

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Contact/Notes
27 June	11:55	Wilsonian Grand Prix	
10/11 July		Medway Dinghy Regatta	
25 July	10.55	Late Summer Points commences	
29 Aug	a.m. p.m.	Ladies, Juniors, Novices/Improvers Commodore's 3	
30 Aug	12:00	Pursuit Race 2	Tony Hunt
5 Sept	10.55	Autumn Points commences	
12 Sept	a.m. p.m.	Ladies, Juniors, Novices/Improvers Commodore's 4	
26 Sept	11.55	Three-Race Regatta	
10 Oct	a.m. p.m.	Ladies, Juniors, Novices/Improvers Commodore's 5	
24 Oct	10.55	Leigh Trophy	
31 Oct	13.25	Laying up cup	
07 Nov	11.15	First Winter Open series	
1 Jan 2011	11.55	Chilly Willies Open Handicap Race	

Summer 2010
Issue 97

31½

The Wilsonian Sailing Club Magazine



On the Cover: All entries for the Medway Regatta are gratefully received, what ever the size. This was one of the 2006 starts.

Editorial

Martin Smith (trainee)

Tony Hunt failed in his attempt to find "fresh blood at the helm" and regrettably could only find an ancient mariner(?). Readers may be delighted to note that the editor is elected so can obtain a substitute quite easily, unless the committee is quicker on the draw.

Congratulations and, on behalf of all the club, thanks Tony for many years of inspired production of this tome. I would also take the opportunity say your help in giving me a flying start with the Summer copy only requiring completion of this page was much appreciated.

As many would be editors have pointed out it is your magazine and needs your input — I don't expect many volunteers so prepare to be harassed.....

The club will again be hosting the Medway Dinghy Regatta so please get your entries in early to make things easier for the visitors. Roy would also appreciate volunteers on the Friday before the regatta (9 July) from 9 o'clock onwards to get the club ready. If you can't make Friday another work party will be held on Saturday 3 July — if you can bring your own strimmer that would be even better.

Can you let me have copy, all contributions appreciated, by 2 December, please?

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COMMODORE Jeremy Drummond 01732 840830
jdrummond@tiscali.co.uk

SECRETARY Jo Wicken 01474 822844
jo@wicken.net

SAILING SECRETARY tba

Pursuit Race 1

After a shatteringly windy weekend, the forecast promised that Bank Holiday Monday's Pursuit Race 1 would offer the respite of a nice 10mph northerly. Despite the assertions of the growing band of competitors that it would be windier and was "blowing F.5 at Sheppey", the decision was made to use the moderate weather handicaps but in the event even they proved a bit optimistic, as the wind faded to around 5mph by the finish.

First away were the Hudsons in their Miracle, making a cracking start downwind at the leeward end of the line - the only boat to do so - and their kite was soon pulling them downriver. Several competitors thereafter lost not merely seconds but precious minutes by arriving at the start too late, and that more or less sealed their fate, though benchmark sailors such as Brian Lamb and John Player were relishing the possibilities of an otherwise empty line to start bang on time.

The course buoy-hopped down to a couple of loops of Hoo Green 1, 23 & 24, before bringing the boats back to a luckily convenient finish at the due time at 30A, by which time the wind had swung westerly giving a nail biting beat for some. But it was a clear win for the Hudsons, proving again that you can win handicap events in a Miracle, with John Player charging through the fleet into second. Graham Turner secured a well-earned second place in his Laser even after a close encounter with a coaster near Darnett Point. Progress of the leaders has been noted, and theirs and other handicaps tweaked to hopefully provide closer pursuit racing in August, when for once the wind might coincide with that for which the handicap list has been chosen!

1	Miracle	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson
2	Blaze	John Player	
3	Laser	Graham Turner	
4	Laser 2000	Brian Lamb	Peter Heyes
5	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	M. Robertson
6	Vortex A	Phil Harris	
7	Blaze	Peter Horner	
8	Laser 2000	Tom Wareham	Steve James
9	Streaker	Peter Baker	
10	Vortex	Dave Mason	

South Kent Race

The promised breeze failed to materialise until the very end of the race, so that racers were turned back after a long light-air's beat to 13. But at least the staggered starts meant that everyone arrived home within 30 minutes of each other. Hopefully, the Marathon, Grand Prix and Leigh Trophy races enjoy more favourable conditions.

