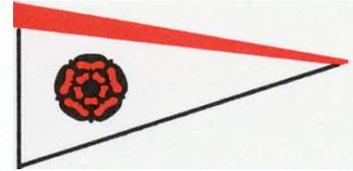


NSC News

July 2005



Sponsored North Sea Crossing in Wayfarers Ramsgate to Oostende - 70 miles!

Crews: John Norman & Jenny Jeffs; Isolda Marroquin & Phil Kenny
Ground Crew: Ken and Paul Norman

With great support from our ground crew, we set sail at 0630 on the 18 June in two Wayfarers on a glorious hot sunny morning from Ramsgate Harbour. Once out of the inner harbour, we then had to wait for the ferry to leave before setting out, as the entrance is very narrow! There wasn't a breath of wind, so we set off under power heading north east to avoid the shallows and set ourselves up for crossing the first shipping lane.

As the morning progressed, a light breeze filled in which enabled us to start sailing. We eventually lost sight of land at 0930. We plotted our position hourly using laminated charts and a hand held GPS. John contacted the Ramsgate Coastguard on an hourly basis, which he managed to achieve up to an amazing 25 mile offshore.

Visibility was about 1 mile with the wind picking up to a force 3. Our first encounter of shipping in the shipping lane was the distant rumbling of an engine and a while later, its wash, but we never saw the vessel! At 1200 we reached the first shipping lane expecting action and there wasn't a vessel in sight! However it wasn't long before we saw the odd vessel pass us ahead and eventually astern in the distance. We sighted eight vessels in all on our crossing.

An easterly wind kept us on a beat, realising we weren't going to get the spinnaker up, Phil and I tacked back towards Ramsgate just to get the spinnaker up! We sailed passed John and Jenny who captured the moment on camera. Having lost ground, we then played catch up for the next hour or so!

At 1800 the wind increased to a F4, occasional F5 with a confused sea and breaking waves. We spotted a giant radar tower that dwarfed the boats with large waves breaking on its legs. Phil and I put a reef in and we navigated and plotted our position whilst hiking out!

We sighted land at 2000 but did not see the Oostende lighthouse light come on until 21:30 at this point the wind started to decrease, as predicted, to a force 3. Eventually we arrived at 00:00 and the very welcome sight of our shore crew, who whisked us off to some much needed food and rest.

We raised about £2000 for Northampton Sailability. Thank you to all of you who sponsored us.

Isolda and Phil

Peter Rehle

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Peter Rehle, in a car accident. Peter was a keen Laser sailor.

Our thoughts are with his family, especially his wife Cathy, who is recovering in hospital, and his two sons, who were also in the car but escaped injury

Laser Fleet News—Kerry Tucker

We have gained two new members recently – Tim Hartley and Alan Lockhart – welcome to the Laser fleet. Both have been racing well to gain some good results and will be names to watch in the summer events.

The Spring Cup and Spring Series have both come to an end and the Class Championships have come and gone. Full results are (or will be) published on the website but the prize winners for each are below. For those of you not sure of how the prize categories work, in 'cup' events there is a prize for Radial/4.7 sailors as they are racing as if they were using standard rig. In 'series' events there are no additional prizes as results have been adjusted accordingly for each rig via pursuit/handicap.

Spring Cup

1st Kerry Tucker
2nd Dave Robins
3rd John West

1st Radial Kerry Tucker
2nd Radial John West
3rd Radial Tim Hartley

Spring Series

1st Kerry Tucker
2nd Andy Baker
3rd Alex Styne

Class Championships

1st Richard Sivers
2nd Mike Batty
3rd Tim Hartley

The class champs were well attended on a sunny but very calm bank holiday Sunday with 12 boats competing. Richard Sivers won the event by taking 2 firsts, with the other race win going to Mike Batty. Tim Hartley sailed well to get into 3rd place in the light airs sailing his radial.

We are now into the summer cup and summer series so it is all to play for again. **Please make sure you sign on for all races. If you do not sign on your result is not counted!**

Fleet Training took place on Saturday June 11th coached by Dave Hivey and was well attended with 11 Lasers taking part. Despite a lack of wind to start with rigging was covered before taking to the water when a little bit of wind filled in. Those who attended gained lots and will be looking to practice their new skills.

Andy Baker and Kerry Tucker attended the UKLA Club Championships 4/5 June, held at Rutland Sailing Club. Entry is limited to club sailors so those in various squads and at the top of the ranking ladders cannot attend. Although you are competing individually this is a team event (4 radials, 4 standards per team) the best 2 results in each class from each club make up the team results so hopefully next year we can send a full team. First prize is a brand new Laser for the winners of each fleet.

