

Waldringfield Sailing Club

Newsletter

Autumn 2022

The Commodore

Looking back at 2022, we can be very proud of the range of activities and what has been achieved by so many of our members, whether as teams or as individuals.

We have had members excelling on the national sailing stage, organising social sailing and open meetings, and committing countless hours helping our younger sailors get into and progress with their sailing. Other members organise and maintain vital Club functions. For example, Margaret Lake has, over many years, selflessly held supporting roles that underpin Club activities. We are delighted that the RYA is recognising her.

The Club very much values, and indeed cannot survive without, these supporting activities which many members undertake. They are not highlighted in this newsletter, but include contributing to committees, buildings, estate and craft maintenance, safety on the water, galley, bar, social events and supporting IT systems.

I wish to thank all of you for contributing to the welfare of our special Club.

Peter Mills

Margaret Lake - RYA Volunteer Awards 2022

Someone joked with me recently that he hoped nothing would happen in the corner of the room where four people were sitting because, if it did, Waldringfield Sailing Club would come to a halt! One of those was Margaret Lake.

These days most club members see Margaret sorting out trophies for the Commodore or a Class Captain to give out. Or, if you won a trophy, you may find her reminding you to return it for the next winner. The club has over 100 trophies and making sure they are all returned in time, clean and engraved, is quite a task. Margaret does this amazingly well.

For those of you by the river on Saturday mornings, you may also have seen Margaret at Oriel's hut, signing in Go Sailing folk, keeping an eye out, hearing stories and making sure everyone is OK. There are a lot of smiles on Go Sailing days and Margaret is part of that.

This is simply the latest version of the welcome Margaret has given over many years. When I turned up, hopefully, with a kit bag one Saturday 20 years ago, Margaret was the first person to speak to



Photo: Alexis Smith

me. She introduced me to a couple of people and was able to find me a boat to sail on that first day. Amazing!

Margaret herself has been a club member for nearly 30 years, for a long time crewing in a Wayfarer for her son, Matthew. She was also a long-standing member of both the Galley and the Bar Committees. She, with her family, helped co-ordinate beer deliveries to the bar, and Margaret could be relied on to stand in when volunteers were short, say, in the Galley.

She was also the club's Honorary Secretary for a sterling 14 years. There she was, attending General Committee and Flag Officers meetings, taking Minutes, and generally ensuring a succession of Flag Officers knew what needed to be done and when. Invaluable work.

We are absolutely delighted that now the RYA has conferred on Margaret an RYA Community Award – Lifetime Commitment Award. Margaret was invited to the RYA AGM and Awards Ceremony in London to receive her award. Congratulations, it's well-deserved!

Anne Spalding



Dragonfly Open

The inaugural Dragonfly Open was held over the weekend of 30-31 July, with boats travelling from as far afield as the moorings at Waldringfield and Larkman's boat yard! As ever with such an event, it is always difficult to estimate the numbers and who will make the long trek from 'around the country'.

Plans for the event had been simmering for some time, with many committees working behind the scenes to make this one of the outstanding events held at the club this season.

A high turnout of eight boats competed during the weekend resulting in, surprisingly, five different winners for the races. Competition was fierce, and combined with the gusty conditions, it was an excellent racing series.

The blue-ribbon race was held on Sunday as a race around the Island. As the boats scudded across the water, you could see the concentration on everyone's faces as they struggled to maintain the boats on an even keel. The spray was leaping high across the foredeck and surging along the sides of the boats, providing an outstanding display of dinghy sailing.

As the crews packed away the boats after the last race, the BBQ had been lit and the champagne was cooling in the bucket, just ready for the celebrations to let rip. There is nothing like a Dragonfly event for letting your hair down.



Photo: Alexis Smith

As ever, there can only be one winner and the rest had to accept the fact that they had lost! With great pleasure we sang from the club balcony as one of Waldringfield's very own top helms, Mr Steve Cooney, in boat No 45 (Nippy and Tippy, sponsored by Waldringfield Sailing Club) held aloft the prize for The Open.

It is always sad to come to the end of a great weekend of racing and watch as boats, helms and crews leave Waldringfield for their long journeys home. However next year, we can look forward to the Dragonfly Europeans, and to welcoming people back to Waldringfield from afar.