1st	Wayfarer	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell	1101	02:47:45
2nd	Wayfarer	John Goudie	John Hewat	1101	02:48:34
3rd	National 12	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	1115	02:50:34
4th	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Sam Proctor	950	02:51:07
5th	Osprey	John Shenton	Steve Offer	940	02:56:33
6th	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alec Rodgers	924	03:00:57
7th	V3000	Martin Brown	Max Caston	974	03:01:00
8th	V3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	974	03:02:03
9th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	908	03:02:12
10th	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	M Robertson	908	03:02:46
11th	Laser 3000	Tony Hunt	Suzanne Hall	1032	03:03:08
12th	Kestrel	Len Ayris	Ian Wyatt	1038	03:03:16
13th	Blaze	Richard Metcalfe		1046	03:03:33
14th	Musto Skiff	Grahame Smith		875	03:03:41
15th	Vortex A	Mike Gower		937	03:04:26
16th	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	908	03:04:27
17th	Osprey	Paul Heather	Jonathan Osgood	940	03:04:48
18th	Phantom	Jeff Collins		1035	03:05:07
19th	Laser 2000	Paul Rodgers	Nina Wallace	1090	03:05:47
20th	RL70	Gordon Belcher		1080	03:06:02
21st	V3000	Peter Heyes	Josh Heyes	974	03:06:58
22nd	Musto Skiff	Tony Coulson		875	03:07:04
23rd	Canoe Int	Mark Goodchild		905	03:08:53
24th	Kestrel	Bob Dutton	Stan Sprot	1038	03:09:03
25th	Laser 2000	Andy Hockey	F & L Hockey	1090	03:11:06
26th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	Bert	1185	03:12:51
27th	RS 800	Ian Parris	Harry Coulson	822	03:13:05
28th	RS 800	Andy Pickrell	Rachel Bermingham	822	03:15:15
29th	Laser	Graham Turner		1080	03:19:29
30th	Blaze	Matthew Love		1046	03:31:22

From the Commodore

Finally it is a beautiful balmy evening, ideal for sailing....I guess I will just have to wait for the weekend. With the improvement in the weather we have seen a good turnout of boats on Sundays. It just shows what an active club we are. I have informally canvassed clubs I have had contact with around the country this winter and those with many more paid up members have far fewer regular sailors for their race programme.

If you want to be up to date on the forward events programme it is in the 2010 Sailing Programme and the best place to start is our brand new website (www.wilsoniansc.org.uk). The new website is designed to be more interactive and hence current. We are greatly indebted to Jason for all the work he has put into the new site. As well as the usual information you will find the up-to-date duty list and upcoming events highlighted. The website also links to the new Wilsonian Sailing Club Facebook Group which already has 46 'friends' and where any photos can be easily uploaded. You can see the page without being 'signed up' but you need to join Facebook if you want to add to the page. Have a look!

We were very pleased to receive our 'Onboard' accreditation from the RYA last month. This recognizes the work we have been doing to enthuse young people in sailing. Look out for the plaque which will be displayed in the clubhouse. A key benefit is that we can now use this accreditation in grant applications. We have already submitted an application for a grant from the Eric Twiname Trust to help us buy club boats suitable for 8 to 10 year olds.

We have just completed 4 sessions teaching the Medway Sports Leaders Group the basics of sailing on Friday evenings. I was lucky to be able to help with two sessions and really had a lot of fun. It was blowy one evening so we took the students out on RIBs and then had Toppers and 2000's out on the other. Seeing their faces as they tried something new and mastered a skill was inspiring. Thanks go to Peter Horner who led the team and Nick and Cathy, Jo, Richard, Jayne and Martin who all played their part.

The new Saturday racing club, Saturday Skimmers, has now been launched and we are keen to spread the word to as many juniors as we can. The club is aimed at getting juniors into club racing away from the

somewhat intimidating Sunday environment. You will shortly see a new leaflet aimed at appealing to juniors and designed by Junior Fleet Captain, Ed Le Gassick with support from Andy Pickrell. Please take some of these leaflets to give to work colleagues, friends or fellow students. If we run out I will print some more! If you want more information see Jayne or Peter.

