

Wraysbury Lake sailing club

news update

Vice-Commodore's Report

Yes, I get to do all the boring admin bits – I'll try to make this as exciting as I can.

Club Duties

Not an exciting start, sorry! As you know the club uses an online system called Dutyman to manage the club duty rosters. This relies on members maintaining their profile in Dutyman. Basically this involves making sure that Dutyman has your correct email address, contact phone number and type of duty that you prefer. Please can I ask that you check your Dutyman profile now by logging in at <http://www.dutyman.biz/dmmain.aspx?id=W0001449> . If anybody has trouble logging in or using Dutyman then please let me know.

Adult Training

The club is looking at ways to encourage adults to increase their skills over the winter. We have a couple of courses planned for January 2011:

1. Race Management Course:

This course is targeted at adults wanting to improve their skills and confidence at being able to set up and run club races. It's aimed at people who are currently rostered duties as Officer of the Day (OOD) or Assistant Officer of the Day (AOD), who would like to learn more and move up to Senior Officer of the Day (SOD). Even current SODs may benefit from attending. I know I certainly would.

The course will be a day long run by an RYA instructor. The cost will be minimal and may even be free depending on RYA support. The date will be advertised closer to January. If you are interested, please send me an email at the address below.

2. Parent Instructors' Course

As some of our long standing instructors move with their kids away from Oppies, we see a need for more parents willing to instruct kids in the basics of sailing. The course we propose is an instructor skills refresher. This would be targeted at parents who have some sailing experience, but who just need some support to instruct with confidence. The course would be shore based giving advice on suitable games to play, explain how the various levels work and basically inspire parents to have the confidence to get stuck in. Again, it would be a one day course. We are planning to arrange for an RYA coach to get involved. There may be a minimal fee but hopefully with RYA support this should be reduced. The date will be advertised closer to January. If you are interested, again please send me an email at the address below

Regards, **Morgan Secker**, Vice Commodore
wlscvc@gmail.com

Articles for next newsletter - please!

Are you wondering why there isn't an article on the Solo Open? wishing there was more about the water supply? Wanting to demonstrate your literary and sailing prowess? Have kids are doing amazing things on boats but never sit down with a pen and you'd like to encourage them...? Or is this just wishful thinking on my behalf..?

Anyway - I often have a wee bit of difficulty squeezing articles out of WLSC members and I would LOVE to hear from any of you who would like to write anything for the next newsletter - don't be shy, **send it in now and it will be in the Dec/Jan edition. Photos too please!** - newsletter.editor@wlsc.org.uk

New Webmaster Wanted

A big thank you and good luck to Tony Lord, who leaves us after many years giving sterling support to WLSC with his wonderful articles for this publication (for which I am very grateful); his exceptional Solo sailing, and his huge contribution as our Webmaster, maintaining and redesigning our very informative website: www.wlsc.org.uk

We therefore need a new webmaster - to quote Tony:

- Someone who understands web stuff (HTML mainly) needs to take over the technical maintenance and any future development of the website. These two roles could be filled by the same person as neither is onerous.
- For both the editorial and technical content I have prepared user guides to assist the new 'owner' and the editors. And I'm happy to provide some user training as part of the handover.

So please will one of you many techies step up to the plate?...

Adieu to Tony, you will be sorely missed and we look forward to visits from you in the future...

A date for your diary: don't forget:

Wraysbury Lake Sailing Club

Bonfire night

Saturday 6 November

Come all day for the Work Party please

Pirates' Day Gallery - Valerie Lees



Clockwise from top right:

Sail-by of the pirate Oppies; More pirate Oppies; Racing the team-made galleons; Rescuing stranded team mates from the island; Lining up to walk the gang plank.

The **11 September** was a great day of swash-buckling and timber-shivering! - Thanks to all the parents who made it run so smoothly and the pirates of all ages who made it such fun!

