



NSC Wins 'Top Club 2005'

The Top Club Event, sponsored by Crewsaver and the RYA, aims to find the strongest RYA-affiliated club in the country by thoroughly testing their all-round racing performance. By entering three boats, one in each of three handicap groups - slow, medium and fast - and combining each boat's overall scores, clubs need to put forward strong teams in each fleet in order to do well overall. This year, it was Northampton SC who became Crewsaver Top Club with 4th in the Fast, 1st in the Medium and 2nd in the Slow fleets.

Northampton had not been looking one of the favourites on the Saturday night this year, but an excellent performance by all three boats in our first team saw them pull up to record 1.2.4 in their respective fleets, giving them a team score of just 7 points. This gave them the title **2005 Crewsaver Top Club**. As well as the trophy, Northampton SC won the Dinghy Sailing Magazine coaching weekend to be held at our club for the benefit of our members. Congratulations to both of our teams!

Team 1 - The winning team - David Wade & Nick Beloe (Fireball), Tom Stewart & Chris Downham (Merlin Rocket), Peter Gray & George Hand (Mirror)

Team 2 - 5th place - Anthony York (RS700), John Wayling (Phantom), David Hand (Laser Radial)

Are we running out of space?

Carol Travers, Commodore.

Northampton Sailing Club has had another successful year! We have attracted lots of new members and are getting many more boats and windsurfers on the water.

However, with the success comes a problem. We are running out of space in the boat park and soon there will be no berths available! We want to encourage people new to sailing and windsurfing to come to NSC and have a good time on the water but we will be unable to do so unless we can free up some space.

Rather than putting in more tie-downs on the existing grassy areas, which would use the space often used for parking, rigging and camping, we need to free up some of the existing space. There are

(Continued on page 2)

Congratulations to Max Thurlow, our Club Manager, who has been appointed to a post with the RYA as Regional Development Officer.

From mid-November, therefore, we will be without a Club manager until the General Committee completes the process of finding a replacement.

An advert is on our Website for anyone interested in applying for the job.

Dates for the Diary

Sat 26th and Sun 27th Nov - Lark Winter Champs. Details from Colin Haberfield or Ian Castle

Thursday 8th Dec - Club AGM 7.45
Come along and air your views, share your good ideas with the committees and help to make our Club even better!

Sun 18th Dec - Last races in the Winter Handicap Series. Followed by Christmas Meal - tickets from Vicki.

Mon 26th Dec - Boxing Day 100 min pursuit race 1 race. 12.00 start. This will be the final race of the 2005 Bank Holiday Pursuit Series and also the first of the 2006 Bank Holiday Pursuit Series.

Sun 8th Jan 2006 - Icicle Series begins. Notices will be in the galley for members wishing to take part in the series. NB those taking part will need to be willing to be Race Officer.

Sat Jan 28th - Steve Nicholson Memorial Trophy - see Page 2

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

Buy NWC Vouchers!

Personalised vouchers available for any amount or any course.

Please contact the Watersports Centre - see back page for info.



The Laser Fleet - Kerry Tucker

The Laser fleet has grown over recent months so welcome to Harry Turner, Graham Newton, Alice Sammons, Simon Hall, Martin Luck and anyone else I've missed.

The main season is drawing to a close now but there is always a hard core group of Laser sailors who carry on all year round. Why not join in this year? The best winds are over the winter months and some great sailing is had, despite the colder weather, and you'll notice the difference in the spring when all those who stopped try to squeeze back into their wetsuits and then try and remember how to sail as you go flying past.

Members of the fleet have been sailing very well over the last year and special mention needs to go to George Hand who has been selected for the 4.7 National Junior Squad 2006. Well done, George!

All of the fleet results are up on the website but the main prize winners for the summer events are:

Summer Cup		Summer Series
1 st Dave Robins	1 st Radial Alistair Duncan	1 st Kerry Tucker
2 nd Alistair Duncan	2 nd Radial Tom Castle	2 nd Dave Robins
3 rd Richard Sivers	3 rd Radial Harry Turner	3 rd Richard Sivers

The UKLA Laser Inlands were held the weekend of the 5/6 November 2005 and four NSC laser sailors took part - George Hand in his 4.7 and Tom Castle, Emma Hand and Kerry Tucker in Radials. The forecast of strong winds and rain didn't disappoint. There was a high turnout for the Radials with many international sailors taking part, with the top ladies vying for a place at the 2006 ISAF worlds. In total 121 Radials and 37 4.7's competed alongside the standard rigs. Tom and Emma struggled slightly in the stronger winds, Kerry finished 28th in the Radial fleet and George finished 22nd in the 4.7 fleet. All will have learnt loads and gained lots of experience from racing in such tough conditions and will have plenty of areas to work on over the winter training months. It's great to see the Northampton Laser fleet attending events like this and hopefully this will continue into 2006.