The new generator is up and running in the nick of time (thanks Tim) and the last electrical bits are being finished off by Andy Hockey. We were concerned about the path to the generator being slippery mud, and Roy Winnett and Tom Sims have reacted quickly to make it safe. We are also investigating how best to keep the slipways clean. In the meantime please watch your step.

Planning is well underway for the Medway Regatta sponsored by MTS Services on July 10/11. We look forward to a bumper attendance with no competition from the Tiger Trophy this year. Vortexes (or should that be Vortices?) are due [and 3000's! Ed], our own 2000 fleet is expected to make a strong showing and word on the street is that the Kestrel fleet see it as an opportunity to practice tidal sailing before their Nationals on the Tay. Colin tells me our Broxbourne brothers and sisters are looking forward to coming as usual. A hog roast will be cooked for Saturday evening and the aroma should whet your appetite as you come off the water after a hard day's racing. Entry forms, SI's etc are on the website. In the mean time don't forget to support the Grand Prix and the Medway Marathon in June.

The Club's Open Day is set for Saturday June 19 from 11am onwards. This is your chance to make a really positive impact on the club's behalf. We would like as many club members to attend as possible and try and bring along at least one friend or acquaintance to try sailing. The Saturday club will be happening in the morning so visitors can see what we do for Juniors. There is a lunchtime BBQ and cakes in the afternoon before and after the 4pm Evening Race. Please let Paul Thorpe or I know you can attend.

I regret to report that security remains at the forefront of our minds. This time a vigilant member noticed that the doors of the chicken shed had been tampered with. This has been quickly remedied. Unfortunately, our isolated setting, whilst picturesque, leaves the club vulnerable. We will shortly be switching on a new alarm system. Even with this it is important for all members to keep their eyes open and report anything suspicious.

On a recent trip to France I got to try a Hobie catamaran (yuk!) and a

SPRING POINTS

Fast Handicap (26 Entries)

1st	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	924	8
2nd	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	908	15
3rd	RS 800	Ian Parris	Harry Coulson/Nicola Smith	822	18
4th	V3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	974	24
5th	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith/Sam Proctor	950	35
6th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	908	67
7th	Laser 4000	Stewart Robertson	Sonja Riley/Ian Watson	908	67

Medium Handicap (23 Entries)

1st	National 12	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	1115	6
2nd	Blaze	Matthew Love		1046	13
3rd	Blaze	John Player		1046	15
4th	RL70	Gordon Belcher		1080	22
5th	Phantom	Neil Lamprell		1035	23
6th	Laser	Graham Jenkinson		1080	33
7th	Laser	Graham Turner		1080	71

Laser 2000 (13 Entries)

1st	22258	Colin Treadwell	Lauren Treadwell		7
2nd	2643	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith		9
3rd	22111	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell		23
4th	21405	Nina Wallis	Sue Hannant/Chris Wallis		29
5th	21792	Roy Winnett	Geoff Lambert/Ray Eades/Ian Wyatt		31
6th	21314	Jane Lambert	Paul Thorpe		32
7th	22131	Paul Rodgers	Andy Pickrell/Stewart Robertson/Claudia		34

Miracle (9 Entries)

1st	3737	Martin Smith	Mike Groom		8
2nd	3795	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson		12
3rd	3722	Lesley O'Rourke	Peter Heyes/Peter Baker		22
4th	206	Colin Lown	Maureen Lown		24
5th	4006	Sam Pygall	F Chiti/Jay Fullman		27
6th	3738	Keith Jeremiah	Christina Jeremiah		40
7th	1506	Steve Pettifer	Sarah Cotton		44

Ice Breaker

This year's Ice Breaker was a dry-suit affair, with an acceptable F3 SW wind, with some planing for the quicker boats. While the early finishers cleared the return up Gillingham Reach on a fetch, it had turned into a square beat by the time the Medium Handicap boats sailed up it, ending any hopes they may have had of a good placing. Photos by Grahame Smith in the RIB can be found on the club's Facebook page.

