

Centreboard



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Spinnaker Club
Ringwood

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Spinnaker gets a new Commodore



Helming Bloodhound 2009

I guess as I am your new Commodore, those who do not know me well may wonder who I am and how I would like the Club to develop during my time as your glorious leader.

To answer the first question, I am the chap with the aquamarine National 12, often seen charging around the lake with my daughter Rosie or some poor soul dragged off the boat park. Legend has it that I spend as much time showing off the hull and centreboard as I do the rig, however this is only a rumour started by envious competitors.

I joined Spinnaker more years ago than I would like to recall, having sailed all my life. I wanted to get my family involved and a friend told me about Spinnaker, we have never looked back. My wife Lynn has been known to sail with the ladies, I hope she will start again this season. My eldest son Thomas is well known at the Club, having run the Topper group for the past few seasons. A keen dinghy sailor and yachtsman, he has followed me offshore having completed his first Fastnet in 2011. My daughter Rosie makes cameo appearances in my National 12, I suspect she is keener to participate in sailing when the sun is out and the hull is over 40"! Our

second son Rory died in a cycling accident in 2009, he was always happy on a yacht, but didn't have time to sail dinghies as his main interest was rugby union.

My other job is a yacht broker with www.boatmatch.com, a business I co-founded in 2000. I have worked in the Marine Industry for over 35 years, although business is currently somewhat challenging I have thoroughly enjoyed and will continue to enjoy being involved in an exciting and forward looking industry.

I am very excited to be part of the Management team at Spinnaker Club and hope my time as Commodore will see the Club continue to develop and punch well above its weight. Spinnaker has always benefited from a close knit band of dinghy sailors who dedicate themselves to supporting the Club on and off the water. Not many Clubs our size are lucky enough to have such a resource of successful people prepared to help develop your Club and environment.

As your Commodore, my main aims are to move forward with the Club House development and improve the facilities for all Members. We are determined to move forward with our plans to improve the Club House and changing facilities in 2012, to

which end we are currently in discussion with a government agency over funding. The committee hope to be able to be in a position to bring a proposal to Trustees and Members in the near future.

On the water, I wish to continue with our Topper development squad and introduce a similar squad for our Optimist sailors. With Robin Creswell, I am closely involved with helping Matt Reid achieve his Olympic ambition. Matt has been regularly sailing with the UK Laser Olympic Development Squad and recently sailed in the Laser Worlds. It would be great to see our Club producing a future Olympic Champion and future champions in all areas of sailing.

Spinnaker has an infrastructure capable of producing champions, I am sure it is only time before we see the benefits of our investment in youth Members.

I am also dedicated to developing our partnership with New Forest Sailability. We can pride ourselves in being a major centre for disabled sailing and have the honour in 2012 to host the UK Sailability National Championships. My experience as a helper in 2010 and 2011 at the regional championships hosted at Spinnaker tells me the Nationals will

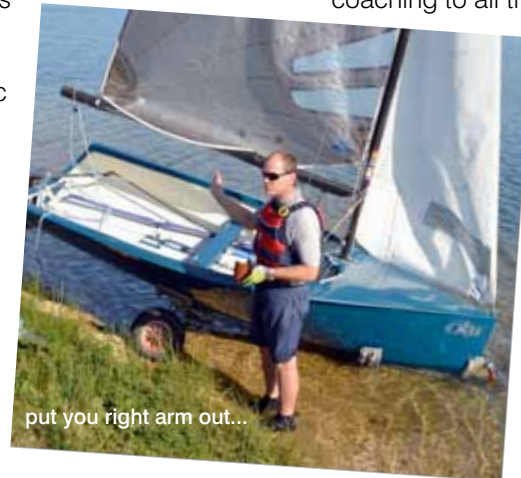
be hard fought and well supported. On the subject of Sailability, we have to congratulate Rosemary (Rory to us) Morrison on being awarded the MBE in this year's New Years Honours for services to disabled sailing. I know and admire Rory; she gives unconditionally and is a great supporter of our Club.

Finally, we have a first class training establishment delivering top level coaching to all training Members. We will continue to develop this business as it benefits Members to develop their skills, at the same time producing revenue that will enable Spinnaker to move forward with our plan to improve your Club and keep Membership fees at the low levels currently paid.

