for a boat.

After the war, a small group from Ranelagh Sailing Club, based on the same stretch of the Thames, commissioned Holt to design a small boat. It was called a Merlin and was accepted as a fine racing boat more simply made and more economic than other 14ft boats. The first Merlin is now on show at the Maritime Museum, in Greenwich.



## Jack Holt continued...

In 1947 Yachting World magazine asked Holt to design a children's boat. His design could be sailed by boys and girls aged 8 to 16. They were soon sailing them very proficiently and word of this small boat went all over the world. It was called the Cadet. In those early post-war years there was still a divide in the sailing world: with the yacht club for the gentry and the sailing club for the workers. But youngsters, in Holt's cheap and simple Cadet, did not know this and when Cadets from yacht club and sailing club were out on the same bit of water the class privilege was ignored. It was the first breakthrough in solving the class problem on the water.

The Cadet was followed by a simple boat called Enterprise, commissioned for promotional purposes by the News Chronicle newspaper in 1955, with blue sails. This too became very popular and has world-wide fleets. Both the Cadet and the Enterprise were accepted by the International Yacht Racing Union and were recognised as International Classes. Then came an even simpler boat that people could make from kits themselves. It was called the Mirror, promoted by the Mirror newspaper titles, and it too was accepted as a World International Class. Manufactured as a kit by Bell Woodworking, it has been built in greater numbers than any other of Holt's designs.



Other innovatory craft from Holt's design board included a single-handed boat, the Solo, and a longer one called the Hornet (1952), which was the first boat to have an aid to the crew in having a seat that extended over the water, the forerunner of what is now known as a trapeze. One of his very successful designs was the General Purpose 14 (GP14, 1950), a very wholesome boat, well adapted to sailing, going fishing, with room for a picnic, and a good boat to row.

Holt also made time too to race, both in Britain and in countries abroad. He was a first-class racing helmsman and won many championships, including three Merlin championships in that boat's early days. His boats were the first RYA Class boats to sail abroad: in Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Poland.

The list of Jack Holt's designs is extensive, Cadet, Diamond Keelboat, Enterprise, GP14, Heron, Hornet, International 10sqm canoe, International 14, Jacksnipe, Lazy E, Merlin Rocket, Miracle, Mirror, Mirror 16, National 12, National E, North Norfolk 16, Pacer, Rambler, Solo, Streaker, Vagabond. A look around the Willies boat park today I will reveal a number of examples.

The Miracle was one of the last designs to come from Jack's drawing board and was the culmination of the lessons learned from his other designs. Along with Barry Read he developed the slot and glue method of construction for the Miracle, which enabled good results to be obtained from kits by inexperienced amateur builders.

The first Miracles were launched in 1975, since then the Miracle has gone from strength to strength and sail numbers today exceed 4000.

**Jack Holt was born in 1912 and was awarded an OBE in 1979 for his services to sailing and died in Chichester in Nov 1995.**

## CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Contact/Notes
23 Jun		WSC Open Day	
24 Jun	14:30	Wilsonian Grand Prix	
7/8 Jul	10:55/9:55	Medway Dinghy Regatta	
21st Jul		RYA "push the boat out day"	
29 <sup>th</sup> Jul		Late Summer Points Commences	
18 Aug		Open Junior Regatta	
19 Aug	12:45	Three Race Regatta Down river start	
27 Aug	11:30	Pursuit Race 2	
16 Sep	11:35	Leigh Trophy	
29/30 Sept		Laser 2K Open	
		Autumn points commences on 30th	
13 Oct		Queenborough Cruise	David Wraight
28 Oct	12:55	Laying Up Cup BST (and normal racing ends)	
4 Nov	11:15	Winter open series commences	

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