1st	Osprey	Paul Heather	Jonathan Osgood	940	1:28:03
2nd	59ER	Tim Kift	Jo Wicken	908	1:29:44
3rd	Vortex A	Mike Gower		937	1:32:05
4th	Laser 3000	Tony Hunt	Suzanne Hall	1032	1:32:45
5th	29ER	Aaron Smith	Alex Rodgers	924	1:32:48
6th	Laser 4000	David Mason	Stuart Mason	908	1:33:24
7th	V3000	Martin Brown	Max Caston	974	1:34:30
8th	V3000	David Fenech	Alison Williams	974	1:34:35
9th	29ER	Alex LeGassick	Edward LeGassick	924	1:34:46
10th	Wayfarer	Brian Lamb	Bobbie Burnell	1101	1:34:48
11th	RS 400	Chris Ashby	Mike Smith	950	1:34:53
12th	Laser 2000	David Vettergreen	Janice Smith	1090	1:40:11
13th	Laser 2000	Ian Parris	Jane Drummond	1090	1:42:23
14th	Phantom	Jeff Collins		1035	1:48:06
15th	Laser 2000	Brian Warwick	Jack Fullman	1090	1:48:57
16th	Kestrel	Jeremy Drummond	Ian Drummond	1038	1:49:13
17th	RL70	Gordon Belcher		1080	1:50:18
18th	Laser 2000	Roy Winnett	Geof Lambert	1090	1:53:47
19th	Buzz	Peter Horner	David Brooker	1002	1:55:24
20th	Miracle	Lesley O'Rourke	Peter Baker	1185	1:57:44
21st	Laser Radial	Amy Adams		1104	1:58:08
22nd	Miracle	David Hudson	Jackie Hudson	1185	2:00:25
23rd	National 12	Ian Foxwell	Hannah Foxwell	1089	DNF
23rd	RS Vision	Tom Kift	Dan Drummond	1083	DNF
23rd	Contender	Martin Jones		993	DNF
23rd	Vortex A	Phil Harris		937	DNF

Topper (much more fun!) for the first time. I thought if I was supposed to teach people how to sail in a Topper I should know what it is like. I found the main challenge keeping my knees out the way whilst onlookers suggested it might be keeping the Topper afloat!

It only leaves me to say, "Enjoy the summer sailing season". I look forward to seeing you on the water, at the social events or around our fantastic club.

Cheers,

Jeremy
Kestrel 1510



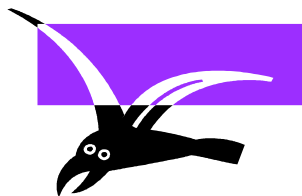
Jeremy has moved on from his Optimist! Photo: Paul Thorpe

Junior News

Saturday Skimmers launched.

Open to all junior members.

Look out for news on Wilsonian Website www.wilsonian.org.uk



Saturday 15th May saw a successful start to Junior Saturday morning club. The club was lively with RYA level 1 & 2 course taking place and Scout sailing day.

The conditions were light and variable but race coach Grahame Smith set many racing activities that kept the juniors on the water for two and a half hours. Grahame was accompanied by Zoe, a new member, and our experienced junior racers Alec and Aaron. It was also great to have Steph Wicken who is an accomplished single-handed sailor, passing on her racing skills and knowledge.

The shore-based crew on the other hand spent the morning washing the slipway, tidying the Junior Store and not to mention that good old favourite game of pairing up the shoes. Thank you Jo, Lesley and Paul.

We have enough wetsuits, shoes and buoyancy aids etc, for all new junior members to go on the water. There are also five club Toppers and two Feva's all available for use every Saturday. Simple lunches are available every week, so come along and join the junior Saturday morning racing.

Jayne Lambert

Laser 2000 21314

JUNIOR EVENT:

In addition to Wilsonian junior sailing the KSSA runs many training events in Kent, they are high quality and great fun.

There is a KSSA event coming up at Danson Park Watersports Centre (SE London) , which Alexander and I will be helping out with on the water. I would love to see some Wilsonian junior members there on the water. You will have a good day, meet other junior sailors and our friendly faces will be there to support you. ! Information at www.kssa.co.uk

Hope to see you on the water (when I can!)