To achieve all the above needs team work and most importantly a team. It is always easy

to find reasons not to do something, but this one is about your family, your children and a valuable resource. Over the coming months, we are actively looking for fresh new faces on our management and sailing committees. Believe me, this is not an onerous task, but is challenging and in the most part fun. Everyone can contribute, we need all groups represented and every Committee Member is valued, I should know!

Simon Walworth



put you right arm out...

YCT Volunteer Award



Despite being in the middle of revision and GCSE s, Toby Baker selflessly decided to respond to my Email request in May addressed to all members of Spinnaker Club, in which I asked for volunteers to give young cancer patients (aged 14-30 years) the opportunity to sail and kayak at the lake every Tuesday.

Toby is a qualified RYA Dinghy Instructor and his expertise and youth are an asset to the experience that the Youth Cancer Trust (YCT) visitors have each week. He is truly an inspiration to other people of his age. After only four times volunteering for the group, Toby was, himself, so inspired that

he decided to undertake the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours over the August Bank Holiday weekend, in aid of the Trust. (Reported in the September 2011 Centreboard)

Toby spent most of his Tuesdays over the summer holiday as a volunteer at the lake and as well as being in training at the gym for his fundraising adventure in August.

I find Toby's dedication to the activities and his belief in the Charity's aims quite unique, particularly bearing in mind his age, and his modesty is humbling.

Amanda Dukes



John Plumley Award

A Note from Adrian Dwyer, Daniel's Father:

Thank you so much for awarding Daniel the John Plumley award - he's absolutely delighted. I could see the award means a lot to you and I just wanted to say that as parents, it means a lot to us too.

I don't know whether it was a coincidence that a rainbow appeared over the lake just before the prize was presented, but what I do know is that on the way back Daniel wanted to know when we are going to Spinnaker next. To put this into context, it has been a ritual on a Sunday morning that he hasn't wanted to go to the club, then having sailed, he hasn't wanted to come away from the sailing club. Having only

been a member for a few years I wasn't fortunate enough to meet your father. What I do know is that in awarding the prize, it has inspired Daniels enthusiasm for sailing. The spirit of your father lives on!

Reply from Becca Plumley.

Hi Adrian, thank you very much for the lovely email it means a lot to me.

Dan was in my group this week and he's tried so hard and has been so helpful which is what it's all about. He's also improved a lot. I am glad it has given him more confidence, and I hope to see him keep on sailing. With a little practice he could be a very good little sailor.

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Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Club's committees or of their individual members.
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Calling all Dinghy Sailors



Are you going to the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show – the home of British dinghy sailing and experience all that’s great about the sport.

From expert talks, demos and advice to being able to check out the latest boats and kit, the’ve got it all under one roof.

Plus, with the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games on the horizon and guest appearances from Skandia Team

GBR and Team Volvo sailors, the show will have a real buzz.

I will be going with my grandson George on the Sunday. If any one would like a lift then get in touch. I will have 2 spare seats.

Website: www.dinghyshow.org.uk

Mike Robinson

Tel: 01202 888371 or mike.rob2@tiscali.co.uk



The Wrong Trousers

Not sure which one is Wallace or Gromit but this is certainly a case of the wrong trousers!



Survey feedback from Class Captains and others

This was discussed and a summary of the questions and general consensus on feedback and discussion follows:

1. Should the season go on right through the winter?
Answer; Broadly speaking yes
2. Is three races back to back too much?
Answer; Yes – probably. Time for a change
3. Should we revert to one race before a break for lunch?
Answer; Incorporate a break
4. Would this be more sociable?
Answer; Probably
5. Would Saturday racing be better?
Answer; On balance, no
6. Should we push for junior training to be on Saturday?
Answer; No. Strong feedback against
7. Are you happy with the quality of course setting?
Answer; Can be improved further
8. Are you happy with the quality of race management?
Answer; Can be improved further
9. Do you prefer Series racing or individual events?
Answer; Some of each type is good
10. Are the series too long/ too short?
Answer; Mostly about right. More than 20 is too many
11. Is half plus one enough to qualify for a series or is too little or too harsh?
Answer; Keep Half -1

If you have any thoughts on the matters discussed, then let me or the Office know. We should like to hear the members views on the questions above.
Editor: mike.rob2@tiscali.co.uk or theoffice@spinnakerclub.co.uk

Juniors Racing with Adults

Comment from one parent which I think nicely sums up the view of many Topper sailors and parents on the Sunday racing question:

If there is a desire to get more juniors racing in the adult races there are a few things that might help:

More adults making themselves known to the juniors/more interaction before the racing somehow getting away from the them and us attitudes. Much as the juniors don't always stay for the adult races, the adults never turn up more than a few minutes before their races and so don't have any contact with the juniors. There are a number of older Topper sailors who are thinking of making the transition to bigger boats could some adults arrive early on a few occasions and let the topper sailors try a laser, national 12, solo etc? Good for interacting between the young and old and also for making the transition.

