



Newsletter

November 7th, 2019

Editor's Comments


I'm conscious, as much as anything by the length of my 'pending' file, that it has been many months since I last distributed a fleet newsletter. It's not that the fleet has been inactive - though it would be good to see a few more boats on the club race course - but rather that it was only this summer that I resumed hostilities after my enforced 12-month absence. The weather finally relented (I remember a balmy couple of weeks back in February!) and Katy and I decided that the moment had come to 'give it a go' again - which we've done pretty regularly since. Touch wood, no ill effects.

Unfortunately other fleet regulars have also fallen *hors de combat*. Back in June, Dave Philpott suffered a cardiac 'incident' after Wednesday racing. If that phrase appears to lack medical precision, it's because there is disagreement amongst the experts at Papworth as to precisely what happened. They're erring on the side of caution, so Dave has had another stint inserted and had to endure exercise therapy that didn't include golf or sailing. However, he's now back on the water and, having teamed up with John Forsdike, is demonstrating alarming speed. So it's 'Welcome Back, Dave' - but with a few caveats!

Bob Gatton has also been out of action with a recurrence of the vertigo attacks that he's suffered intermittently for some years: these re-appeared later in the summer, prior to his annual migration to Portugal. Even Ashley has not been immune from medical complaints, though, in his case, we can't attribute his ills so easily to advancing years.

Other regulars have moved on: Richard Ledger is now sailing at Parkestone, Julian Clarke is allegedly in the throes of a move north, having taken early retirement, work took Ben Longstaffe to Dublin (though he's since returned to the UK), and Mark Aldridge has gone back to the thrills and spills of the Cat fleet. Oh, and Dave Lucas and Simon Kneller have joined the growing fleet of Solos at Grafham, though nostalgia brings them back to the Fifteen from time to time.

So our famous strength in depth, as a fleet, has been sorely tested and race numbers have been a little down on expectations. It's not all bad news: Sue and Andy Rhodes are now regulars on the club racing scene and Simon Kneller has persuaded son James to crew for him for the occasional race - indeed, they entered Falmouth Week and won the event, so Simon clearly hasn't entirely lost his keelboat skills.

Nevertheless, as Tim is constantly reminding me, we do need to find a way of attracting new recruits to the fleet. That's easier said than done: the most persuasive approach is the one adopted by Tim and a few others - offer trial sails and invite people to crew, and occasionally helm. And we can do a lot by promoting the class amongst other fleets and amongst visitors to the club who you may find wandering the boat park inviting your sales pitch! On a practical note, [Nigel Denchfield](#), who sails a Lark with his wife in the summer, has expressed an interest in spending the occasional winter Sunday racing a Fifteen. If you're looking for a crew, why not drop him an email? And, earlier in the year, I received emails from [Colin Gilbert](#) and from [Richard Rose](#), expressing interest in crewing. (Colin's email may have referred just to the Grafham Grand Prix, but Richard was certainly looking for a more regular racing slot). If anyone is interested in pairing up, please drop them an email. You can also get Richard on .

While all this was going on, Tim and Wendy took their Talbots down under on a vintage rally in New Zealand. They found time to visit Jim Hibbert's family (see illustration). A very pleasant way to escape the European winter!



Chris and Jane

Cambridge Memory Walk for Jane Moon



On the 30th August, Chris and Jane reached their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Sadly, with Jane in the later stages of Alzheimer's, memory gone and faculties diminishing, celebrations were inappropriate. To mark a happy life together and see that she is not forgotten, Chris took part in the Cambridge Memory Walk to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society on Sunday 6th October. Jane was a Charity Fundraiser herself in her later working life and along with her many volunteer friends raised many thousands of pounds. Jane would certainly be flattered and proud to know that money is being raised in her name. If you'd like to help by supporting Chris' fundraising effort, you can either donate directly or via the 'Just Giving' web page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/janemoonnotforgotten>. Or you can, of course, see Chris in person and cross his palm with silver.

John Clifton

One of the saddest events of the past year was John Clifton's death last December, at the age of 101. Many of you will have attended the funeral, but I thought that those of you who were unable to make it might like the opportunity to read [Mike's moving Eulogy](#) to his father.

Other Contacts

Alan Cave has informed me that his email address is about to change to [REDACTED]. Please update your records.

Carole Duke has moved back to Poole: her new address is [REDACTED]. I'm afraid that I don't have a telephone number.

Anne Davies' email is now [REDACTED] and Michael Clifton is on [REDACTED].

And finally, Nick Taylor has kindly set up a Grafham Flying Fifteen WhatsApp Group. The purpose of this is to encourage communication between the racing membership and (especially) to help in pairing up teams who, individually, may be missing out on a sail.

