

31 1/2 Issue 119



31 1/2 AUTUMN 2017

Welcome to the autumn edition of 31½

We are a little light on articles for this edition but that's perhaps a reflection for just how much has been happening at the club over recent months. There have been some great racing days and some really challenging days. Winter is now on the way and as members pour through the chandlery catalogues and websites for Christmas gifts it is also time to look at the winter work party dates and get the club site into a good state for next year's racing, skimmers, cruises and just getting out on the water for whatever reason. If you have any tuning or boat care tips ready for next season why not send in an article for the next edition of 31½.

David Wraight

NEXT COPY DATE: 15th March 2018

Future copy dates: 15th June 2018

15th October 2018

Copy to: editor@wilsoniansc.org.uk

WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB, Hoo, Kent

01634 250318

www.wilsoniansc.org.uk

COMMODORE Martin Vinton 01634 716472 martin.vinton@btopenworld.com

SECRETARY Martin Smith 01634 319432 martinj_smithz@yahoo.co.uk

SAILING SECRETARY. Andy Hockey 07984 169762 wayfarer360@yahoo.co.uk

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2018 Winter Work Party Dates

Sunday	7 th January	I – L
Saturday	13 th January	M - O
Sunday	14 th January	P – R
Sunday	21 st January	U – Z
Sunday	28 th January	G – H
Saturday	3 rd February	C – F
Sunday	4 th February	A – B
Saturday	10 th February	S – T

It is a condition of membership that all members should attend a winter work party.

Tea, coffee or soft drinks are provided with sandwiches and biscuits at lunch and morning/afternoon breaks.

The work can be rather dirty, so please wear suitable clothing and shoes.

The work parties start at 09-30 and normally finish about 16-30.

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WSC newsletter 31 ½ Autumn 2017



2000 Fleet Captain report

The start of October signals that we are nearing the end of the main sailing season 2017 and what a strange mix of weather we had this year, even Roy has started his results with comments like 'a bit breezy'. I recall standing on the beach on several occasions when it was either too windy or no wind – should we sail or have another cuppa?

Although our average race numbers have declined this season for Sunday racing, the Saturday afternoon Adult Skimmers has gone from strength to strength and on many Saturdays all three club 2000's were in use and we ran out of boats, so a number of members used their own boats to take new and prospective members sailing! There have been at least 13 new memberships through the Adult Skimmers, so it's clearly paid off and some sailors are transitioning over to Sunday racing. One of my favourite sails with Saturday skimmers was the trip around Hoo Island with Christine as my crew – we had a such a giggle!



At WSC, there has been entries for most races, with the season results so far showing David and Janice (2643) leading the **Bosuns series**. In the morning racing, Lesley has been sailing her Streaker for most of the season, so only a couple of results in her 2000 (22115). The **Ladies Fleet** have currently third place Nina and Chris (21405) and in the **Novice Fleet** Phil and Gavin (21314) with 3 races completed. The **Late Summer Points** had overall 9 entries from 2000 Fleet, with Roy and Geoff (21792) finishing in first place overall with a total of 3 race wins and 3 second places, Nina and Bernard (21405) second place and David and Janice (2643) in third place.

Congratulations and well done to all the Wilsonian SC sailors for completing the **Medway Marathon** Sunday 30 July 2017 in challenging conditions; the winner was Andy Peake in Musto Skiff in 2hours 38 minutes and 39 seconds or 3.07.17 on corrected time – the full results are here <http://www.medwayyachtclub.com/2017/07/54th-medway-marathon-sunday-30th-july-2017/> – and well done to Andy & Rachelle in 2000 (21914) who finished in 23rd place in just under 4 hours at 3.56.41

The 2000 Class Association www.2000class.org Millennium Series is almost over after a very contrasting weekend of racing at Brightlingsea SC for MS7 with 30 knots on Saturday and then being towed to the start line on Sunday, luckily the wind did fill in just enough to complete 3 races. With just one more event MS8 at Rutland SC on 21 & 22 October 2017, the results so far Andy & Lucy (21914) in overall 4th place and Rachel & various crew (22321) in overall 6th place.