Some sort of team prize could be created for a junior and an adult racing as a pair?

John Elliott



Replies:

Hi John,

The 12 sailors are always proactive when it comes to crews and any volunteers are usually welcome.

I know Chris has sailed with one or two of us this season, I have just signed up Emma Cleverly to do some sailing next year.

I am usually around on a Sunday or Wednesday if any of the Topper or Oppy groups fancy a go in a National 12.

My best regards

Simon Walworth

John,

I happened to be at Poole YC on Sunday morning (taking part in the Winter series races for cruisers) and was really impressed by the number of Spinnaker Topper squad sailors taking part at a prestigious National event.... You and your team have done a tremendous job in a very short time

I think that as a club we need to encourage these youngsters particularly when the time comes for them to move up from Toppers into other adult classes of dinghies / yachts.

If I can help in any way let me know (maybe another Spinnaker Challenger voyage?)

Neil Speck

Neil,

Thanks for the comment. Yes, I agree, I think we do need to encourage them and then add help as they decide what to move on to. It got even better at the end of the day when Rhiannon was 9th in the female fleet and got a prize. Sam also got a prize as she was the mid fleet girl. So lots of smiles.

A Challenger trip for a week would be wonderful, especially if it went across the Channel. I am sure I could fill it from the squad.

As for moving on what we really need is a day or weekend towards the end of the winter season on a sea based site with a 420, 29er and the 3 Lasers plus some people who could advise them on sailing each. These are the three RYA Youth classes.

John Elliott

Topper Update

When we set up the Spinnaker, Christchurch and Hill Head Topper Squad our objective was to bridge the gap between club sailing and the standard needed to compete at regional and national level and seek entry to one of the RYA or International Topper Class Association(ITCA) squads.

At this weekend's Autumn Regatta at Poole YC we had 7 Spinnaker sailors present and now the RYA and ITCA squads have been finalized, 9 of the Spinnaker, Christchurch and Hill Head squad have gained places in one or other of the RYA and ITCA squads, viz:

- 4 in National Youth Squad
- 1 in National Intermediate Junior Squad
- 1 in Junior Development Squad
- 3 in Zone Squad

This is an amazing achievement and 5 of the above come from Spinnaker. I am sure that if more of the squad had attended all the qualifier events across the UK we could have had an even bigger impact.

Overall I don't think we could have expected any more in the first year. It really is a great credit to the coaching staff and to the enthusiasm of the sailors. It makes me wonder what could be achieved with determination over a longer period.

John Elliott

Saturday Training



I sent out 73 e mail questionnaires and have received 11 replies. I don't expect a huge number more and feel that the 11 that I have received are pretty consistent in their opinion:

100% of responses say NO to Saturday Training due to school commitments, other activities, family time etc

100% are keen to have a race before lunch and one after. My suggestion would be to have one at 12 then break for lunch and a second at 2. The Juniors would then have their own start on both races and the 12 o'clock junior only race would be absorbed in to the main racing.

Winter sailing was fine but with a break in December and January - I thought that perhaps a February winter warm up series like the Alice Lisle, publicised to outside clubs could be a great revenue driving

I also circulated the Topper sailors. So far the comments have been completely against moving junior training to Saturday with quite emotive views expressed on the consequences of doing this. It has also been suggested that the adults need to work on encouraging the kids to join Sunday and Wednesday racing as they often feel unwelcome and get shouted at!!!!!!!
John Elliott

opportunity and certainly a chance to get more boats on the start line. Though one must watch out for, would be the Feb half term which can effect 2 weekends out of the 4. I have seen a significant drop in Optimist commitment levels for the winter and so have decided that we will have a special training session once a month with guest coaches. The Auspicious team racers are being very helpful and we should have aligned the dates by the next committee meeting.