Enterprise Open Meeting - Ben Cooper

May 23, the hottest day of the year to date, saw a spiritual homecoming at Wraysbury Lake SC as the Annual Enterprise Open Meeting took place, incorporating the class's Thames Valley Bowl Series. Held earlier in the calendar in previous years, there was a hope that a date in May might encourage a few more travellers, but possibly in the end, the forecast 3 knots max wind from no particular direction deterred many from leaving home. However, three visitors did join the local fleet of six for what was to be a difficult day catching the zephyrs, or was it the downdraft from the Heathrow bound Airbus A380 that shifted the wind through 180° at one point?



A determined Race Officer had planned for four races either side of the lunch break, but those plans were really never on from the start, and an initial postponement even enabled one local boat to make the delayed start of Race 1 after the crew had been caught in stationary traffic on the M25 – they, like all the boats, were to be stationary again on the water too! Racing did get underway though, in very light and shifty airs, and it was the visitors who quickly moved into the lead demonstrating their superior roll tacking skills, centreboards partly out of the water, on many occasions. David Beaney in (Castaways), crewed by his son, pulled out an unassailable lead to win from Martin and Laurence Davies (Rugby and Daventry), who led the rest of fleet in a closer battle for the minor places. Tom and Beryl Webster (Wraysbury) used all their skill and local knowledge to break away for 3rd, with Mark and Liz Smallwood (Wraysbury) getting 4th from Ben and Oliver Burrows (West Oxfordshire) by a short head.

Lunch now beckoned, and an extended period on the club terrace was enjoyed by all. Eventually a light south-easterly appeared, and the Race Officer went for a second race. A slight adjustment to the course with all buoys being moved away from the trees on the banks, and a little more breeze allowed the fleet to move quite fast away from the start. Martin and Laurence Davies were a little late back from lunch, but they chose the right side of the beat and led after the windward mark. However, David Beaney was determined to regain the Trophy he won a couple of years previously, and eventually they relinquished their lead as the wind swung so much that each leg of the race took turns at being a beat, reach and run. A shortened course saw the same leaders as for Race 1, and with the thought of long journeys for some in hot traffic, the Race Officer concluded proceedings on the water for the day.

As the best breeze of the day materialised (!), prizes were presented by Wraysbury Lake SC Sailing Secretary on the terraces; Tom and Beryl Webster were 1st Wraysbury boat in 3rd overall, Martin and Laurence Davies came 2nd and David and John Beaney were the winners. David Beaney in turn, on behalf of the visitors, thanked the club for its excellent hospitality, and invited them to continue hosting an open meeting every year – something the club will I am sure do, given its historical links with Jack Holt and the Enterprise in particular. Next year we'll arrange for a few more Airbus's!!

Ben Cooper

Enterprise Open ctd

Results Wraysbury Enterprise Open, May 2010

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Crew	Club	R1	R2	Pts
1st	20234	David Beaney	John Beaney	Castaways SC	1.0	1.0	2.0
2nd	22320	Martin Davies	Laurence Davies	Rugby & Daventry SC	2.0	2.0	4.0
3rd	21501	Tom Webster	Beryl Webster	Wraysbury Lake SC	3.0	3.0	6.0
4th	16919	Mark Smallwood	Liz Smallwood	Wraysbury Lake SC	4.0	4.0	8.0
5th	21932	Ben Burrows	Oliver Burrows	West Oxfordshire SC	5.0	5.0	10.0
6th	20315	Chris Ryder Richardson	Roy Chaney	Wraysbury Lake SC	6.0	6.0	12.0
7th	20505	Colin Hall	Frances Horne	Wraysbury Lake SC	7.0	7.0	14.0
8th	19334	Kim Wilkinson	Mark Wilkinson	Wraysbury Lake SC	9.0	8.0	17.0
9th	21503	Alick Munro	Michael	Wraysbury Lake SC	8.0	9.0	17.0



Warm winners with Wraysbury's own Tom and Beryl Webster on the right

Optimist Open - Tony Lord

The 19th was a chilly day for June, but with a promising wind forecast (even if from an unusual Northerly direction) greeted the 48 young helms on their arrival at Wraysbury. Andy Newton's well drilled team made the welcome warm and the necessary registration process straightforward. The helms were divided into Gold and Silver fleets so that the best use could be made of the available water.