We are also deeply grateful to Alexis and John Smith for all their help over the weekend on the safety boat, and a special thank you to Alexis for all her brilliant photographs.

Richard
Smithson



Photo: Alexis Smith



Daisy's Diary

An update on Olympic aspirations

It has been another full summer of sailing for club member Daisy Collingridge as she looks forward to an exciting year of Olympic trials in 2023.

Two World Cup events in April/May saw Daisy just missing out on medal races but she still left happy with her performance and progress.

In June she successfully defended her National Championship win in the ILCA 6 (formerly Laser Radial) at Hayling Island in a strong 80 plus fleet. In an unusual format involving four days of qualifying, the stakes were high on the final decider day. A range of conditions also made for a testing championship which Daisy came through with flying colours.

She has spent much of the ensuing summer at the prospective Olympic venue of Marseille which Daisy considers to be far from one-dimensional, with conditions to challenge the most versatile dinghy sailor. She still sees herself as a physical sailor but has clearly learnt to hone her sailing skills in the French training camp, assisted by access to a comfortable villa close to the sailing club, and top class organisation from the GB admin team.

Unfortunately a recent test event in Holland was blown off by high winds which means that Daisy is looking forward all the more to the World



Photo: Georgie Altham

Championships in Houston, Texas in October. Her goal is to make the top ten and after a summer of intensive training she is more than ready for some serious Stateside racing.

This will be followed by a chilly European Championships back in France in November with the Olympic trials starting in earnest in spring 2023. The clubs' collective fingers are crossed for her continued success competing in what is a strong British cohort

Stop Press

Since writing the above, Daisy has returned from the Women's ILCA6 World Championships in Houston, Texas where she finished a highly creditable 20th place and a few places ahead of her principal GBR rival, Matilda Nicholls.

Hosted by Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, the conditions on Galveston Bay were fickle with long days on and off the water, testing the international competitors' patience and perseverance as much as their physical strength.

Daisy expressed some disappointment at not finishing higher up the rankings but she scored three top ten results including a third spot in Race 4. She can be extremely proud of her achievements to date.

The event was won by the Danish sailor, Anne-Marie Rindom, who Daisy clearly regards as the Radial rock star.

Patrick Cooney



Daisy in boat number 219900 at the start of a race in the World ILCA 6 championships, just ahead of Casey Imeneo (AUS) and double Olympian and former world youth champion Maria Erdi (Hungary). A jury boat is in attendance (J flag flying) looking for Rule 42 infringements, i.e. skulling, body pumping or any other form of illegal propulsion.

Photo: BogueToth/sailingacadamygc



Topper Tales

Charlie Newell-Johnson

Charlie Newell-Johnson does not come from a sailing family and lived in Basildon, Essex which is not a sailing centre! Now the family live in Felixstowe and Charlie began racing his Topper at Waldringfield in 2020. The competitive environment, and the help and support of the Topper sailors he met, helped him progress quite quickly.



Charlie at the Topper Worlds

Photo: Maxine Newell

As a result Charlie finished 8th in the Eastern Topper Traveller series last season. A winter's training in the RYA East Regional Training Squad saw his skills improve by leaps and bounds. This year he sailed in the ITCA (International Topper Class Association) GBR Squad, competing in the Topper Worlds at Lake Garda, Italy. He was delighted to get into the Gold Fleet but the event was a challenge because the winds were mostly light and he's now big for a Topper. In a strong wind he finished 12th but overall he was 63rd out of 190 boats – an excellent result for someone who started sailing so recently.

Charlie also gained his RYA Dinghy Instructor qualification this summer and has enjoyed helping with Junior Sailing and the Topper training at the club. Now sailing a Laser, he is aiming for more success, helped by a sailing scholarship at the Royal Hospital School.

Charlie wants to encourage others into sailing. He says, 'It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, sailing (at whatever level you want) is accessible for everyone.'

Maxine Newell

Training

The Topper fleet has sent several excellent sailors (including Charlie) on to other classes, notably to the Lasers where they are giving the 'old hands' a run for their money. As the most experienced move on, we've been running courses to bring new sailors into the class.

