



Mainsheet

WRSC Newsletter

Summer 2008

"The Pessimist complains about the wind. The Optimist expects it to change. The Realist adjusts the sail"
William Arthur Ward

Commodore's Ramblings

I've recently found out that rambling has been reinvented for the 21st century in the guise of something called Geocaching. It's something that people like Roger Perry with lots of gadgets will like, as you need a GPS to do it. Go to www.geocaching.com to find out more. That's all for the rambling bit, on with the sailing stuff.

Exhilarating sailing

We had a rather windy Spring Bank Regatta this year, and I think the forecast before the event seemed to put a few people off. However the hardy sailors that came were treated to some exhilarating sailing, a great band that went by the name of Becs and the Bullets (well Bullet really as there were only 2 of them), and the usual drinking that we've all become accustomed to. It would be nice to see a few more club members down to sail as well as attend the evening socials, so book it in your diary for next year.

Dodo feathers & Penny Black

I'm sure a lot of you will have noticed either on the club website or at the club that we've been successful in obtaining a grant for nearly £10,000 which we have used to buy 6 brand new club Oppis. It wasn't the easiest task to get the money, and we finally got it on the 3rd attempt after having to have an EGM to change the rules of the club.

Credit has got to go to Hamish Gledhill, who suffered severe writer's cramp doing each application. In the Internet world we live in you would have thought that you could do an electronic version and save it, but no. Each application had to be hand written, with a quill, made from Dodo feathers and posted with a Penny Black.

Onboard Scheme

The Management Committee has been a little concerned for a while about dwindling membership numbers. For one it means racing can become a little dull as numbers reduce, but it also means that the cost of running the club is shared by fewer people. We're a long way from being insolvent, so don't worry, but the more members we can attract the better.

Jonathan Gledhill and I attended a meeting with the RYA earlier in the year about the “Onboard Scheme”. The RYA wants to attract new people into the sport and there is some funding available to do so. Joining the Onboard scheme was universally agreed at a Management Committee meeting as something we should aim for. It’s not as simple as just joining the scheme; there are a few hoops to jump through first. Please take the time to read the article later in **Mainsheet** that explains it all. We’ll need your help to make it happen, so if you want to be involved then let me know.

So many friends

We’ve enjoyed a fairly reasonable summer so far, the Summer Camp weekend seemed to be enjoyed by all and was distinctly drier than the one last year. It was great to see so many of you all enjoying the weekend and bringing so many friends with you. We just need to start turning some of these people into new members!

Dullest sport

Abersoch was a slightly quieter affair for the club this year, but the weather was fantastic and everyone enjoyed it all. We’ll most of it. You may have read that a few of us went down with lergy for a day or so, and one of us fell off our bike, but on the whole we enjoyed it all. Hamish was the star of the week, winning the Laser fleet fairly convincingly.

This brings me on to our Olympic sailors. I don’t know about the rest of you but I’ve been up at 6am most mornings, watching the dullest sport known to man. Having said that, it all got exciting just before the medal races and I’m feeling like my early mornings have been worth it. Roy’s lad (who some people may recall was only just ahead of me at the windward mark in the 1997 Laser Open) is top of the Laser table and gunning for that 3rd gold for our sailors. I’ll be up at 6am to see that medal race, come on you Brits!

Matt Cook – Commodore

Gold...Gold...Gold...Gold!

Olympic Update

I’m sure you’ll have realised by now, but Roy Goodison’s lad has won a shiny new gold medal at the Olympics. He performed brilliantly and went into the medal race with a commanding lead of 18 points over the Swedish sailor, and a silver medal a certainty. The commentary on Freeview was tailored to Roy, as Richard Simmons seemed to just be talking to Roy for half the race! The Swede fell apart, and Paul cruised to Gold and the joy of the nation. Rumour has it that the credit for the gold goes partly to Roy for introducing Paul to the sport, but also to the family dog who assured me that he taught Paul everything he knows.

Matt “Square Eyes” Cook

Congratulations to Paul Goodison, Ben Ainslie, the two Sarahs Ayton & Webb plus Pippa Wilson, and Iain Percy & Andrew “Bart” Simpson for their gold medals, Nick Rogers & Joe Glanfield for their silver, and Byrony Shaw for her bronze, not forgetting all the unsung heroes and heroines who helped Team GBR bring back the best sailing results in Olympic history. In a word – Inspirational!

Welcome Aboard to New Members!

We are delighted to welcome a plethora of new members to the club – we must be getting something right!