There has also been a request for an Easter Oppy Camp (a bit like the IOCA one last year) run in the same way as the summer Oppy Camp. Could be another great opportunity!

I look forward to hearing feedback from the other fleets.

Fiona Taylor

Blachford Boys Restore a Kestrel

My twin brother & I have been very lucky this last year, we have been given a Kestrel Mk 1 by a lady whose husband had sadly died very suddenly.

The Kestrel was in a poor state, so my brother Alex & I with the help from our Grandpa set to restoring the boat. It has taken just over a year to finish the boat, it was a lot of hard work, but worth it. She looks beautiful.

In this last year we have both become members of the Kestrel Association & have found out we are also the youngest owners & members at just 14 years old.

On Thursday 1st September we launched our boat at Spinnaker sailing club & we invited family & friends including the lady who had given us the boat to watch. It was a great day & one we will remember for along time.

The boat's launch was the 1st time she had been in the water for over 25 years, so it did make it a very special occasion.

We look forward to sailing her for many years to come & when we have saved a bit more money we would like to get a trailer so we can put her into competitions around the country.

We would like to say a BIG THANK-YOU to Spinnaker & everyone who has helped us & given us advise on how best to restore our beautiful boat.

We have been two very lucky boys!!

We dedicate this boat to the memory of Tony Casswell.

Phil & Alex Blachford



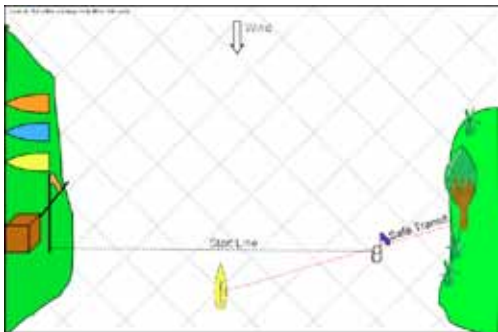
Back to Basics 2

In the last issue of Centreboard I said I would look at TRANSITS. They fall into two categories a) Line transit and b) Safe transits.

The Line Transit is the Start Line laid by the Race Team directed by the Race Officer. It should be at 90° to the wind, so that it gives every body a fair start. At Spinnaker we have two types of starting line. From the Race Hut and from the Committee Boat. Let's have a look at the Race Hut first.

The Line is between the main mast in front of the Race Hut, a triangle about 2m in front of the main mast and the Outer Distance Mark (ODM). They should all be in line. If the wind is a bit gusty and the mark is moving backwards and forwards, then the RO will put the ODM behind they line so that there is less chance of boats being over the line at the start. It is easy to check the transit of the start line, just position your boat outside the ODM and look along the line, aligning the mast and the triangle and see if the ODM is on the line.

To check the Line bias, place the boat in the middle of the starting line and then put your boat head-to-wind. Look either side of the beam to establish which end of the line is forward of the beam, then that end is the favoured end of the line from which to start.



If you are going to start in the middle of the line on starboard tack you will need to know your safe transit. E.g. when you're near the line but not over it. If starting SW direction, you can use the Mast and the Triangle. But if starting in the other direction (eastwards) then you will need to check what the ODM is lined up with looking away from the Race Hut.

This could be the front edge of the Island or a bush etc. BUT don't forget that from the position you sit in the boat it is very often 8 to 10 feet behind the furthest most point of your boat. So if you are checking 20m from the end of the line, the transit if 20m further on from the ODM then the object you want to use as a transit must also be 10 ft in front of the ODM.



Another use for Safe Transits is starting at a particular spot on the line. In this case at the Pin End. Once you have set your transits be confident about it and use them, especially if there is a penalty flag in place of the 'P' flag.

By using your transits you could get a cracking start and lead the fleet away from the line. BUT you can only do this if you have given yourself plenty of time before the start.

THE BASIC RULES

In the last issue we looked at 1. Keep Clear Rules and 2. Give Room Rules

We shall now look at the remaining Two basic sets of rules:

3. Proper Course Rules
4. Avoiding Contact Rules

Proper Course

There are very few rules that say you HAVE to sail your Proper Course

Rule 17 – On the Same Tack; Proper Course.

If an overlap has been established from astern then the leeward boat must not sail ABOVE her proper course.

Rule 18.1(b) When Rule 18 Applies –

Between boats on opposite tacks when the proper course at the mark for one but not both of them is to tack.