Northampton also recently hosted the Masters Autumn Championships on a light and shifty weekend. The event was won by Alan Davis from Oxford SC but lots of Northampton sailors took part including John Wayling, getting back into a Laser after several years and Anthony York having to hike for a change, both having borrowed boats from sailors too young to take part. Regular Laser sailors Alan Lockhart and Richard Sivers also took part.

Please make sure that nothing of value is left in your boat. Mice have been getting into Lasers causing damage recently with one Laser sail so far damaged beyond repair. Bear in mind some insurance policies will not pay up if gear has been left in the boat!

As always, if you have any questions regarding your Laser sailing please ask any member of the fleet. If they don't know the answer they'll know who to point you to.

(Continued from page 1)

some boats on the boat park which haven't been on the water for many months or even years. If your boat is one of these we would ask you to consider removing it from the boat park. While we value all our members, we would like to encourage active sailing and windsurfing members. If you want to dispose of your boat the office staff will be glad to help you so please give them a ring.

Before bringing a boat onto the site please:

- Contact the Office or John Warner who will allocate a space, if available, and update their records.
- Use only a designated space with tie-downs.
- Let the Office know if your boat is going off-site for a period (e.g. for repairs) and leave a very visible marker so that the space is not re-allocated.

When the day arrives and we run out of boat spaces the General Committee have decided to put in place a waiting list for berths for both new and existing members. While we have no intention of limiting boat spaces currently allocated, should the boat park become full then existing members who acquire an additional boat will be put on the waiting list as will any new members who join. The waiting list will work on a first come first served basis and will contain both new and current members.

Steve Nicholson Memorial Trophy Saturday 28th January 2006

Put it in your new year's diary either to take part, to watch or to offer your services in some way. More details nearer the time, but volunteers please contact Ian Castle, John Wayling or Carol Travers.

More Site news!

Please don't bring any more old tyres onto the site - use up some of those already there and help to reduce the cost of disposing of the surplus.

Northampton Sailability *Harry Cockburn, Chairman*

Although group sailing finished at the end of September, one group was so keen that it asked to continue and came for three more weeks, enjoying some good sailing weather by doing so.

All of our sailing has finished now, and the fleet will be put to bed for the winter, except for two days at Christmas and in the new year for hardy souls who, I believe, come mainly for the mulled wine!

The summer months were busy, with members going to Le Havre to race against not just local disabled people but sailors from all over France. This event has now been mentioned to the RYA with a view to expanding it to disabled sailors from across the UK.

A week long holiday afloat was offered in the Norfolk Broads and was enjoyed by several members and towards the end of season, half a dozen sailors travelled to Plas Menai to experience sea sailing in different classes of boat. This gave the opportunity to practice trapeze work and capsizing!

Personal race training under the guidance of Ian Pinnell was offered to four members in the Martin 16, and this stood them in good stead when the Martin meeting took place at NSC.

In addition, we hosted the Access Nationals early in September. Anglian Water were unable to agree to our request that they fill the pond again, but they generously helped us pay for the pontoon extension that we needed to get the boats afloat.

Planning is already under way for next season, with a full programme being offered again. Details of courses, such as First Aid and DSC Radio can be found on our website www.northamptonsailability.org.uk. These courses are open to members of NSC.

NSC wins Warwick Trophy!

NSC beat Hollowell and Cransley sailing clubs to win the Warwick Trophy for the first time since 1998. This annual event was hosted by Hollowell SC on 11th September.

Points totalled 92 for NSC, with Hollowell on 137 and Cransley on 290. Congratulations to our team!

Fast Fleet - Will Gulliver (Phantom), John Wayling (Phantom), Mitch Haberfield & Marie Rodgers (Lark), Vic Heap (Phantom), Tom Castle (Laser Radial)

Slow Fleet - Stephanie Harding (Optimist), Richard Butterfield (Solo), Graham Wilson (Solo), John Payne (Solo), Mick & Pam York (GP14), John Warner & Gary Livingstone (GP14).

NSC Prize Winners for 2005

Trophies were presented at the Laying Up Supper to the following:

Winter Series 2004 (48 competitors) - Alan Cave & Ashley Painter (F15)

Icicle Series 2005 (48) - David & Georgina Hand (Lark)

Early Thursday Series (75) - Anthony York (RS700)

Late Thursday Series (66) - John Wayling (Phantom)

Early Sunday Handicap 2005 (44) - John Wayling (Phantom)

Sunday Personal Handicap 2005 (48) - John Payne (Solo)

Early Tuesday 2005 (40) - Chris & Tracey Harris (RS400)

Late Tuesday 2005 (44) - Chris & Tracey Harris (RS400)

Early Sunday Pursuit 2005 (86) - Anthony York (RS700)

Late Sunday Pursuit 2005 (72) - John Payne (Solo)

Late Sunday Handicap (44) - Rob Jackson (Solo)

Solo Fleet



Soloists recently held their Fleet AGM, where discussions included the format of next year's racing series. Richard Butterfield took over as Fleet Captain from Dave Mabbutt.