Edward LeGassick

29er 843



29er action — 2009 Warm up race

Junior Fleet Report

I have taken over the reins of Junior Fleet Captain for this year and indeed it will be a hard position to fill! I would like to thank Tom for all the hard work he has put into the Junior Fleet for a long time. Tom did a great job representing the Junior Fleet, and now flies (yes- flies) around in his Moth at university.

I believe that our club has a great family atmosphere and has always prided itself on a age- comprehensive and good junior membership. However we can always achieve more! It's great to see a large number of 29ers out on the water regularly giving the older members a good run for their money - watch out we are catching up! The club has a core number of juniors who are extremely competent on Wilsonian waters and are regularly out racing. There is a high level of vital equipment available to juniors such as boats and buoyancy aids/ clothing, all there for the using. With all these assets this year I hope to increase not just the number of juniors regularly out on the water, but also to increase their age range and boat diversity (not just a 29er fleet regularly racing!). Every year at Wilsonian we see a huge turn-out for events such as Junior Week, but there is a lack of the younger junior's presence racing regularly. That needs to change.

I would like to thank all those involved in the new dedicated junior sailing on Saturdays, and I have heard that the first one of these was a great success! They take place on Saturdays 10:00am to 1:00pm, so get involved juniors! I hope to get involved with the instructing once exams are over.

Junior members and their parents can always grab me when I'm floating around the club and If you do have any ideas to increasing junior sailing on Sundays (or any time!), any improvements you feel are needed or views you would like heard you can email me on juniors@wilsoniansc.org.uk .

Id like to thank Jason Ramsden for the creation of a WSC facebook page (just search 'Wilsonian Sailing Club') , allowing access to information from the club over a extremely popular medium for young people.

Promotional leaflets for junior sailing at our club are being created, advertising all the pros of being a junior member at Wilsonian, and I would like to express thanks towards Andy Pickrell for his help with this.



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Photographs Wanted!

As I attempt to illustrate the magazine could I make plea to all those camera users at the club? Could you email or send any current photo's please, preferably with details, and I will attribute credit to the photographer and ask for details if I am unsure. All pictures are appreciated but whilst action shots are welcome it would be good to have cover of the club, beach, members, back of fleet or amusing shots as well. My contact details are inside the front page and by way of illustration of the need to cover the interests of all the picture below shows Nik ensuring his crew is kept happy.

Martin Smith



Medium Handicap Fleet

The Medium Fleet is strong, but silent, however a picture speaks a thousand, well fifty words maybe, as following illustrates -



Gordon Belcher sails Laser past viewing area—regrettably deserted



John Player in the Blaze finds a similar gust to Gordon?

Summer Sailing

Newer members will have noticed that most of our racing takes the form of spring, summer and autumn series racing, generally over the course of 10 races for each of the Laser 2000, Miracle, Fast, Medium and Slow (when there are takers for the latter) Handicap Fleets.

There are, however, other series which run over five Sundays scattered throughout the season, namely the Commodore's, the Ladies, the Juniors and the novices/Improvers Series. The Commodore's pools everyone together and offers the choice of Long (Commodore's) or Medium (Commodore's 2) courses; the races are run around the top of the tide and so offer racing with a greater choice of buoys and courses than usual. If you want to see more of the medway, these are races for you. The Ladies, Juniors and Novices/Improvers Series take place on the mornings of Commodore's days, and the Novices/Improvers is a relatively recent introduction designed to enable competitors to gain more experience, possibly in the company of a more expert coach; if you would like to be paired up with a suitable crew/helm who will be happy to act as a coach, please contact Asst. Sailing Secretary, Tony Hunt.

Other major sailing events include the club's premier event, the Wilsonian Grand Prix, which again takes place around high tide and aims to explore some of the less-frequently explored regions of the river. This is a great event whether you are an expert, a novice or a cruiser who appreciates some company and rescue cover or just someone who would like a change of scenery. The Leigh Trophy towards the end of the season fulfils a similar role, but is not an open event. Medway Yacht Club's Marathon offers an even longer course, going down to Sheerness.