There was a good breeze on Saturday with gusts reaching 20+ knots at times which allowed for some really good racing. At the end of day one Andy was lying in 14th place and Kerry was leading having won the last race of the day and getting a second in the middle race. The forecast was for lighter winds on Sunday which proved to be accurate. Kerry had a stressful morning after a couple of rivets came out of her boom making it unusable, a quick hunt for a boom to borrow proved successful – always check your kit carefully! The conditions suited Andy who gained a 3rd in the first race of the day whilst Kerry had a discard finishing near the back so losing the lead. In the last race Andy sailed well to get 7th place and Kerry finished 11th in the light breeze which was enough to take 4th place overall and first lady whilst Andy finished 9th overall. Andy and Kerry's results meant Northampton SC finished 3rd Radial team behind Oxford SC and 1st place Grafham SC.

Next year the club championships are at Castle Cove near Weymouth as the champs are held on the sea every other year. Hopefully team Northampton will be back to try and win the team prize.

Jim Lowbridge and Kerry Tucker have been attending a number of events on the Home Counties and Eastern Circuit. Middle Nene event was held in light winds which obviously suited Jim who took 2nd/15. Hunts was much more to Kerry's liking as it was blowing a F5 gusting F7 and she managed to get 1st radial and 7th/25. Kerry also attended Great Moor where she used the standard rig for a change in the moderate breeze where she gained 5th place and 1st lady. We have also had a strong Northampton presence at the UKLA qualifiers with George and Emma Hand joining Jim and Kerry at Pwlheli recently in some very tough conditions. Jim was top Northampton boat finishing 15th/96. George has also been taking part in the 4.7 squad selection events and is in 20th position on the 4.7 ranking ladder after the Pwlheli event.

On Saturday 2nd July 2005 it was the NSC Laser open. This had a much improved turnout on last year with 19 boats competing, including 7 radials/4.7's, and the full results are on the website. Jim Lowbridge was 1st Northampton boat with Alan Lockhart also sailing very well. The radials had a good battle further down the fleet with Kerry

Northampton Sailability—Harry Cockburn, Chairman

During the Spring, the four Rotary Clubs of Northampton joined together in a project aimed at providing sufficient helpers to enable us to offer sailing opportunities to disabled people on the first Saturday of each month in addition to Mondays, Fridays and the third Saturday.

This was an outstanding success, as fifteen Rotarians joined us, having undertaken training in administration and rigging boats. While we acknowledge that it is a slow process, we are starting to see signs of new members taking an interest.

The Saturday sessions are aimed at both adults and children with disabilities – adults because they work during the week, and children who are at school. We are happy for children to sail with their families as a group activity, rather than as individuals.

Do you know anyone with a disability? It might be obvious, but it might also be someone who has Arthritis or ME. It might be a family with a child with learning difficulties. If you do know someone, do them a favour and point them at our website www.northamptonsailability.org.

NSC was the venue for the Martin 16 National Championships last month, when Georgina Taylor and Phil Kenny came second in FREEDOM having won four of their races. Well done both!

Solo Fleet—David Mabbutt, Fleet Captain.

This year we have had reasonable turnouts for the fleet races although it would be great if we could attract a few of those solo fleet members who we do not see much of so why not come down and have a go now that the summer series has started.

We had nine entrants for the spring series and five boats competing for the Spring Trophy. We also had an excellent turnout for the Early Summer Trophy with eight boats competing on this one day event. The Solo Open was another good day with a total of 24 boats, seven of these from Northampton. Graham Wilson achieved the best result for Northampton with 9th place overall.

The rest of the Solo results to date are:

Icicle Series 1st Allan Henson, 2nd Rob Jackson, 3rd Bruce Merry

Spring Series 1st Dave Mabbutt, 2nd Allan Henson, 3rd Bruce Merry

Spring Trophy 1st Graham Wilson, 2nd Richard Butterfield, 3rd Dave Mabbutt

Early Summer Trophy 1st Richard Butterfield, 2nd Graham Wilson, 3rd Allan Henson.

The Summer Series is now well under way.

I hope to see you all on the water over the coming months.

Roy Davenport, our keen electrician, carpenter and engineer, has recently moved to the south coast. Roy made a huge contribution to the club, working with John Warner and taking on numerous odd-jobs around the site including: electrical work such as checking and improving the wiring in the club-house; fixing machinery such as the ride-one mower and building; and building and installing the new benches in the changing rooms. In between these jobs, Roy could often be seen on the water in either his Solo or his Mirror. Many thanks for all your hard-work, Roy. Best wishes to you and your wife in your new home.

Laser News ctd

Tucker and Andy Baker finishing close on every race with the last race being only a few inches difference, Kerry finishing first radial.

On a more serious note, we are struggling to find boat spaces for all of the Laser sailors. In particular we have a number of youths unable to get boat spaces any where near the water whilst there are many boats with waterside berths that do not get used. To try and remedy this please be aware that if your boat does not have an up to date membership sticker (lilac) on the transom it may be moved to make way for another boat. If you have not yet received your membership stickers please see Max Thurlow, Club Manager, and he will be happy to supply you with yours. If you are only using your boat once or twice a year please think about moving your boat to a less prominent space so that those who are out regularly, especially the smaller members of the fleet, can get a boat space close to the water. Thank you.

As always if you have any Laser related queries please ask one of the more experienced sailors in the fleet. If they don't know the answer they'll know someone who does.