During the summer it's been really exciting to watch the most tentative sailors gain confidence and skills. At the start of the season, we were focusing on basic skills, neat tacking, and how to move efficiently in the right direction. As the year has passed, the sessions, like the sailors, became more advanced, including the skills for starts and mark roundings, and how to set up the boat for the conditions. As usual, conditions at Waldringfield have varied from almost dead calm to very gusty, and we have developed some good heavy weather sailors.

Participants have been aged from 8 to 60 (but why stop there?), with the focus always on learning in a relaxed atmosphere. We have several parent-and-child pairs learning together, and a couple of grandchildren waiting impatiently for next summer. The training also complemented the Cadet training, with both helms and crews taking part. Crews learn so much by being able to take charge of their own boat, and seeing the results of their own decisions.

Several new sailors have joined in the Wednesday evening racing, and the class can always supply someone to buddy a novice racer round the course, and help them keep out of the way of the faster boats. With enough time on the water, sailors can at last stop thinking about their own boat and start wondering what other boats are up to!

Hugo Mason



Photo: Maxine Newell



Cadet Development Squad

Sometimes the Cadet class easily balances helms and crews but, following Covid and given the age mixture of existing Cadet sailors, in 2022 the class realised it needed to introduce new members to the fleet. Frank Thorogood led on a new training scheme, the Cadet Development Squad (CDS). The helms needed to be able to sail a triangular course (or be at least RYA level 3) but crews needed only a little experience (about RYA level 1). Training took place over eight Saturday morning sessions in May and June, ending with a CDS Regatta.



Photos: Frank Thorogood

Rhona Enkel, Cadet Class Captain, writes: 'My helming experience started thanks to the Development Squad, where experienced Cadet crews got the chance to take over the helm and teach new crews how to sail, whilst learning themselves. We started the first Saturday morning with a video introduction from Corky Rhodes, our ex-National Squad Coach, who had generously provided the training materials, and then an onshore session led by our coach, ex-Cadet sailor Alex Page, where we all got to know one another and the workings of the spinnaker. We had a hoist-gybe-and-drop competition with the fastest teams rewarded with Easter Eggs. Before we left our new friends, we were each given our own book, which laid out the basic set-up of a Cadet and how to sail it fast (thanks to Alice Thorogood).

Week 2 was our first time on the water, practising the basics of tacking, and hoisting and dropping the spinnaker. Week 3 was the first time IN the water, as we worked on our capsizes and righting the boat. The improvements continued with triangle-sausage courses, gybing the spinnaker, starts, and tactics like shifts and tide. Near the end, we got the opportunity

to compete in the RYA Regional Championships at Grafham Water. This was a great chance to put in place all our recently-acquired knowledge against

sailors from not only WSC, but also the Cadet fleets from South Cerney and Frensham Pond. The Regatta Fleet was also provided with coaching from Alex while sailing around the course.

The last session, week 8, was our Regatta where, contrary to every other training session, we had more than enough wind and more than enough capsizes. This led to the Silver Fleet being sent back to shore just after their first start, as they struggled to reach the line (prizes awarded for those nearest), while the Gold Fleet got to battle it out on the race course.

CDS was a great sailing experience with the opportunity get to know new sailors. I am sure everyone would agree that we are all winners, but congratulations to Alex Enkel and Isaac Patten (Gold Fleet) and James Bailey and Jasper Bush (Silver Fleet).

A final 'thank you' to Frank Thorogood, Andy Bush, the current Cadet fleet helms, parents, ex-Cadet parents, and coaches for their time in making this happen and for continuing to invest in the squadron and class.'