The 2000 Class Association National Championships were held in Scotland at North Berwick SC in early August 2017, with a very low entry of only 23 boats, compared to last year at Castle Cove, near Weymouth, with 52 entries. Well done and congratulations to our new **2000 National Champions for 2017 Steve and Sarah Cockerill**, you can read Chris Jordan's write up on 2000 Class Association forum, here's the link: https://www.2000class.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3731 and the results are on [the website](#).

There was a **fantastic sail deal 2017** available to anyone who is a **2000 Class Association member**, and I hope you have been able to take advantage of the offer, please see the forum link here. https://www.2000class.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3749

As agreed at 2000 Class Association AGM in August 2017, if you haven't been a member of the of the **2000 Class association before, you can join for FREE**. This will give you discount on dinghy insurance with Noble Marine and access to the members area on the website for lots of top tips and advice.

The most exciting news in the 2000 Class Association is the details for next year's **National Championship 2018 which will, be held at Royal Torbay YC from 4th to 10th August 2018** – a fantastic venue on the south coast.
https://www.2000class.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3742

Catching up friends at Brightlingsea SC, I've decided to stay on the south coast after the Nationals and compete in Fed Week 2018 held at Hayling Island SC, which is at the end of August 2018.

Coming up at the club: Frostbite series last Race (13) is on 17 December 2017 followed by prize giving.

Don't forget the social event of the season, please contact House Committee or Nina at the club:

17 December 2017 Christmas lunch at the club

Starting the new 2018 season, if you have recovered enough from the New Year Celebration, 1 January 2018 Chilly Willies 2018 with first warning signal at 11.55, so just enough time to recover from that hangover.

Happy sailing

Rachel Sheridan

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Medium Fleet

Another season is coming to a close. There have been some negatives and some positives, actually plenty of positives.

No less than 5 Blazes intended to go to the National Championship. For various reasons only 3 competed but we did not disgrace ourselves. Even this old dog managed to be in the low twenties out of sixty-odd boats and Martin Jones and Adam Hampton showed good speed at times but unfortunately failed to put together a complete series. It was tough weather, so they have their excuses. Perhaps being away has meant a less than impressive turn-out at the club and that is my disappointment. In 2016 we had a couple of races with 8 Blazes competing, this year I think 5 was the most at any one time. That's surprising since we have some new keen sailors in the fleet, I'm talking about Colin Treadwell, Jeremy Drummond, Neil Lamprell and Alastair Smith. They all have their reasons for not being around but hopefully, time will sort that out. We have now lost Adam Hampton, Martin Jones and Ian Foxwell but we are soon to gain Chris Saunders.



Blaze national championships - It may not look it here but this championship was sailed in winds of over 20knots on all 3 days

Enough about Blazes, let's talk RS200. We now have two and this is a great boat for racing, lighter and narrower on the waterline than the 2000 and so faster and more responsive. They are one of the few boats I have not sailed but believe they are very rewarding, let's face it any boat that responds quickly is rewarding when you get it right. We should welcome them and hope that we attract more. They are a great boat for a mixed crew.

Lasers, well our chief exponent is, of course, Gordon Belcher and he continues to pick up trophies - 2nd for instance in the Spring Series. Lucy Hockey is getting there in a Radial rig, but the real rising star is Jem Causer. Give him another year and we'll all be in trouble. In fact, he has won the Summer AM points and is Junior Fleet winner. Sadly, the suggestion that the Lasers start with the 2000 was rejected by the 2000s. That suggestion was, I thought, a good one as it would have given the Lasers a course which more suited them and it threw an olive branch to the 2000s who might now lose their fleet status and then have to sail in the Medium Fleet where the courses will be longer than they would prefer.

Talking of Summer Points AM we also had a Summer Point PM. That was won by Adam Hampton in his Blaze. Graham Jenkinson 2nd in his Laser and guess who in third, in a Laser - Jem Causer - again!

Next year we are not going to continue with the separate AM and PM series but go back to two shorter series in the summer with both the AM and PM races counting. We tried something new this year, but it didn't increase turnout.

