



Waldringfield Sailing Club

Newsletter

Autumn 2020

From the Commodore

What a strange year! But despite Covid we have managed, with dedicated helpers, to put on racing which resulted in good turnouts of around 40 plus boats. One has to be careful when naming helpers but here I want to mention Lance Cooper and John Smith, both always about, helping and organising, and the club would be a lesser place without them, and many like them. We rely on everyone taking their turn. Next year is a big year, with the delayed Squib 50th and, of course, the club's centenary. At this moment we have to assume that we will be able to celebrate and many plans are afoot for various functions – let us just hope that we will be able to enjoy them.

It was a great privilege to be asked to become Commodore for a second time. I joined WSC in 1952 so have been a member for 68 years and just love the club and the river – we are so lucky. I trust that members feel that we are in a better place now than a year ago. However I am stepping down to let Peter take over as Commodore and Anne to step up to Vice Commodore. The new Rear, subject to a vote at the AGM, will be Richard Atkins who many of you will know, and whose family have been involved with the club over many years. A strong team to take the club forward. But you are not getting rid of me as I will be helping with the centenary celebrations!

Anthony Mason

Covid-Free Cruising in 2020

Launching for many was predictably delayed by the spring lockdown but good antifouling weather saw the yachts gradually creep onto their moorings by June. The summer sun made a welcome escape from the hospital horrors.

Kevin and Clare Gosling took an enforced break from their adventures in Sweden to sail with their extended family on a collection of craft: boozy cruising on Ricasa with Mike and Rosemary [Nunn], memories of smaller boats in Double Trouble with Clare's sister

Allison, not forgetting Bethan, the adorable miniature boat of debutante daughter Faye.

John Palmer enjoyed some sociable cruising on Moonbeam, taking in Wrabness, the Medway, a nostalgic trip to Chatham Dockyard, and finishing with a jolly romp up the Ore. His son James made up for a lack of Dragonfly sailing with regular trips in his beautiful boat Kestrel (see picture below).

The Thubrons recall a family trip to the Rocks in sundry craft, made all the more memorable by hauling up a disused mussel-mat with Wandering Star's anchor.

Away from the Deben, Chris and Helen Cook continue to explore the Outer Hebrides, either on their boat Bliss or on their Brompton bikes. However, the small wheels on a hairpin bend proved too much for Chris as he hurtled down a hill at full speed on the Isle of Harris, ending with a dramatic fall from grace!

The Caribbean climate finally tempted out most of the regular yotties although river space was sometimes at a premium with crabbers, swimmers, canoeists and paddleboards making the most of the murky waters.



Kestrel charging upwind

Photo: Alexis Smith

Patrick Cooney



SQUIBS

2021 will be the Squibs 50th anniversary year. So expect plenty of action from the mace sails next season. Look out for details of sailing and social events. And contact class captain Barry Searle barry.searle@btinternet.com if you'd like to join us.



WORDS FROM THE HELM

It can't be that slippery up there.

Crawl forward, and I'll try and keep her level [it's gusting 35]

They're all pointing higher than us.

You're standing on it!

Pull it in!

Let it out!

Twisted? How did that happen?

Gybing!

Lean!

I'm sure you'll manage.

Hold it with your teeth

GET IT DOWN

Sheet it! Sheet it!

Up! Up! Up!

Get the pole forward/back/down/up/higher/lower

I think we got away with that

Try again!

Starboard! STARBOARD! STARBOARD!

Where's the mark?

Bloody bowsprit

Oooo. That was close

What do you mean? Seized?

Knotted? Again??

Not yet. WAIT!

Get in / get out / get up

[name of other crew] doesn't find it a problem

Is this the finish?

I hope this is the finish.

Virtual Sailing

With lockdown closing off club sailing in late March, a compromise had to be reached for keen sailors to entertain themselves in the long months to come. Fortunately, the RYA gave out admin accounts for Inshore Virtual Regatta. This is an app which allows you to take control of a boat and compete in races against others from across the world. The game includes a wide variety of different boats, from 49ers to Stars, and the option of sailing at different international venues, from Plymouth to Sydney. With younger kids, arguably more suited to the new tech, keen to show their parents how it was

done, all ages were able to get involved.