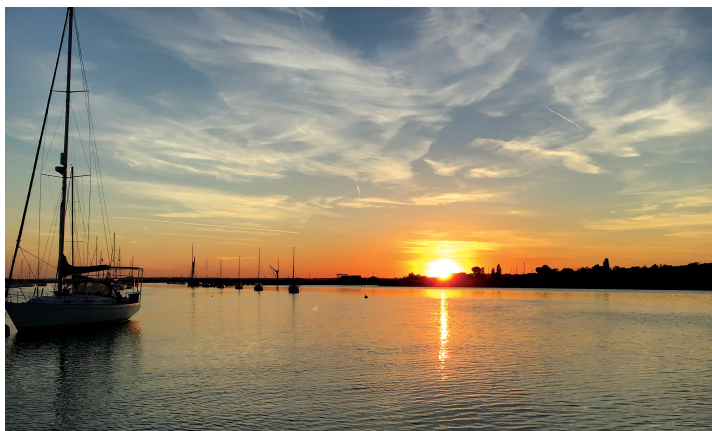
Alex Enkel and Isaac Patten, Gold Fleet winners



Yacht Class Cruising

The Blackwater

Moonbeam, Barcarolle and Twizzle sailed to Levington for the Friday night. Despite the Lightship being fully booked, Mike Nunn managed to secure a table for us all! Four yachts



Sunset

Photo: Anne Barnes

then left at 08.00 and had a good sail to Colne Bar. At Brightlingsea, the Harbour Master showed us to our marina births. Quickstep sailed direct from Waldringfield and berthed on the outer pontoons – surprisingly meeting Harry Pynn and Ollie Ballham with their families. Safe arrival drinks on Rikasa were followed by a meal at Colne Yacht Club, John and Jenny Chaplain joining us by car.

On Sunday we explored Brightlingsea. Later, on Moonbeam, we listened to the Women's World Cup football and celebrated their win. Monday saw us crossing the marina cill when we could, and motoring up the river Colne. Passing through the tide barrier to Wivenhoe and Rowhedge, we admired the modern waterside developments before returning to Pyefleet creek moorings for the night.

Twizzle returned to Waldringfield on Tuesday. The remaining four yachts had a fast passage down the Colne and to the Nass Beacon. We picked up moorings off West Mersea and waited for more water at Tollesbury. After drinks onboard Quickstep, eleven of us enjoyed an evening meal at the Harbour View restaurant. We explored Tollesbury on Wednesday or walked along the sea walls or over the marshes. Quickstep left us at high water for Bradwell, for an early start back to Waldringfield the next morning. The rest of us enjoyed drinks onboard Barcarolle.

Waiting for high water on Thursday (17.33), some of us walked to Fred's Stores for supplies. Moonbeam then motored across to Bradwell while Rikasa and Barcarolle took a quick sail up the Blackwater on their way. We celebrated our last evening together with drinks onboard Rikasa before our evening meal at

Bradwell Marina restaurant. On Friday Barcarolle and Rikasa left early for home and Moonbeam ventured on into the river Crouch.

John Palmer

Walton Backwaters

Aurelia, Hannah, and March Hare (from Woodbridge Cruising Club) left the Deben early on Friday morning. March Hare took the lead and we enjoyed two hours of close-hauled sailing to the Walton Channel entrance, thereafter motoring past Stone Point and up the Twizzle to Titchmarsh Marina. Lola joined us there the following day.

On Saturday March Hare departed early, whilst the crew of Hannah met up with family, and the crew of Aurelia enjoyed a picturesque walk. Excellent sailing conditions enabled Moonbeam, and Rikasa to enjoy a good sail from Levington, with Rikasa especially fast! Barcarolle arrived later from the Deben. At 6pm we were on board Rikasa for an impressive range of drinks and nibbles. Lady S had had engine problems but her crew drove round to join us for a delicious meal at the Harbour Lights with good, old-fashioned English desserts.



Drinks on Rikasa with Mike and Rosemary Nunn

Photo: Jane Hall

Aurelia, Lola and Barcarolle enjoyed a magnificent trip home on Sunday morning in the early morning mist, if little wind. Rikasa, Moonbeam and Hannah enjoyed barbecues, good conversation and drinks before departing for home ports on Monday morning.

Jane Hall



Yachts on the Go

Family Cruise

This year's Family Cruise in June was a glorious success. Five yachts left the Deben: five made it back. Orinoco and Conchita took the first of the ebb on Friday evening. They picked up moorings at Felixstowe Ferry to prepare for an early high water on the Deben bar. Maverick was keen not to miss out on the Friendly Friday at the sailing club and left a bit later, to join Volante at Ramsholt for the night. Dawn Piper left Waldringfield on Saturday, taking advantage of her bilge keels' shallower draft.