Even if on opposite tacks and reaching to the mark then the boat that has to tack must keep clear.

Rule 18.4 Gybing – Inside boat gybing at a mark.

If a boat has to gybe at a mark and another doesn't then she must not sail further from the mark than is required. She must gybe as soon as possible.

Avoiding Contact (Not interfering)

Rule 14 – Avoiding Contact.

If a give way boat is obviously not keeping clear of you then you must try to avoid a collision. If you touch and there is no damage or injury then you will not be penalised, if there is damage or injury then you may be penalised.

Rule 22 – Capsized, Anchored or Aground; Rescuing.

If possible, a boat shall avoid a boat that is capsized or has not gained control after a capsize, is anchored or aground or is trying to help a person or vessel in danger.

Rule 23.1 – Boat racing when you are not.

If you are not racing then keep well clear of those who are. (Can be difficult to tell sometimes). If in doubt then ask them.

RULE 23.2 – Boats taking penalties or on another leg.

Except when you are sailing a proper course between marks, a boat shall not interfere with a boat taking penalties or sailing on another leg. If on another leg (i.e. where the courses cross over) then the normal rules of Part 2 apply.



YOUTH CANCER TRUST - Sailing and Kayaking fun at Spinnaker Club 2011

Fun on the water at Spinnaker Club, sailing and kayaking, is over for our visitors from the Youth Cancer Trust for another year.

Conditions have ranged from no wind at all to forecasted gusts on two occasions of 35-44 mph, when I had to cancel! Volunteers have braved gusts of Force 5/6 in the two Stratos dinghies and paddled their way around the lake in kayaks on 14 occasions with our guests. We have received more than 90 YCT visitors, who have arrived the night before at Tracy Ann House in Alum Chine from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to have a holiday in the South. The visitors' ages range from 14 to 30 years old and it has been a joy for me to recognise some faces returning to the lake from last year.

I am very grateful for the help I have

received this year from John and Viv, who have turned out every week and to Katie, Manda, and especially to the younger volunteers Toby and Ben, Holly and Georgina, who have given up their time freely and selflessly to entertain our visitors. Toby, after just four times volunteering for the group, was inspired to raise funds for the charity and in 22 hours and 55 minutes completed the Three Peaks Challenge raising over £1,200 for YCT. My thanks to New Forest District Sailability for helping out on three occasions this year, making available their skippers and purpose-built Access Dinghies for our more vulnerable guests.

I have enjoyed chatting to YCT visitors, some of whom are very open about their personal condition and treatments. Their stories are emotive and sometimes harrowing. I have learned that they value



mixing with other young people in a similar situation and it is essential that they have the opportunity to share their experiences with each other. This is the value of Tracy Ann House. These special young people need time away from their usual lives to be reminded that they are a person first, not just "an interesting case study" or "a cancer patient"; they have fun trying various activities and it is great to see them taking part in the watersports we can provide at the lake (pursuits some other young people of their age take for granted).

It is a joy and privilege to provide a few hours of fun at the lake for the Youth Cancer Trust. Strangely, in just 3-4 hours, I can become very close to our guests and so look forward to seeing them again!

Amanda Jukes



RYA Eric Twyname Youth & Junior Team Racing Championships

October 15th & 16th 2011



Youth Team – Spinnaker Pirates

The racing took place at Oxford SC, with 24 Youth Teams racing 75 races over the weekend. The Spinnaker Pirates youth team are made up of members from Emsworth SC, Royal Southern YC with Tara Gill-Taylor and Matt Wallis being the Spinnaker sailors and the rest of the team being their 420 mates. Tom Clay had offered some help before hand but given their very busy racing and training schedule this was not possible. They pitched up on Saturday and with a little help from Graham Wallis organised themselves and sailed unbelievably well losing only the final race. The conditions were very cold and foggy at the start of the day clearing to beautiful day with light and fickle winds. On Sunday we had to wait for 2 hours for the fog to clear and then over an hour 10-12 knots came in rising to 12-15 knots. The fleet was split into Gold A and B with our sailors being in A. They were unbeaten until the last race against West Kirby which was the sail off for first place. One boat having to go back and

another doing 2 penalty turns was too much to come back from, but it was close.

The winning team West Kirby Youth have won the title for an incredible 4th year. With sailors who triumphed at the ISAF Team Racing World Championships 2011 proving influential in the overall win.