Most will be familiar with the Medway Dinghy Regatta, but some will be unaware of the Three Race Regatta, which involves three short races, sailed back-to-back over a short course all in one day. Again,

Leaflet

The following pages show the two sides of a leaflet that Ed Le Gassick and Andy Pickrell have produced to help attract young sailors to the club. You should find examples at the club - please help yourselves if you can think of somewhere to distribute them; if you can't find any leaflets, our Commodore, Jeremy, has offered to run off further supplies - please talk to him or Jayne Lambert



about us

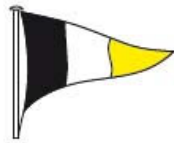
Wilsonian Sailing Club is a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) recognised Volvo Champion Club.

This means the club conforms to a high standard of coaching & safety and is recognised for providing a wide range of equipment, training and racing for Junior and Youth sailors.

It prides itself on being a very friendly club that welcomes all visitors and new members. It is probably the largest club solely for dinghy sailors in the north of Kent.

Wilsonian is not only for those who have sailed before, the club is host to a large number of qualified RYA instructors, who are always friendly and willing to lend a hand!

- The Club owns modern boats, some designed for training and some, faster, for racing purposes.
- Runs Junior specific racing.
- Runs regular racing every weekend, with large fleets, and more boats.
- Wilsonian Sailing Club also runs a Junior and Adult SAILING training programme allowing you to achieve your RYA Youth/ National Sailing Qualifications.
- We also run a POWERBOAT training programme, allowing you to complete your RYA national Powerboat stages as well as qualifications such as RYA Safety Boat.



WILSONIAN SAILING CLUB

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juniors@wilsonianclub.co.uk

WEBS
www.wilsonianclub.co.uk

TELEPHONE (S)
01634 255555

club.

Well, summer proper is now just around the corner; the weather forecast is for 25 degrees at the weekend at the time of writing, so we can all look forward to the prospect of fine sea breezes and a great season of racing.

Hope to see you all soon out on the water

Mike Gower

Vortex Asy 1013



Mark Goodchild on form in 2009 — note Colin Lown in Miracle prefers not to look!

Fast Fleet Report

So the first series of the year comes to a close and Aaron Smith crewed by Alec Rodgers in the 29er have won, followed in by Tim Kift and Jo Wicken in the 59er and then Ian Parris with Harry Coulson and Nicola Smith crewing (hopefully not both at the same time!) in third spot. David Fenech and Alison Williams in the V3000 were the only boat to compete in every race although I'm sure there are others who would also have been in this position if they had not had duty positions to fulfil.

My memory of the series may be a bit clouded but I believe we have had predominantly good winds even if a bit chilly at times and I know that the water is still cold and really it is best to try to keep the boat the right way up.... One day I'll learn. I expect on the days of poor winds I was away somewhere or on duty no doubt .

There has been a good turnout of boats, 26 in all for the series, though I am sure that now things are finally starting to warm up a bit we shall see even more boats out on the water; Mark Goodchild made a late appearance in the Canoe (waiting for things to warm up a bit I suspect) but was unable to stamp his authority on those races although a third and 2 fourths are still pretty good in my books I'd say. I'm sure he will be rapidly up to speed and we will all be desperately trying to catch him.

I know that Dave Mason has bought the Vortex from Ray Craddock (who I believe now has Dave's Laser) to sail when Stuart is unavailable but I am not aware of any other changes or new boats arriving into the



Now this WAS fast— 2010 Freezer

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Each year the instructing team at WSC line up a number of courses aimed solely at juniors

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be long before he's right at the front, possibly disappearing into the distance.

I'm pleased to say that the Miracle training day went well and gave some much-needed practice to some of the Miracle newcomers. Many thanks to Martin and Paul, also to Tony and Jo for their help on the day and for passing on tips from their years of experience, and also to Derek for manning the safety boat. Hopefully we can find another day soon when we can meet and share our knowledge and also make it a social occasion. It would be great to see more of our newer Miracle sailors joining in the Sunday racing with us and I am sure that it will be possible to find a crew for those who don't currently have one. If you contact me I can try to marry you up with somebody [*so to speak. Ed.*].



Miracle Fleet depresses Trish?