The sailors were keen to get underway and took to the water after the briefing; sailing across the lake to the start line set by Principal Race Officer Martin Lewes and his team. So keen were the main fleet that despite the PRO's best efforts, five were disqualified for being over the line at the start. With only one discard available from the planned four races some care would be needed by those helms to get a decent overall result.



Overall winner, Ryan Orr

Because of the unusual wind direction the beat to the first mark was relatively short, but long enough to separate the fleet enough for most to get round without too much shouting.

Come the final leg Benjamin Waha (Royal Southern) managed to hold off Ryan Orr (Royal Lyminster) chased by Ross Thompson (Frensham Pond) who sailed well to grab the third place from local heroine Jenny Smallwood (Wraysbury Lake).

The second race was run back to back using the same course. With lunch looming some competitors were really wanting to get back to the clubhouse more than others and local youngster Alex Smallwood (Wraysbury Lake) was only beaten by James Thorne-Large (Chipstead) in the race for lunch. It was Ryan Orr who rounded out the top three, whilst Benjamin Waha could only manage a 10th after his excellent first race.

After topping up the energy levels it was back to the water for races three and four. For the first of these starts there was a good use of the line with the well disciplined flight getting away cleanly. An early wind shift was spotted by the more alert competitors and half way round the course Ryan Orr was leading Jenny Cropley (Warsash) with these two being well out in front of the chasing bunch. Ryan maintained his lead, although chased hard, to the finish line. In the second group places were hard fought over with Stefan Ward (Chipstead/ HISC), whose day had been spoilt by two OCS results, showing what he was capable of achieving followed by Mr Consistency, Sam Pearce (Burghfield), producing the second of his three fourth places.

This win gave Ryan an unassailable lead overall and he chose not to finish the last race. The rest of the flight made an excellent start, well spread along the carefully set line, and it paid to go left up the first beat. All rounded the top mark safely, but in close order. The leaders chose to go right down the run, the more direct and competitive route, but threatened with the edge of a wind shadow. Some others, lower down the fleet, chose the left side and benefitted from the slightly fresher breeze. About halfway down the run the wind filled in more generally from behind and the result was that almost everyone arrived at the leeward mark together. The resulting calls could be clearly heard by the watching parents over on the clubhouse patio, but somehow the fleet emerged without blood being spilt. Sam Pearce needed a first to threaten Jenny Cropley's overall second place, but Jenny was not giving up the front position and Louise Hughes (Burghfield) was determined to show well and seized second with her club-mate, Patrick Gannon, taking third spot.

Optimist Open - ctd

The Regatta fleet was competitive all the way down. It was notable as all the top nine had no qualifying positions lower than ninth, an impressive record of consistency. As in the main fleet one sailor, Iain Bird (Papercourt), stood out taking the first spot with two wins. Hanna Bryant (Burghfield) capped her two thirds with a final win for her clear second place overall.

As for the home helms in the Gold fleet, Jenny Smallwood (7th) featured strongly, but could not quite crack a top three place. Younger brother Alex was not far behind with 10th with Ben Webb and Thomas Newton following on.

In the regatta fleet it was the first Open meeting for some and the cut and thrust of interclub competition was a bit too much. Katie Webb finished all four races to lead the home helms of Esme Audland, James Kelly, Oliver Copland and Daniel Kelly.

A well deserved tea was served by the Galley Team (thanks all) and prize-giving resulted in many boxes of chocolate finding a new home. Congratulations to Andy Newton on a well organised day, and loads of thanks to all the helpers from Wraysbury (and our friends) who made the day so enjoyable. We look forward to greeting many of our visitors again next year.