Junior Team – Spinnaker Flying Shrimps

The Junior team is named after Jo Burns and Milo who this year have become known as the Spinnaker Flying Shrimps due to their lack of height or size and ability to sail in big sea and winds and more importantly win. The other members were Will Bedford and three of their Oppy mates Robbie King, Ross Banham and Josh Atherton. Sailing in RS Fevas, they lost 1 race on Saturday and were the second ranked team after the first round robin. In the semi's they sailed against the 3rd ranked team Port Dinorwic SC and won both races. By this time the wind was a good 15 Knots and they got blown off the water by Bluefin in the final who have Scott



Wallis and the Feva World and National champions in their team.

With 'Bluefin' entering the Championships favourites after winning the title in 2010, 'Teamextreme' put up a good fight winning the first race of the semi-finals, the first team to beat 'Bluefin' over the course of the weekend. However the defending champions hit back by taking the next two race wins and securing their place in the final against 'Spinnaker Flying Shrimps' who beat 'Port Dinorwic Pirates' 2-1 in the other semi-final.

All had a great time and represented the club well.

It is really good that our youth teams are carrying on the tradition of Champion Quality Team Racing. As a club we need to give them as much support and encouragement as possible. For further information and pictures follow the link below.

www.sailracer.org/events/event-v2.asp?eventid=73531

Spinnaker Flying Shrimps

Top three teams:

Youth

1. West Kirby Youth (West Kirby SC) - Ben Robinson, Cameron Douglas, Sophie Shepard, Charlie Fitzgerald, Sarah Lombard, Alex Jardine.

2. Spinnaker Pirates (Spinnaker SC, Emsworth SC, Royal Southern YC) - Harry Derbyshire, Craig Dibb, Tara Gill-Taylor, Matt Wallis, Annabel Vose, Toby Morsley.

3. Magdalen College School (Magdalen College School, Oxford) - Josh Adams, Guy Dickson, Sam Jenkins, Tom Maxwell, Nick Upton, Jo Gough.

Junior

1. Bluefin (Cardiff Bay YC, Penarth YC, Burghfield SC) - Fraser Woodley, Scott Wallis, Matt Whitfield, Alex Cole, James Taylor, Gareth Viney.

2. Spinnaker Flying Shrimps (Spinnaker SC) - Robbie King, Jo Burns, Milo Gill-Taylor, Will Bedford, Ross Banham, Josh Atherton.

3. Port Dinorwic Pirates (Port Dinorwic SC) - Daniel Whitley, Josh Dawson, Tom Joesbury, Emlyn Williams, Alex Joesbury, Hugh Edwards.

Team Captain Ravi Gill

Motor Caravan For Sale £7,000

Only £7,000. J registration but very low mileage about 67,000 miles. Swift Capri 610 model on bullet proof Talbot Express base vehicle. Huge double bed in rear U shaped lounge area. Double over cab bed. Gas hob, microwave oven, 3 way fridge, gas space heating, gas/electric water heating, electric pump for water. Shower/washroom with cassette toilet. On board 2kw 240 v electric generator. Driver and front seat passenger lap and diagonal seat beats, lap belts only in rear lounge. Full service history, recent new clutch. Engine a petrol 2 litre, not the low power diesel usually found on this model. Hope T bar trailer hitch. Good condition for age. Camper has spent most of the past 10



years in SW france with regular trips to UK and now sits in our garage awaiting return to UK soon (we have bought a LHD French camper). Before sale we will be fitting 4 new tyres, and an MOT with all necessary work done. Box trailer shown in photo not for sale but camper is happy with a dinghy double trailer having visited many team racing events!

Expressions of serious interest sought.

Phone Geoff Jackson 01425 479133 or email geoffnjackson@gmail.com

Enterprise For Sale

For sale: 1961 all wooden Enterprise for sale. In need of some love and attention.

Unfortunately I have not had the time to keep her properly maintain and is now in urgent need of sanding and varnishing.

Would suit someone looking to do a bit of a restoration job. Comes with two sets of sails, launch & road trolleys, oars, anchor and other bits'n'bobs.

I would like £300, but no reasonable offer refused.

Contact Ben Farnell 07752 393 188

or email benfarnell@gmail.com



Matt Venables from Sutton Sailing Club celebrating after winning the 2011 Worlds in Dublin.