Perhaps I should mention the Commodores. These are long races and the 2000s, Streakers and the Juniors and perhaps the less able are not so keen on these and so there is the Bosuns for them. But this is the sort of race the Wayfarers do well in - so Brian Lamb and John Goudie are always thereabouts. Unfortunately for them these races are for the whole club whatever speed of boat and we've had an influx of world-class sailors in Musto Skiffs. The top Wayfarer sailors are good but not that good and, so they have been overshadowed. Brian Lamb never-the-less is lying 3rd and there's no shame in that.

Finally, Medway Regatta was a success despite the light wind, with 14 visitors and a total of 26 boats, in the Medium Fleet. Three Blazes and a Phantom are the ones that come to mind which gave us 7 Blazes racing and we had visitors from Medway YC which meant the Wayfarers had 9 boats. I was so glad to see the 3 Blazes and they say they will be back in 2018. This could be the start of a symbiotic relationship with the other east coast clubs and it's worth remembering we have Stone SC, and Blackwater SC and three clubs on the Crouch within an hour's drive of WSC. For the Blazes in 2018, there will be an East Coast Championship involving these clubs and our part will be our Medway Regatta. That's a very positive note to finish on. But just to remind you the Frostbite Series is now on and I would say the water is warmer in November than it is in May - so no excuse for not being there.

Stewart Robertson

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Darnett Fort Cruise and Picnic

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On a very windy and overcast 7th October a mix of Wayfarers, Fevas, Toppers, Drascombe Luggers and Ribs set off with a mix of Skimmers, Adult, Skimmers Sea Scouts and other club members for a noon sailing to Darnett Island for a top of the tide picnic. Despite the conditions there were a good number of people and all in high spirits. The skimmers demonstrated the value of their training by comfortably sailing out and back in Toppers and Fevas with hardly a capsize. Others opted for the relative comfort of a RIB or a Drascombe Lugger or the cosiness of several well crewed wayfarers.

After a quick and wet sail, the cruise landed on Darnett Island for a picnic, and after some botanizing (there are several interesting estuary plants on the island) and an exploration of the fort it was time to leave on the turn of the tide for another exciting ride back to the club.

Despite the weather the feedback on the event was very positive; for Skimmers and Adult Skimmers it marked the end of the Skimmer programme and for other club members it was an enjoyable change of pace towards the end of summer sailing – we will certainly be looking at a similar 2018 event.

More Darnett fun.



Fundraising updates



Workplace Match Giving Scheme

Many companies offer employees a chance to boost their fundraising efforts by matching money raised. If you believe your employer operates such a scheme, please would you contact us at wilsonianfundraising@gmail.com as we may be able to tap into this 'free money' to maximise our fundraising. Thank you for your support.

Cake Sales

A huge thank you to Céline for very generously providing us with delicious homemade cakes all season. Sales have raised over £300 for the Junior Skimmers.

Help WSC Raise Free Money When You Shop Online

If you follow a few simple steps, when you shop online, you can raise money for the club, and it won't cost you a penny.

All you need to do is download the free easyfundraising app on your phone, donation reminder tab on your desktop or via the easyfundraising website, and then shop with your retailer as normal (for links see below). Its ad free with over 3200 retailers take part in this scheme.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/>

For your charity enter Wilsonian sailing Club.

John Musker and his Hope for the Future Ride, from Canterbury Cathedral to Rome

As many of you know, John has been a member of the sailing club for many years and he recently made an epic cycle ride from Canterbury to Rome in support of his daughter Jo, in her achievements in bring about awareness, in climate change.

John's website is <http://www.hfff.org.uk/hope-ride> showing his route through France, Switzerland and Italy, finally reaching Rome. For further information on his day to day progress if you would like to email John he will send you his day to day accounts of his adventure. So far, he has raised over £5,000 and he would welcome any further donations in support of his cause.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting John you may better know his boat which we frequently use as a racing mark BFB, the "Blue Fishing Boat". He can often be seen in all conditions, with a very overloaded pram dinghy and outboard making his way out from the club to the Blue Fishing Boat which he is lovingly restoring.

I can assure you, it is well worth reading John's account of his journey and adventures.

Bernard Smith