Things you do over a beer?

So lets go to Filey Regatta we agreed one Thursday evening, Anthony was on his 3rd pint of Stella and would have agreed to go to the moon!

We turned up at NSC on Friday afternoon to pack the boats onto the Triple trailer, Phantom on the bottom, RS 700 on the middle, masts on the top.

After an hour of so of juggling and adjusting the bow pins, all was on board, tent was packed and the car full to the gunnels, including the shopping trippers, Vic & Emma.

3 1/2 hrs later we arrive at Filey Brigg and put up the tent in the dark, in the morning every thing looked good, the full English breakfast for £3.50 at the local cafe' went down well, we then drove the boats down to the beach. If anyone has been to Filey SC then you will know how steep the road is, you start of steep and then it gets steeper, as the beach comes into view it then gets steepers still, the only difference is the sand on the road.....and then you have to turn 90 deg right or go off the concrete ramp, again covered in sand, just like everything else which goes onto the beach!

Anyway we survived the decent and parked up on the beach in brilliant sunshine and a light off shore breeze, boats were unpacked and rigged in quick time and the car taken back to the campsite, at the top of the hill. With the one way system in operation you end up leaving the beach up the RNLI ramp into town, anyway it was a lot less steep.

Anthony kept looking and the club burgee, showing the off shore breeze, with a sunny day the "Sea breeze" would blow from the other direction, confused, yes the wind was.

Briefing was not till 12 so the breeze had plenty of time to sort itself out and as expected the wind turned through 180 deg and a gentle cooling sea breeze set in, its a good job the beach has plenty of space, in total 138 boats took to the water, 30 sailing on the Windward leeward course, including Anthony in his RS 700 and 108 on the P course, including yours truly in his Phantom. The girls went off shopping and to catch some sunburn....

Anthony had three races back to back and I had two, I thought I had got off lightly but was soon to discover that we were doing 1 1/2hr races and not 45min like the windward leeward course. The good thing was the Phantoms had their own start with 9 boats in attendance.

At the end of the first day Anthony had scored three 2nd's and I had a 3rd and 1st, we were sitting 2nd and 1st overall overnight, we retired to the Marquee for beer and BBQ, music provided by the Ex Blackpool tower organist!

The morning dawned with even brighter sunshine and no wind at all, first race was planned for 10:30, so we were ready and the girls went of shopping again, as expected the two hoots were herd from the clubhouse and the red 'n' white flag hung loosely from the flag pole. we finally got on the water for 1pm, after spending the morning in search of shade?

As soon as we hit the water the wind died and we spent another hour drifting in and out to the starting area, by 2pm the wind had filled and the racing was on. Anthony had another battle with the RS 400 but managed to come out on top of all three races, as the day wore on the wind filled and increased.

On the P course the wind was OK but the leeward mark has been set too close to the shore, and on the last run in race 3 we all ran out of wind, as I was running down the Ent's. were running back up to the finish, the melee in the middle was interesting to say the least with boats calling Starboard but both going opposite directions on the same tack. Doh! No sooner had it died, it filled in again and although one of the other phantoms had slipped through my lead I managed to use the shifts to catch back and nail the 1st, all I had to do was do it all again.

Race 4 and the sea breeze had sorted itself out and was blowing a good F3 so all was set for some excellent sailing, even the swell had started to build and we had some lovely waves to play on. Once again I was fully powered up and on a charge, the pain in my legs was numbed by the thought of winning my first away event in a Phantom. The sailing was fantastic on the sea, going "down hill" as much as possible and just making so much of the condition was superb.

I took the gun and thanked the PRO and headed for the shore, the only challenge was getting the boat recovered with an onshore breeze and my fixed rudder!, as it happens it was not too bad and Austin did OK. (Austin being my boat name, my sail number is 1100, you know Austin 1100 the old car?).

The girls had been shopping all day and topped up their sunburn, they had managed to find time to bring the car down to the beach and with all four packing up it took no time at all. We then retired to the Marquee for beer, cheese 'n' carrot sandwiches and the prize giving.

Anthony had won the windward leeward race on equal points with an RS 400, beating them on count back. I had won the phantom fleet but we hadn't got sight of the overall results. Unfortunately the windward leeward race is not included in the overall as the average lap times would be different. As soon as they announced the third place as a Phantom I knew I had won the overall prize, which you can now view behind the bar, where I spend most of my time.....

The journey home was long and sitting in the back of the car dozing and trying to keep the sunburn cool I reflected on my event, Excellent company, Amazing sailing on the Sunday and event winner, doesn't get much better than that, OH! and thanks to Vic for driving home, Perfect end to an really good weekend, you should try it? **John - VC @ NSC**

Congratulations to Dylan Fletcher and Nick Hollis, who came 5th in the 29'er World Championships in San Francisco.

Reminder from John Warner, Rear Commodore Site

Every boat and trailer must display a current NSC sticker (mauve) with your membership number on. If you haven't received one for each of your boats, please contact Max. Any boats not displaying a sticker may be removed.