Clockwise from left:

Prize-winners with their choccies

Iain Bird, Regatta Fleet winner

Jenny Cropley, second over-all

Wraysbury at the Olympics (venue) - Tony Lord

The Solo association arranged a pre-championships meeting at the Weymouth and Portland Academy, which is to be the home of the sailing events for the 2012 Olympics. Seeing this as an opportunity not to be missed, I decided to go and take part as the weather conditions were favourable.

Over 60 competitors turned up to this excellent venue. They had travelled from all parts of the UK; indeed the Officer of the Day, in his briefing, referred to the geographic scattering of the entrants as most notable. A consequence was that the entrants were, with the exception of your writer, all from the top drawer of Solo racing.

I was also sailing, bar only one, the oldest boat in the event.

The facilities at Weymouth are superb. Even the road from Dorchester to Weymouth, a single carriageway 'A' road, is being upgraded and the main road through Weymouth town is also being improved. As for the sailing centre itself, it is magnificent. There is a great restaurant on the upper floor and an excellent cafeteria for the everyday wants. Inside there are many changing rooms with secure locker facilities and hot showers, loads of lecture and training rooms and a full height internal space where several fully rigged dinghies can be placed.

Outside there is a large rigging area and hard standing close to wide launching areas with two well protected marinas, a smaller one for racing craft, and another for safety and larger boats. We are certainly well prepared with facilities for 2012!

The racing took place within Portland harbour: a huge natural harbour to leeward of the Portland spur of the Chesil bank which has good winds from the South West with the waves stopped by the low Bank. Some competitors seemed a bit miffed that the racing was to be in the harbour, but as it took over 20 mins to get from the launch site to the starting area it was probably a wise decision.

As for the event itself we had wall to wall sunshine with a gentle Force 2 on arrival and during rigging. On going afloat, after the appropriate briefings and tally procedures, we noticed that the wind had increased a notch by the time we reached the start area. The fleet spread out along the line and, despite obvious tension mixed with a keenness to do well, a clean start was made. Even in the relatively short distance from the Chesil bank there was a sensible chop in the water and, not being familiar with the techniques, I found my boat slapping against some waves and practically coming to a halt. There is a real trick to keeping going through these waves, even though they were less than a foot tall. Note to self: Must find an experienced youngster to train me. As a result, by the time I got to the top mark fifteen minutes or so later, I was in the company of another half dozen of the slower souls as we set off on the two reaches.



Weymouth Sailing Academy

At the Olympics ctd - Tony Lord

All three races were held back to back meaning about five hours on the water, so time for a drink and a bit of food in the inter-race gap. Then, as the 10 minute warning for the next race sounded the wind picked up another notch with the occasional white horse. Looking landwards the mainland it was a typical sea breeze view, clear blue sky over the water and half a mile or more inland where a band of clouds had formed. That's why the breeze had increased.

I decided that, as I was not in the medal hunt and was there for the experience, I would turn the event into a training session. So I picked one of the better racers and tried to get on their tail for the start and up the first beat. Unfortunately I was frustrated in my attempt as that bit of the start line became very crowded and it was not possible, so I attempted to improve my wave technique with mixed results.

Better luck in the last race as I got on the tail of Charlie Cumbley, the series leader. It was impressive watching him keeping the boat very flat and twitching the tiller for each wave. Afterwards I got chatting to him and received an excellent explanation of what he was doing and why. We will see next time if I have managed to retain any of that knowledge.

As I approached the top of the beat, having again fallen to the back of the fleet, I ducked across onto the reach before rounding the top mark and joined the leaders on the reach working my way well to windward and keeping clear of the racing boats so I could again watch their technique. Here I found I could keep pace. Then cut across at the bottom mark to follow another up the next beat. But I found you cannot sail fast and watch someone else in great detail at the same time!

As the race reached its conclusion I announced my retirement to a nearby safety boat and headed for home, tired but having had an excellent day's sailing at a really world class venue.