Auction of Promises



Ten young Spinnaker Club sailors are planning to compete in the ITCA Topper Worlds this summer at Workum, Holland between 18 and 24 August. This will almost certainly be the largest contingent from any single UK sailing club and is most probably the biggest group of Spinnaker sailors who will have ever competed internationally.

The annual Topper Worlds represents the peak competition for that class. In 2010 Lake Garda was the venue, last year it was Dublin and in 2012 it will be held at Sailing Club Workum. In 2013 the venue will be in Korea.

As you can imagine the cost of such an enterprise is enormous. Apart from the entry fee of over £200, the boats have to be got there, accommodation arranged for sailors and support crew, a coach and

RIB provided for pre-event training and coaching before and at the end of each day's sailing.

To help meet these costs Spinnaker has offered to host another Auction of Promises with the auction taking place on Sunday 15 July as part of the Summer Fair celebrations.

So we are looking for promises that can be auctioned. Obviously anything connected with the sea or sailing would be very popular, but so would other non-sailing presents. Last time the auction was held anything to do with food or beauty treatments were the subject of pretty competitive bidding.

If you can help in any way please contact toppers@spinnakerclub.co.uk

John Elliott

Our experiences at the Topper National Series



After completing winter training with Spinnaker, Christchurch and Hill Head Topper squad where we received fantastic coaching, we both felt we had the skills and confidence to enter the Topper class events. We competed in local travellers across the south sailing at varied locations it was great to experience different conditions and the effects on our sailing. The coaching from the squad provided us with the knowledge to feel confident in these events and we learnt more and more as we went to each one.

For example, always follow the channel markers when the tide is going out or else you will get stranded on the mud! Another thing, sailing can be expensive, especially when you break brand new parts!

We had competed in a few of these events in 50 boat fleets, however we decided that going to a national event would be an amazing experience. So the two of us and a few other sailors from the squad ventured down to Weymouth & Portland

National Sailing Academy for the second in the Topper National series. Sadly due to strong winds of 30 knots and the exposed location we only managed one short race, most of us had the sail reefed to the size of a handkerchief and even then we capsized!

This was not the experience we had hoped for so after much pleading with our parents who had spent most of their time at Weymouth in the Academy's canteen they agreed to try again at National Series 3 at Derwent Reservoir, near Consett County Durham in the North Pennines.

On 1st of July we made our way up to Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club and after a long but trouble free journey we arrived at the beautiful Derwent Reservoir. The Sailing club is in a very rural, quiet, peaceful and picturesque location. We pitched our tent on the field near the club. Then we realisedNO WIND, we couldn't believe it! Such a long way to go for a weekend camping. Within a few hours the

campsite was full of Topper families tents, caravans and motorhomes.

The 197 competitors were eager to get some racing done. So after an early night we awoke full of enthusiasm, to a glassy reservoir – still no wind! Racing was postponed so we made best use of a hot sunny morning listening in to the race officer's radio traffic so we could be first at the slipway to launch.

Finally at 4.00pm the committee decided to launch the fleet we managed one race before it got dark. With the wind being so fluky and shifty it reminded Spinnaker sailors of home. Our familiarity with these conditions gave us a slight advantage over some better sailors. All our Topper Squad sailors finished the race without incident.

Sunday morning gave a steady 10mph wind and we launched immediately. The second race went well and without hitch for us. The wind dropped considerably after the starting of the third race so it was abandoned. After three attempts to restart

the flights and a complete correction of the course racing was abandoned for the day. We had never seen Toppers move so slowly! Without the help of the Ribs, we would have taken hours to get back in.

We finally got back to shore and packed up our boats and the tent ready for the long drive home, which we reached at about midnight.

Although the event was challenged by the lack of wind, it was a great experience in a fantastic location. In addition we both learned a lot about sailing in bigger fleets and the longer courses found at National Events.

Too much wind, not enough wind, we all had our fingers crossed for the next Topper National Event at Pwhelli, North Wales, but that's another story!

Spinnaker, Hillhead & Christchurch Topper squad sailors, Izzy Cramp, Pippa Radford, Issy Cardu, Rhiannon Flack and Andrew Flack sailed at Derwent

Pippa Radford & Izzy Cramp

Rory Morrison gets an MBE



New Forest & District Sailability ("NFDS") are delighted to learn of the award to Mrs Rosemary ("Rory") Morrison of an MBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.