Trophy winners for the year are:
Winter Series 2004 - Rob Jackson

Icicle Series 2005 - Allan Henson
Spring Series - Dave Mabbutt

Spring Trophy - Graham Wilson

Summer Series - Allan Henson
Early Summer Trophy - Richard Butterfield

Class Championships - Richard Butterfield

Autumn Series - John Payne

Autumn Trophy - Graham Wilson

Holcot - Richard Butterfield

Geriatrics - Allan Henson

Thursday Series - Graham Wilson

Tuesday Series - Vicky Cooper

Endeavour Trophy - Gary Livingstone

Please don't leave masts on the grass - they are likely to get damaged. Masts and booms (clearly labelled!) can be stored on the rack near the boat-house.

All boats and trailers on site must display a current club sticker with your membership number. Contact the Office if you need a sticker (currently mauve).

Stickerless boats and trailers may be removed! We need the space!

Keep up to date with the latest events - check the club web-site for regular updates

www.northamptonsailingclub.org

Dylan and Rob Win the 29er Inlands!

The 29er and 49er inland championships were held at Datchet sailing club over the weekend of the 17/18 September. With not a lot of wind forecast and a half empty reservoir, a tricky weekend's sailing was on the menu (not to mention launching!). This proved to be the case with the best of the racing on Saturday where the PRO took advantage of what little wind there was to get 4 races completed.

On the 29er course the 4 races on Saturday ended up with a different winner in every one. With the wind in one race turning the beat into a fetch and the run into a beat consistency was going to be required to win the event. At the end of Saturday after nearly five hours on the water, Dylan Fletcher with his new crew Rob Partridge had a slim one point lead from Sarah Martin/Nicola Groves and Huw Humphries/Max Todd.

Only one race was completed on the Sunday as the wind shifted around and then proceeded to die away completely. It was won by new pairing Sophie White/Catherine Alton, with Dylan and Rob second and Phil Walker and Matt Gotrel in 3rd.

With a single discard available, Dylan and Rob are the new inland champions, beating Sarah and Nicola by 2 points who held the same advantage over Sophie and Catherine in 3rd.

Congratulations and well done, Dylan and Rob!

The 2005 Lark Masters Championship was held over the weekend of 23/24 October at NSC. The quality fleet of 43 boats included 7 ex-National champion helms and 7 championship-winning crews spanning 4 decades, as well as eight crews from NSC.

With the light wind swinging slowly back and forth, large gains and losses could be made up each beat. Chris Allen/Eluned Jones started well and picked the right way up the beats to win. John & Vicky Brickwood took second, followed by Nigel Hufton/Chris Whitehouse.

In race 2, new faces came to the fore, with Matt White/Claire LaForge making the most of a band of wind on the right of the beat to lead from the first mark onwards. John Billington/Sue Mellor took second, with Mark & Liz Rushall finding form to take third.

Race 3 of the main event was similar to race 1, with an identical finishing order of the top 3 - this being reflected in the positions of the top 3 sailors overnight.

Day 2 dawned with a patchy and fickle wind. Allen/Jones again picked their way around the holes to lead but retired for a pre-start incident, leaving Emma Harris/Becky Priest to win from the Brickwoods and Andy & Katie Shorrocks. The Brickwoods then sealed an impressive win overall by winning the last race from Howie Enkel/Alan Krailing.

The Larks now hope even more ageing Lark sailors past, present and future will join them in 2 years time for this splendid event which will be held in the Larks 40th Anniversary year combined with a big anniversary celebration.

Highest placed NSC boat was 2462, sailed by Nick & Ruth Marlow, who came 15th.

Results - overall

1. John & Vicky Brickwood, 7 pts (1st Apprentice Master)
 2. Chris Allen & Eluned Jones, 16 pts
 3. Nigel Hufton & Chris Whitehouse, 17 pts
- 1st Master, John Billington & Sue Mellor (6th overall)
1st Grand Master, Bob & Mandy Suggitt (14th overall)

Northampton Watersports Centre

**New courses and events for 2006 -
watch out for our 2006 Programme!**

Isolda Marroquin, Centre Manager

Tel: 01604 880248

e-mail: info@northamptonwatersports.com

The Watersports Centre is looking for some volunteers for the following jobs:

Marketing Volunteer; Maintenance Volunteer; Trainee Assistant Instructor Volunteer (14 years +)

Benefits: Travel expenses paid; Watersports training; Specialist clothing provided; Free use of Centre equipment

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Isolda or Sarah.

**Articles and ideas for the Newsletter are welcome. Deadline for next issue - 7th January
Please send to Rob Jackson at NSC or e-mail to nscnews@dsl.pipex.com**