Tony Lord, Solo 4094



Left:
Weymouth Academy
launch area and marina

YOB Camp 2010 - Eleanor Holloway



I think it was my 4th YOB Camp this July and we enjoyed a fantastic weekend of sunny and windy (but not too windy) weather at Wraysbury - yes it is possible!! With 11 teenagers messing about in boats we had six boats chasing each other round the lake and many kayaks when the wind died a little in the late afternoon; a successful forage for firewood after our delicious bbq set us up for a relaxing late evening round the campfire where we gleefully burned GCSE notes with great gusto. The very light rain signalled tent-time and I think they stopped chatting by about 1.30am... Which gave me a pleasant nap before the first cargo plane rose out of Heathrow at 6am. Thanks to Catharine and Richard for once again keeping David and me company and helping out.

On Sunday all YOBs entered the club races, making the starting line more exciting for the regular racers, especially when I had to rescue Matthew's sinking Pico just after the start - a sinking boat towed by a safety boat in a narrow part of the lake on the first beat makes for an interesting obstacle (he had forgotten the bung). No YOBs had the staying capacity to end the race but enjoyed the taking part and then parked on an island to watch the finish. We continued the theme of disorganised sailing, kayaking, surf-boarding and swimming and left relaxed and refreshed (and personally ready for some sleep!) at about 5pm.

This was my last YOB camp as I am retiring from YOBs as co-ordinator. So if anyone would like to take over the very easy job of reminding teenagers when their next get-together is, and then wondering who will turn up, ... please volunteer. I have greatly enjoyed the company of all my YOBs and will miss you all, or maybe see you over at Datchet Water, where we now have some RS boats.



Clockwise from left:

Nick and Luke paddle away

Olivia and Helena photographed by Frances (also helping the Pico)

YOBs at the start line on Sunday

Sailing Dictionary

As Tony Lord leaves us, his spirit will live on, as he has bequeathed to me his sailing dictionary which I will share with you until you beg me to stop.....

Sailing: The fine art of getting wet and becoming ill while slowly going nowhere at great expense

Hazard: 1. Any boat over 2 feet in length; 2. The skipper of any such craft; 3. Any body of water; 4. Any body of land within 100 yards of any body of water

Course: The direction in which a skipper wishes to steer his boat and from which the wind is blowing

Lanyard: A light line attached to a small article so that it can be secured somewhere well out of reach.

Current: Tidal flow that carries a boat away from its desired destination or toward a hazard. (Hazard: see below)

Squall: A sudden and violent gust of wind, often accompanied by rain, that indicates the midpoint of a one-day sailing trip.

Heeling: A basic process affecting all sailboats which begins with the boat leaning over as the wind presses on one side of its sails and ends as the sailboat finally exhibits its natural tendency to come to a state of rest on the lake bottom.

Yardarm: Horizontal spar mounted in such a way that when viewed from the cockpit, the sun is always over it.

More in next edition....



The sun shines on Wraysbury lake - photo by **Frances Holloway**

End-of-Year Diary

The Calendar for 2010 is up on the website - www.wlsc.org.uk. Here are the events over and above normal Sunday racing for the next few months:

Date	Wraysbury events (on top of regular races)
19 Sept	Oppie Regatta and Training
26 Sept	Sail for fun and YOBS
3 October	Oppie Training
10 October	YOBS and Oppie fun sailing
17 October	Oppie Training
6 November	Work Party and Fireworks
7 November	Autumn Trophy
21 November	Macmillan Cancer Support evening
12 December	Kids Christmas Party
26 December	Nick King Trophy

Sorry for the delay in the newsletter - it was due out in July but with few articles coming forth, I couldn't complete til now; if you would like a more regular newsletter I need more articles from you!

The next Newsletter will be due in Dec/January; send articles and photographs of all your Wraysbury adventures to: newsletter.editor@wlsc.org.uk and I will be happy to include them in the next edition.

You can also send in sailing stories from away visits or sailing holidays, I will be happy to include anything exciting!

- or you can call me: 01344 883704 **Eleanor Holloway, Editor**

The Newsletter comes out 4 times a year - and is downloadable from the website: www.wlsc.org.uk