Stuart Hoare has joined as a single member in his very noticeable Solution. As well as appearing in Sunday and Wednesday evening racing, Stuart has been out and about on the circuit and finished a very commendable 6th in the Solution nationals.

17-year-old **Chris Jones** has recently joined as a student member in Laser 157497. He's already been seen sailing on a Sunday, and needs all you experienced Laser guys to make him feel at home and pass on your words of wisdom and encouragement.

Another new single member is **Colin Ames**. As yet he has no boat, but he's already helped out with Sunday rescue and obviously is the type of member we want. If he's looking for a single-handed class to join, let's hope all you Laser and Solo sailors give him some sensible advice.

Matt Velamail in Laser 146446 needs no introduction after sailing in every race of the Northern Brass Monkey series as an enthusiastic visitor. He's now joined as a junior member, and no doubt has plenty of hairy scary stories to tell after getting the bit between his teeth at a very windy Laser nationals in early August.

Welcome back to **Richard Newbury** who some of us remember in his Solo called "Napoleon". He's re-joined as a single member, but as yet boat-less. Will it be another Solo, Richard?

Anne & Ashley Pickles and their children **James** (10) and **Zara** (6) have joined as a family. They learned to sail at Pugneys, and their smart blue Wanderer has been on the water on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Another family membership, **Philip & Nicola Cable** with their two children **Emma** (8) and **Hannah** (6) have joined with an Enterprise, sail number 5668. Yet more youngsters to try out the club Oppis?

Finally, **Richard Lynds** has returned to the club as a family member, sharing RS400 463, that's the pink one, with another former member **Ken Carter**, who has joined as a single member.

You are all very welcome to West Riding SC and may you enjoy a long and happy membership with plenty of wonderful sailing.

Tactical Tips

"If we tack now, we will either be first or last or somewhere in the middle."

This gem is attributed to the late Owen Parker, Sailing Master on Edward Heath's famous series of yachts all named "Morning Cloud".

On another occasion he advised "Bear away, sir." Heath luffed and Parker, ever tactful, added, "Bear the other way, sir."

Lessons to be learnt: - a) Even the best can come unstuck on a beat. b) Cut out the jargon; clear communication is everything.

Rewards for All!

Oppis arrive for Summer Camp

West Riding Sailing Club has been awarded a £10,000 grant under the Awards for All scheme. The main theme in the application for the award was the purchase of six Oppis sailing dinghies, to enable the club to train children to sail from around the age of six years old upwards.

The Oppis arrived with perfect timing for the annual Summer Camp, held this year over the weekend of 14th/15th June. Over sixty campers stayed over the whole weekend. In addition to members and their families, friends and visitors were encouraged to bring their children to swell the numbers during the day.

Saturday's frisky conditions demonstrated the amazing stability of these robust boats and complete beginners were able to take to the water in complete safety. Augmented by the three existing club Toppers and members' own craft, the Oppis provided almost non-stop sailing throughout the weekend for a range of ages, from toddlers to teens

The action turned from the water to the shore on Saturday evening. Teams were formed to take part in the "Fun with Liquorice" competition – what can you make out of sticks of liquorice, tooth picks, string, a balloon and a box of Liquorice Allsorts? Gordon Maddan provided some informal musical entertainment on the deck with his squeeze box, which was sufficiently toe tapping to induce some of the youngsters to dance and twirl. Altogether a great atmosphere!

Sunday dawned calm and sunny and the Oppis were out early and rapidly filled with budding helms. The wind just about held body and soul together long enough for the Ladies and Junior races to take place in the afternoon round a short triangular course, after which prizes were awarded, including certificates for all junior participants in the weekend.

West Riding Sailing Club intends to utilise the Oppis and Toppers in monthly Saturday Club sessions, also on all Sunday mornings during the summer months. Non-member parents are to be encouraged to bring their children along to join in as a first toe-in-the-water step towards trying sailing. The club will be pleased to welcome anyone who comes to look round the club on a Sunday morning.

Summer Camp Race Results:

- Ladies Race: 1. Debbie Clarkson
 2. Megan Anderson
 3. Sue McQuire & Elaine Redfern
- Junior Race: 1. Oliver Vauvelle
 2. Bethan Keighley
 3. Jo Gledhill
 4. Sally Gledhill & Elena Trowsdale

Work for All!

Concreting, painting, posts, drainage, clubhouse cladding etc – All welcome!