Enthusiasm was high, with the club soon organising weekly racing on a Wednesday night for anyone who wanted to join in. Then individual classes – Cadets, Larks, Lasers and RS 200s – started to run their own series as well as having a competition for all classes. Even established club events moved online: Aaron Woolf convincingly won the Easter Egg trophy on Virtual Regatta.

Later the club organised a Spring Championship eSailing Series, to determine who would represent the club at the RYA Eastern Championship (as part of a larger National Championship). After qualifying heats, the event constituted five races with two discards, Stephen Videlo coming away with first, and myself two points behind. Stephen kindly gave me the opportunity to go to the Eastern Championship, although it is fair to say I got thoroughly beaten.

Overall Virtual Sailing turned out to be a tremendous success, providing great entertainment. I'm sure that everyone who took part would like to thank Ian Videlo who played a major role in organising this for the club.

Angus Collingridge



On-the-Water Sailing

Just one week into our 2020 season the country went into lockdown, resulting in suspension of all club activities and a very empty river. Slowly, as restrictions were eased, individuals and non-club organised groups were able to get afloat, as single handers or in families.

The club's Covid committee continuously reviewed government guidance for when we could return to the

water. Initially unofficial-but-club-sanctioned racing, with patrol boat support, was laid on by volunteers from the club's fantastic safety team. This enabled the single-handers and one household two-handers to race to a new Saturday timetable with two races back to back starting from 2.30pm.

Finally, guidance emerged allowing mixed household crews to sail together. Our racing was then expanded to all fleets on both Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons with well-practiced social distancing measures in place. Race management was provided by the participating sailors on a class-by-class rota basis, and sailing was at the sailor's risk with patrol boats rather than full safety cover.

Turnouts have been improving across the fleets and we now have a Covid-compliant protocol to deliver top quality racing. We are currently preparing a full 2021 programme, knowing that we have a 'plan B' in place should the restrictions continue into next season. We have missed many of our friends on the water and greatly look forward to welcoming them back when possible.

Jonathan Penn (Club Captain)



Dramatic weather in October

Photo: Alexis Smith



Cadet Weekend

28 - 30 August, 2020

22 Cadets entered including visitors from Frensham Pond and South Cerney in The Cotswolds. They were joined by 10 RS200s sailed almost entirely by Waldringfield's ex-Cadet sailors.



Sunday was still challenging but there was more great racing. Ethan and Alex took two more Cadet wins to secure first overall. Hannah and George took the third win and Mish Collingridge and Rhona Enkel the fourth race in marginally more moderate

conditions. The series was complete and the sailors were knackered! Harry and Aaron continued to boss the RS fleet with three wins; Archie and Alex prevailing in the last.

Joint WSC Cadet Class Captains Libby Bush and Mish Collingridge commented, 'It was great to be back on the water despite the lack of social events. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event to follow government guidelines and to make it lots of fun. Waldringfield Cadets in 2020? It's certainly been better than nothing!'

Neil Collingridge

Friday was light, shifty – a race officer's nightmare – so just two races were sailed. In the Cadets Isobel Stewart and Tom Krailing won the first by pipping a bunch of boats right at the finish, and Sam Goult and Sarah McEwan won the second. The RS200s were dominated by Archie Penn and Alex Bell-Jones with two bullets.

Saturday was an entirely different kettle of fish – breeze on – reaching a solid 25 knots at one point with plenty of thrills and spills. Hannah Carruthers and George Cox-Oliff won the first Cadet race with Ethan Davey and Alex Enkel the next two. In the RS200s the rather taller Harry Chatterton and Aaron Chadwick came to the fore with three dominant displays in the breeze. What a sight! 30 plus boats charging downwind flat out, kites up, avoiding each other and blowing away the cobwebs accumulated over too many weeks of lockdown.

Edited from full version in Yachts and Yachting:
<https://www.yachtsandyachting.com/news/231746/Cadets-and-U21-RS200s-at-Waldringfield>



Both photos: Tim Hampton



WALDRINGFIELD SAILING CLUB - NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2020