As we left the Deben on Saturday morning, we inched out against the strong flood tide and it was a case of 'my engine's bigger than yours'. Then, with one or two reefs in, we had a good beat along the coast. By the time we made it to Harwich Harbour there was a big swell. We were sailing right through the starting area for the Classic Regatta which was quite exciting, particularly when witnessing collisions involving bowsprits!

Shotley Marina is a great venue for visitors. We were all moored on a linear pontoon making for a sociable afternoon and evening. The children were either crabbing from the pontoon or rowing around in rubber dinghies which, though not strictly allowed, helped in learning useful skills. On Saturday evening



we had a barbecue on the grass beside the marina, including Blush pink apple juice, courtesy of Jez Linsell.

The return sail on Sunday was more pleasant, and we made it to the Rocks in time for lunch and sandcastles. Back at Waldringfield, some exhausted children hobbled up the steps. We are all looking forward to more family friendly cruising in future.

Harry Pynn

Keelboat Timed Passage

Following last year's successful event, this year's timed passage was held on the Saturday morning of Regatta.

Entries were made online in the WSC Regatta entry form. The start was at the large buoy just up river from the Felixstowe moorings and finished on the WSC club line. Boats were required to sail a channel course, using any sails of their choice. There was added time for any engine use

and disqualification for outside assistance.

The day dawned sunny but the strong (and warm) SSW wind gusted up to 26 knots. This meant that boats could complete the course without tacking but had to gybe through the Rocks. All seven entrants carried on despite the wind strength but no yacht used a spinnaker or cruising chute, despite the 'large' cash prize at stake.

Each boat noted their time on passing the start buoy and again when crossing the club line.

The winner was Big Rafiki, an Archambault Grand Surprise owned by Richard Woolf and helmed by Aaron Woolf. She had a remarkable elapsed time of 28 minutes 40 seconds, adjusted on handicap to 29 minutes 54 seconds and was a worthy winner of the WSC Yacht Class prize of £25.

The other results were: 2nd Neil Collingridge in Cheetah of Burnham; 3rd Harry Ogden in his Cape Cutter 16; 4th Howard Ryan in Troubadour; 5th Chris Richardson in De Pee Jee; 6th John Palmer in Moonbeam; 7th Peter Thubron in Wandering Star.

Peter Thubron



The Burton Cup

Once upon a time – well, in 1936 – Sir William Burton donated a silver cup to the National 12 class for the winner of the National Championships. These National Championships were the National 12's first and they were sailed in Poole Harbour. WSC members, Cyril Stollery and Dr Kenneth Palmer won in N153 Itch, coming away with the Burton Cup. They were also Waldringfield Sailing Club's first National Champions.

Sir William Burton was keen yachtsman from Ipswich and was President of the Yacht Racing Association which later developed into the RYA. He gave the National 12 class a new Burton Cup in 1937, which has been held by their National Champions ever since. At Waldringfield, National 12s became the first fleet, the club having previously had



Tom and Isobel Stewart in their National 12

Photo: Nick Champion



For the second year running, they won and were awarded the Burton Cup. A great achievement!

Meanwhile the Stollery family had the original Burton Cup but Cyril Stollery's wife donated it to the club in 1971, in memory of her husband. It is now called the Jubilee Cup and is awarded to the first keelboat in the Victory Plate, a race to Felixstowe (or thereabouts) and back. This year's winners were William Sudell and Trish Hopkins in their Squib. The Sudell family has, over the years, bought boats from the Stollerys so William was delighted to be reminded of that connection when they won what was the first Burton Cup.

Both cups are impressive, as you can see!

handicap racing only. Unsurprisingly in due course (1949) club member Robin Steavenson won the 'new' Burton Cup. He, too, had been sailing Itch, now renamed Witch.

National 12s are no longer one of the regular fleets at the club but father and daughter duo, Tom and Isobel Stewart, sometimes sail one and they entered the National Championships at Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club on this year's August Bank Holiday weekend.



Concentration - William Sudell and Trish Hopkins

Photo: Alexis Smith