You may have been subscribed willingly or otherwise. Please unsubscribe if you want to be out. Should you not be in the group and wish to be included please [send Nick](#) your name and WhatsApp phone number.

If you have not used WhatsApp you will need to download WhatsApp Messenger to your device.

Odds and Ends

Joe Nicholas has been having a clear out (well you do, don't you?) and a variety of oddments and general junk has surfaced, some of which may be of interest to fleet members.

The items in question are:-

- 2 off used ex-mini wheels with the appropriate cut-out for grease nipple.
- 4' 4" trailer lighting board with extended cable for FF trailer
- Replacement 10" pneumatic jockey wheel - new
- 1 un-braked trailer hub to suit roller stubs - new

If any or all the items are of interest, Joe is prepared to deliver to Grafham, by arrangement - he is happy to provide further details. Enquiries and offers to  ..

Racing

Grafham Open Meeting



The 2019 Grafham FF Open Meeting was sailed on the weekend of June 8th - 9th. The forecast on Thursday was for 40+ gusts throughout Saturday and this certainly dampened down the entry but on the day the wind had 'moderated' to 22mph with 30 + gusts. After a mutually agreed delay of 30mins the afternoon racing was set on a sausage/triangle/sausage course. The first race

got underway with a reduced fleet of 8 boats and was convincingly led all the way Ian Cadwallader and Steve Graham. Regrettably, they rounded the wrong leeward mark on the second lap so were DSQ, promoting Simon Kneller and Dave Lucas to first place with Mark and Ben Longstaff making it a Grafham one two. The wind in the next two races began to moderate somewhat but the leading group was substantially unchanged with Mark and Ben winning Race 2 and Simon and Dave re-asserting their authority in Race 3. Ian and Steve recorded 2nd places in both races.

Sunday was a different kettle of fish altogether with a variable 5 – 12 mph wind so the Race Officer set three windward/leeward courses. This provided some very close tactical racing: after Ian and Steve took the fourth race, it was all to play for as they were tied on 5 points with Simon and Mark after the discard came in to play. Simon and Dave sailed a superb fifth race, not only winning it but, with three bullets under their belt, ensuring that they could no longer be caught for overall first place. In the final race Jonathan and Trish Knight sailed brilliantly, leading the fleet until the final reach to the finish when they were just pipped to the post by Mark and Ben. The top three boats were only separated by one point, the final top placings being:

1st 4024 Simon Kneller and Dave Lucas GWSC 9pts

2nd 4039 Mark and Ben Longstaff GWSC 9pts

3rd 4055 Ian Cadwallader and Steve Graham Chew Valley SC 10pts

2019 FF Worlds - National Yacht Club, Dublin

Grafham members gave this event a miss - so Pip Chapman (nee Noon) acted as our proxy, crewing for Nick Heath in the ever-green 'Fighting Fit' (2520) and retained the Classic World title by virtue of being the only Classic boat entry! Click to read [Pip's account of the racing](#).

Club Racing



Club Race Results - 2019

Spring Series

AM Series

Based on all 3 races in February and 2 morning races in March and April

(21 races with 10 to count)

1st 3550 Les Rant & Susie Sontag 10 points *'Building Needs Trophy'*

2nd 3947 Nick Taylor & Ian Dubock 18 points *'Armada Pot'*

3rd 3583 Mike & Jean Wilczynski 23 points

PM Series - 'Spring Series PM'

Based on two afternoon races - March and April

(8 races with 4 to count)

1st 3947 Nick Taylor & Ian Dubock 5 points

2nd 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 8 points

Spring Series Handicap Cup

3583 Mike & Jean Wilczynsk

Summer Series

First Race (AM) - 'Grafham Ducks'

Based on first morning races - May, June, July

(11 races with 5 to count, 5 qualifiers)

1st 3727 Barry & Katy Wyatt 7 points

2nd 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 8 points

3rd 3947 Nick Taylor & Ian Dubock 14 points

Second Race (AM) - 'Kircubbin Cup'

Based on second morning races - May, June, July

(10 races with 5 to count, 2 qualifiers)

1st 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 7 points

2nd 3727 Barry & Katy Wyatt 18.5 points

PM Series - 'Fifteen Rose Bowl'

Based on both afternoon races - May, June, July

(8 races with 4 to count, 3 qualifiers)

1st 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 4 points

2nd 3727 Barry & Katy Wyatt 6 points

3rd 3947 Nick Taylor & Ian Dubock 11 points

Summer Series Handicap Cup - 'Aker's Anchor'

3849 Graham Wadeley & Angela Tasker

Autumn Series

First Race (AM) - 'Early Birds'

Based on first morning races - August, September, October

(11 races with 5 to count, 4 qualifiers)