It would be good to see more Miracles joining in some of the club handicap events. The Grand Prix is coming up on 27th June, and even though we know that it is highly unlikely that a Miracle will win, we can have our own race within it. The Medway Regatta is on the weekend of the 10th and 11th July, and remember that you can join in whatever your level of experience and also enjoy the social side of it.

Finally, I would like to welcome Ray Eades as the latest owner of a Miracle. He has bought Paul's boat but Paul hasn't left the Miracle Fleet. He has bought Ben's boat, which is considerably newer. Sadly it seems that Ben has defected from the Miracle Fleet, but I don't think he has bought another boat as yet. I would like to thank Ben for his support as vice fleet captain over the past few years.

Happy sailing!

Lesley 3722

Miracle Fleet Report

I'm sure it must be the rather chilly start to the sailing season that has kept some of our Miracle sailors at home. The Spring Points series has ended and there are still a number of faces that we haven't yet seen. For those of us who have braved the cooler than hoped-for weather, there has been some enjoyable sailing and some close racing. Although not able to join in all of the races, Martin and Mike again managed to win the Spring Points series. Well done to them both! They are facing stiff competition, not only from David and Jackie and Keith and Christina, but now from Sam Pygall. Now that Sam is getting his eye in, so to speak, and hopefully a regular crew, I'm sure it won't



The Hudson's—a study in concentration

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LASER 2K FLEET REPORT

Just WHEN will this British weather of ours warm up to something like the seasonal average?

Whilst we have enjoyed some good breezes during the Spring Points series, providing some quite exciting sailing, I do wish the temperatures would move considerably north of where they have been to date. Bring on the shorts and tee-shirt weather, which is what sailing really is all about!!

The Fleet has enjoyed some reasonable turnouts during the early part of the season, averaging more than 6 boats per race. Whilst this is an excellent start to the season, I have been wondering where everybody else has got to!!? Hope to see more of you out on the water during the Early Summer Points Series.



Dave Vettergreen & Janis Smith relaxing in the sun. Photo: Dave Hudson

For those of you who have ventured out so far this year, I would very much welcome any feedback (however critical) on the length and/or structure of the courses I've been setting. After all, I really do want to set the type of course to give optimum enjoyment to as many as is possible. Equally, I am also very keen for others to have a go at setting a course from time to time, to ensure variety and closer involvement.

It was great to see a good number of mast head floats being used on couple of occasions during the Spring Points Series, potentially slowing

inversion and saving potential mast damage. This is such a sensible precaution, and it was great to see all the experienced guys in the Fleet flying their floats without any hesitation whatsoever. I do hope this will serve as an encouragement to the less experienced sailors in the Fleet.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you all of the forthcoming **Medway Regatta on 10/11 July**. This is always an excellent weekend, but a good turnout of 2K's will just make it perfect. If we can realise a minimum of 12 entries prior to the event we will have the benefit of our own separate start and prizes. **Could I just ask each of you if you would kindly give me an indication as to whether or not you are likely to be taking part in the Regatta**, so that I can aim to get the requisite prior entry and so that I can advise the organising committee of likely numbers from the Fleet. Thanks very much.

I understand there may be at least 6 boats so far from the Club coming along to this year's nationals at Sidmouth, 22-27th August. This is an excellent number, and should make for a very enjoyable week both on and off the water. If anyone else is interested in coming along, please do let me know, and please remember that under no circumstances do you need worry about your standard of your sailing/racing. I can pretty much guarantee that no-one from our Club will come last, or even anywhere near last. Why not just come along, have a great time and enjoy some excellent sailing in a very beautiful part of the country.

By the time you get to read this article, you will have already received an e-mail from me regarding the Fleet cruise, an informal training day and a day-trip to Bruges. Please do take some time to read the e-mail and let me have your views, so that I can make the necessary plans. Details are also posted on the Fleet's Notice Board in the Clubhouse.

Just as I finished typing out this article, I sat down to watch the news and weather. The gorgeous weather girl on the TV [*Jane clearly doesn't read Colin's articles. Ed*] indicated that it might just be worth me getting out those shorts and tee-shirts after all. High pressure on the way, increasing amounts of sunshine, rising temperatures and some good sea breezes (well, okay, she didn't actually mention that last part, but I do like to live in hope).

Enjoy your sailing.

Colin 22258