Rory is the sailing captain of NFDS, an organization based at Spinnaker Lake, Ringwood, which provides dinghy sailing in over 15 boats for people with disabilities. The MBE was awarded for Rory's tireless work in the growth and improvement in the facilities for disabled sailors at NFDS over the last 8 years.

Mr Eric Blyth, the Chairman of NFDS, commented "The award of the MBE is a well-deserved recognition of all the hard work undertaken by Rory over the years. Without her efforts in increasing the profile of NFDS, attracting volunteers to help run the sailing days, and her fund raising, we would not have the successful club we have today. I offer my sincere congratulations to Rory on this honour."

This award comes on top of Rory's invitation to attend a very special Reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the centenary of Captain Robert Scott's final expedition to the South Pole. That reception, which was hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, recognised

the accomplishments of those involved in exploration and adventure in pursuit of achievement, research and education. Rory was nominated for that honour by RYA Sailability, the national organisation for sailing for disabled people, again in recognition of her personal achievements and her work with Sailability

Rory said "The award of the MBE was a complete surprise and I must thank the people at NFDS who nominated me and supported the nomination. It is the icing on the cake, after my excitement at being invited to attend the Scott Centenary Reception at Buckingham Palace. But my thanks also go to all the volunteers at NFDS who have helped make the organisation run so efficiently, and who enable the sailors with disabilities to experience the fun and thrill of sailing. Over the years we have been able to get many people to forget their disabilities on the water, some then go on to race and, in one case, was a member of the training squad for the 2012 Paralympics. That is the most satisfying part of belonging to this organisation."

Mrs Rowena Marsh, Hon Secretary NFDS

Matt Reid in Australia Dec 2011 ISAF World Dinghy Championships



Pos	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	Medal Race	Points
1	Tom Slingsby	1	6	1	1	1	9	1	5	10	(13)	2	37
2	Nick Thompson	3	6	8	2	5	8	9	1	(31)	2	4	56
5	Paul Goodison	5	8	4	1	6	1	2	(23)	21	11	10	69
50	Alex Mills Barton	17	12	(39)	9	29	21	2	6	6	8		110
88	Martin Evans	28	27	21	36	14	(47)	34	10	42	33		245
109	Matt Reid	35	19	43	22	41	30	29	2	(50) BFD	3		224
113	Ben Cornish	38	44	30	37	34	(45)	31	13	7	4		238

Comment by Tom Slingsby after the second race;

I guess it was my fault, I should have looked where the top mark was," Slingsby said. "I tacked off the line, went for a few minutes and then tacked back and was over-laid by a long way, hundreds of metres. I rounded in the high teens or low twenties and was able to pull to six".

In the Next Issue of Centreboard we hope to get a report by Matt on his view of racing at the top level.

Optimist Worlds Vital Stats



30 December 2011 - 10 January 2012

The boat: a safe and simple dinghy that is one of the world's most popular designs.
The racing: 9 days of Championship racing.

The competitors: around 210 sailors aged between 11 and 15 years.

The countries: teams from 48 nations including reigning Champs Thailand.

The host club: Napier Sailing Club, Napier, New Zealand.

Famous sailors that have started out in Optis include: Ben Ainslie.

The big sponsors: Vodafone, New Zealand Major Events, Hawke's Bay Tourism, SPARC, City of Napier, Air New Zealand, the Radio Network, EuroCity Napier, Victoria Cruising Club, Lion Foundation.

The technology: GPS tracking and live video coverage online - real time.

The website: www.optiworldsnz.com

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/optiworldsnz2011

BRITISH TEAM - FINAL RESULTS

Pos	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	Total
21	Matthew Whitfield	34	17	7	23	4	(53)	19	24	26	9	3	166
88	James Calder	15	60	10	(71) OCS	4	26	47	54	5	28	48	297
133	Sarah Norbury	36	29	41	51	44	(57)	40	34	53	42	4	374
138	Joseph Burns	42	37	34	39	26	(71) OCS	32	36	50	26	59	381
172	Milo Gill-Taylor	54	60	55	21	34	(71) OCS	71 BFD	44	36	39	45	459

The 210 boats were divided into 6 divisions and each division sailed against each other throughout the competition. There was no medal race or semi-finals group etc.