1st 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 5 points

2nd 3794 Dave Philpott & various crews 10 points

3rd 3727 Barry & Katy Wyatt 16.3 points

Second Race (AM) - 'Autumn Leaves'

Based on second morning races - August, September, October

(11 races with 5 to count, 4 qualifiers)

1st 3794 Dave Philpott & various crews 7 points

2nd 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 8 points

3rd 3924 Bob Gatton & John Forsdike 15 points

PM Series - 'Frostbite'

Based on both afternoon races - August, September, October

(11 races with 5 to count, 4 qualifiers)

1st 3789 Allen Cave & Ashley Painter 5 points

2nd 3727 Barry & Katy Wyatt 13.4 points

3rd 4012 Jonathan & Trish Knight 15 points

Autumn Series Handicap Cup

4039 Sue & Andy Rhodes

Wednesday Evening Series

(21 races with 7 to count, 9 qualifiers)

1st 3794 Dave Philpott & John Forsdike 7 points

2nd 3827 Geoff Floyd & Colin Gilbert 8.2 points

3rd 4012 Jonathan & Trish Knight 14 points



Wednesday Evening Handicap - 'John Clifton Cup'

3924 Bob Gatton & Jim Coates

Duke of Edinburgh

3794 Dave Philpott & Graham Wadeley

Flying Fifteen Open - 'Brigg's Trophy'

'Easter Salver'

Based on Sunday racing on 12th May

4012 Jonathan & Trish Knight

'Ron Howard'

Based on RNLI Race 30th June

4012 Jonathan & Trish Knight

UK Flying Fifteen Association

Firstly, allow me, on behalf of the fleet, to congratulate Tim O'Brien on his election as President of the Association. This is a responsibility he is well-qualified to take on - though it puzzles me how he finds the time! Those of you who are members of the Class Association - and I was favourably impressed by just how many Grafham boat owners are members - should be receiving the monthly email newsletters from the Association. Tim has suggested that I should publish these here, to allow non-members to read them and see the work the Association does and the benefits available for the paltry sum it costs to join. (Current membership charges are £35.00 for a boat owner, £55.00 for joint owners of the same boat and £20.00 for a non-boat owner: the very competitive insurance scheme run by the Association for its members goes a long way towards covering the subscription). So, click here to download the [August](#) and [September](#) issues.

Those of you who simply can't get enough of the minutiae of club governance may also wish to download a copy of the [constitution of the Class Association](#), as approved at the AGM earlier in the summer. The constitution came into full effect on 1st July this year and the rule changes voted on at the AGM will come into effect after the 2019 worlds, once ratified by World Sailing. I'll let you know when this has happened.

And finally..... the [Minutes of the Fleet Captains' meeting](#), attended by Tim earlier this year are also available for download. There's quite a lot of interesting stuff reported - mainly concerning the championship and open meeting fraternity. But much of this also has implications for the more sedentary members of the racing fleets. One proposal that is under consideration is the replacement of the Gold/Silver/Classic categories by a ranking system, allocating boats to 'gold', 'silver' and 'bronze' categories according to their performance in qualifying regattas. All boats would compete in a single race fleet, but prizes would be allocated to the top boats in each of the three categories. So you would be competing against crews of closer ability levels to your own - and the silverware would be spread more widely than at present. The Class Association is asking for feedback on this proposal, in particular, so if you have views, let Tim or me know them!

For your Diary

We'll be sailing for the Grafham Fox this coming Sunday (November 17th, 3 back-to-back races starting at 11:05, best two races to count). I apologise for the short notice, but regular Sunday racers have already been informed by email.

The 11th edition of the 2019/20 Selden SailJuice Winter Series, of which the Grafham Grand Prix (on December 28th) is the local event, starts next month with the Fernhurst Books Darycote Dash (23/24 November). Online entry is now open and the SailRacer GPS tracked events will form the first of the qualifying rounds for the [2020 Great British Sailing Challenge](#). The Selden SailJuice Winter Series events are likely to fill up quickly, enter now at <https://enter.sailracer.org/events/enter-series-mobile.asp?eventid=215241>

During the recent Flying Fifteen World Championships, a social evening was hosted by the Australians to officially launch and promote attendance at the 2021 Flying Fifteen International World Championship in Fremantle. The event website www.flying15worlds2021.com was launched and a couple of short videos were shown, highlighting Fremantle and the sailing venue. A copy of the event flyer which includes various contact details can be accessed at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/dfb637_e166b7e0262b43668c1e1116010f07ab.pdf. Anyone thinking of competing in Fremantle (Tim plans to go!) is encouraged to visit the web site and sign up for event newsletters.

[Barry Wyatt](#)



This email was sent to

[REDACTED]

GWSC Flying Fifteens

[REDACTED]

United Kingdom

