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## Fleet Newsletter

September 19th, 2020

## Around the Club

For obvious reasons, newsletters have been in short supply during recent months. Frustratingly, despite a glorious summer, with week after week of sunshine and ideal sailing conditions, much of the fleet has been confined to base. Indeed, were it not for Dave Philpott's initiative, in making it possible to race Fifteens single-handed, I think the number of outings since the club resumed racing in mid-June could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The principal difficulty has been to achieve social distancing in two-handed classes. (I know that's no excuse for boats crewed by members of a single household, but these are remarkably few in number and there's not a great deal of incentive to plod round the race track without direct competition. It's boat-on-boat combat that makes Fifteen racing what it is - or was!)

## Sunday Results

The club offered a number of one-off 'special' Sunday races from mid-June through to the end of July. Trish and I need to consider how we shall apply the results of these races to the award of fleet trophies: meanwhile, if you're interested in viewing who sailed and how they got on, I suggest you visit the [results pages](#) on the club web site.

One result that I will report separately is the winner of the Grafham Fox. This was (eventually) sailed on July 26th, in a lively north-westerly breeze that proved a deterrent to launching for the single-handed fleet (and most of the few two-handers who travelled to Grafham). Peter Wolstenholme and Cameron Torbett proved themselves made of sterner stuff and, by virtue of their completing all three races, are declared 2020 winners of the coveted Grafham Fox.

The club's autumn series began on 2nd August (a month ahead of meteorological 'autumn'). Currently, Graham Wadeley leads the pack, closely followed by Peter and Cameron. The results don't really tell us a great deal about performance differences between single-handers and two-handed boats since series placings are dominated by the number of starts recorded by a given boat. Tomorrow (Duke of Edinburgh) will prove instructive, with Simon making a welcome return (sailing two-handed). But, given the forecast, the strength of the breeze may deter many single-handed boats from competing.

## Wednesday Results

Wednesday evening racing shows little sign of any fall in popularity, despite the inevitable impact of Covid on the social side of racing. The decision to encourage single-handed racing really helped - I've not done the arithmetic, but the FF entry was dominated by crew-less (and, on some evenings, clueless!) helms. The club web site promises results for the entire series, but an inspection of the 'results' section of the web site earlier this evening failed to locate them. I've assembled the results from the seven races in which FFs competed and, as usual, things are pretty tight. The following results are subject to change - for example, I've not been able to add points 'earned' by volunteers on the race management teams, nor have discards been allowed for. So Trish still has work to do!

Rank	Class	SailNo	Helm	Crew	PY	24/06	08/07	15/07	22/07	29/07	12/08	<u>26/08</u>	Total
1st	Flying 15 S/H	3849	Graham Wadeley		1051	5	4	3	5	3	1	2	23
2nd	Flying 15 S/H	3794	Dave Philpott		1051	3	1	1	(8)	2	(8)	1	24
3rd	Flying 15 S/H	4042	Geoff Floyd		1051	2	2	5	1	(8)	2	4	24
4th	Flying 15 S/H	3924	Bob Gatton		1051	1	5	2	4	(8)	(8)	3	31
5th	Flying 15 S/H	4042	Tim O'Brien		1051	(8)	3	4	3	(8)	(8)	8	42
6th	Flying 15	4012	Jonathan Knight	Trish Knight	1020	(8)	(8)	(8)	2	1	(8)	8	43
7th	Flying 15 S/H	3464	Brian Appleyard		1051	4	(8)	6	(8)	4	(8)	8	46

## FF Trophies for 2019 Season

Because of the cancellation of this year's prize giving, the fleet trophies are languishing in the clubhouse - or they might even have taken up lodging *chez Knights*! Given the present Covid situation and very little likelihood of much change in the near future, I'm publishing below a list of 2019 trophy winners. Jonathan and Trish have kindly offered to get trophies to any winners who would like to have it /them for the next six months or so. If you're on the list and would like to take custodianship of your silverware, please call Trish on 07773386646 (email trishm.knight@gmail.com) to arrange collection / delivery. If we don't hear from you, the trophies will probably be returned to the clubhouse. Let's put a deadline of the end of October for this.

## Prize Winners

**Allen Cave & Ashley Painter (3789)**

Kircubbin Cup  
Fifteen Rose Bowl  
Frostbite Trophy  
Early Birds Trophy

**Barry Wyatt & Katy Wyatt (3727)**

Grafham Ducks

**Bob Gatton & Jim Coates (3924)**

John Clifton Cup

**Brian Appleyard & Matt Hood (3464)**

Keith Hall (Best Old Boat)

**Dave Philpott & John Forsdike (3794)**

Brass Monkey  
Grafham Fox  
Sweepstake

**Dave Philpott & Graham Wadeley (3794)**

Duke of Edinburgh

**Dave Philpott & various crews (3794)**

Autumn Leaves

**Geoff Floyd & Colin Gilbert (3827)**

Cameron Trophy

**Graham Wadeley & Angela Tasker (3849)**

Aker's Anchor  
Anne D Cup

**Jonathan & Trish Knight (4012)**

Easter Salver  
Ron Howard Trophy

**Les Rant & Susie Sontag (3550)**

Building Needs Trophy  
Winter Series Cup

**Mike & Jean Wilczynski (3583)**

Spring Series Handicap  
Betty Howard (Most improved)

**Nick Taylor & Ian Dubock (3947)**

Armada Pot  
Spring Cup

**Pip Chapman**

Falmouth Classic

**Richard Marshall & Geoff Parkinson (3626)**

Falmouth Flyer

**Simon Kneller & Dave Lucas (4024)**

Brigg's Trophy

**Simon Kneller & Ben Longstaff (4024)**

Bob Grubb Trophy

Sue & Andy Rhodes (4039)

Autumn Handicap

Wakefield Trophy (Services to the fleet) Dave Philpott

## and finally (Trailer)

Simon Kneller posted the following notice on the FF WhatsApp Group (have you registered with Nick Taylor to receive SMS messages relating to FF racing at Grafham?)

*'There is an elderly but still serviceable FF launching trolley parked on the grass just south of the flagpole. I got it from Joe Nichols years ago. If anyone wants to use it just go ahead. I (Simon) used it recently whilst my road trailer was being refurbished. Quite useful if you need to get some work done on your trailer'.*



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