September 6th

The RYA Onboard Scheme

What is "Onboard"? The RYA wants to promote our sport to more people and wants to get more youngsters into the sport. Most of the sailors we have in the UK are generational sailors; your parents sailed and got you into it. We aren't very good at attracting new blood into the sport. This is true of our club; in fact we all had to go on a breeding programme throughout the last 8 years or so to get some youngsters into the club.

Introducing sailing

Onboard was launched to get into local schools and youth groups, with the aim of introducing sailing to them. The RYA provides both financial and non-financial help to run courses for youngsters, so they can learn to sail with their friends. Other clubs that have joined the Onboard Scheme have run parallel courses for their parents, and managed to increase their family membership in the process. We want WRSC to do the same.

RYA Training Establishment

What do we have to do to join the Onboard Scheme? First of all we need to become an RYA Training Establishment, and for that we need some instructors. We've had 4 volunteers that are currently undergoing training, and should achieve it by the end of the year. After that we can apply to the RYA and

Matt Cook

The club's future

jump through some procedural hoops to do with Health and Safety, and then we can become a training centre.

Don't worry, we don't want to turn the club into the next Pugneys. We are a private members club (I always think that has a slightly dodgy connotation!) and will stay that way, but we need to increase our membership and get more people sailing. Our focus will still be on racing, but we need to get new blood on the course so to speak.

After that we have to apply to join the scheme. We are hoping to achieve this by early next year so we can start to run courses by late spring.

More volunteers

We still want more volunteers. If you want to help in any way, then please give me a ring on **01924 281802**. We don't just want instructors, but people to make a few drinks in the galley when we are running courses, people to drive rescue boats, people to make sure the club boats are in good working order, and people to hunt out opportunities for getting grants we've not thought about. If you want to help, and I mean actually help rather than offer ideas and not actually do anything, then please give me a ring.

Italian Evening at WRSC

Laser Lasagne – Fireball Mondegghili – Solo Mio – RS200 Tagliatelle – Finn Fritto Misto – Swordfish al Funghetto, Oppi Ossibuchi alla Milanese! These are a few of the mouth watering dishes you could be sampling at WRSC's **Italian Evening** on **27th September**.

If you want to take part, eat, help or just watch, then contact:
Lizzie Radcliffe 01226 200148 or lizzieradcliffe@hotmail.co.uk

Juniors at WRSC

First steps in a new venture

A big thank you to all the people who turned up at the club for a meeting on the morning of Sunday 11th May to discuss how to encourage more juniors to sail at the club, as well as encouraging new members. The meeting lasted nearly an hour and a half with lots of interesting ideas. In summary it was agreed that: -

- The club will continue to pursue RYA Training Centre Status. It was acknowledged that this is not a quick process and much relies on club members being trained as instructors before we can then identify a Senior Instructor. Matt Cook has now compiled a list of members who are interested in becoming instructors.
- Monthly informal training days have been held on Saturdays throughout the summer for juniors and beginners on 7th June, 19th July and 16th August with a final one on 6th September.
- Juniors and beginners have been encouraged to sail on Sunday mornings. We now have 6 brand new Oppis and 4 Toppers available for juniors to use. Parents have been encouraged to get to the club early to rig boats, as well as help organise junior activities, make lunch etc. When we become a RYA Training Centre there will not be the same requirement for parents/guardians to stay at the club, though this will be encouraged.
- A junior section will be added to the club website as well as having a dedicated notice board within the clubhouse for juniors.
- The club will run a couple of “try-a-boat days” each year to encourage new people to try sailing for the first time.
- The club will run a couple of “try-a-boat evenings”, e.g. from 6pm to 8 pm with possibly food and drink available afterwards to encourage new people to try sailing for the first time without people having to give up a day at the weekend
- The club will forge stronger links with Pugneys to encourage people who have been trained there to come and sail at WRSC.

Please give all the support you can to junior sailing. They are the future of WRSC.

Hamish Gledhill

WRSC Dinner & Prizegiving 2008

Saturday 15th November at Normanton Golf Club

Put the date in your diary now, and don't book anything else. Watch out for details of ticket sales in the not too distant future.

To whose music will you be dancing and twirling? Will you understand the Commodore's “alternative humour” in his maiden dinner speech?

If you're not there, you may never know! Go on, press the fun button!

There have been some exciting new developments at WRSC. Thanks to an Awards for All grant, there has been a delivery of brand new Oppi dinghies. Luckily for us these arrived just in time for our Family Camp weekend, and were immediately put into action by some of the masses of children who attended the event.

"Kinetic" techniques

The Family Camp weekend was a roaring success, with more people than I could care to count coming down and having a go at sailing, and generally having a good time. Highlights of the weekend for me were watching young Bethan Keighley taking lessons from her dad, and displaying some audacious "kinetic" techniques during the light airs of the junior race; and also the sight of our very own heavy weather specialist, Jonathan Gledhill, providing some much needed ballast in the front of one of the new Oppis. I don't think it was in much danger of capsizing!

Four race format

The summer series has seen the introduction of a four race format with the morning races and afternoon races qualifying for separate series. The plan with this was to squeeze as much out of a Sunday as possible. Those wanting lots of racing could do all four, while those wanting to learn, or teach, could take the morning to do that and have a race in the afternoon.

It seems that having four races in a day is a little hectic for our race officers and so we are currently bouncing around ideas of how to make the racing more accessible. If you have any ideas please feel free to air your views to someone on the sailing committee. It is your racing, and we want to make it as much fun for you as possible.

Tales of daring-do

There are some nomadic elements within the WRSC fraternity who seem to be unhappy to let the grass grow under their feet, and insist on travelling around the country spreading the WRSC seed far and wide. There have been so many individual tales of daring-do that I can't even pretend to remember, so I'll just cover the main migrations.

A large WRSC contingent travelled to Ullswater to compete for the Lord Birkett Trophy. For those of you who have never been, this is a ridiculous race where too many boats are crammed onto Ullswater, avoid the shrapnel from the shotgun used to start the race, and then spend somewhere between an hour and a half and five hours trying to get some clear air. As it turned out a certain Hamish and Rachel Gledhill put in a stormer of a performance in their RS400 to finish in 11th place, Matt Cook and Abi Morgan finished in 62nd place in their Fireball, Mike Woodhead 83rd in his Finn, Bill Gardner and Tom Harman 104th in the Swordfish, and John Lang and Damian Abbatt getting 145th in their Fireball.

Amazing sun

The last full week in July saw the annual pilgrimage to Abersoch for South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club's Dinghy Week. OK the wind was rubbish, but the sun was amazing and I wasn't alone in looking a little red. On the sailing front WRSC was well represented with Matt and Hamish sailing in the Laser class, Mike, Jonathan, John and Patrick sailing in the Solos, Mike and Sue Fogg, Tony and Ellie Short and Tom and Sue Davidson in the RS200's, Damian Abbatt and John Lang in a Fireball, Ted Farrance and Julie Tree in a Swordfish, and Hamish and Rachel Gledhill in an RS400. I sat in the front of someone else's, RS400 and yawned my way round the light sailing conditions, while working on my amusing, hiking short inspired tan lines.

Blown out of the sea

As I write this Hamish Gledhill and Matt Velamail are away getting blown out of the sea at the Laser nationals. Hamish will be particularly pleased to see the consistent force 5-6 given the fact that he has just lost a load of weight in order to become competitive in a Laser again.

Coming up next month, we are going to be sending a team to the Southport 24 hour race. Hamish Gledhill has volunteered to organise our entry so if you want to get involved in any

way (dispensing sympathy, aspirin or whiskey as appropriate), then see Hamish.

On the club scene, racing has been thriving with some great racing to be had on Wednesday evenings and Sundays. Leisure sailing on a Saturday is also gaining in popularity, rapidly helped along with the monthly Saturday club to help beginners and youngsters who want to learn how to get wet.

Well that's about it from me, I'll see you on the water.

Owyn Wallace – Sailing Secretary

3 Boat Rule

There is going to be a change in the Sailing Instructions for when the club is running handicap races. Races will only be run if a minimum of three boats are going to start. This won't affect the handicap class during normal fleet racing, but will during the various winter series.

For example, during the summer series a handicap start will be sounded even if only one person decides to race instead of sun bathing on the bank. But if two people turn up each with five dry suits and a pair of snow shoes during the Northern Brass Monkey series, the race officer does not have to go and sit in the rescue boat with anti hypothermia medication.

This measure isn't intended to stop anyone from sailing during the winter months, but more to firm up the grey area of when a race officer

Changes to Handicap race

should run a race. The decision of the race officer is always final and if it is decided a race isn't worth running, then that is what will happen. This change in the Sailing Instructions removes the grey area of how many boats are needed for a start

This brings me to another point. Whenever a race officer decides to abandon a race there is a correct procedure that must be followed in order to inform all sailors what is going on.

Flag 'N', which is a blue and white chequered flag, must be flown with 3 sound signals. It's generally best to do this on the main mast so it can be seen from the water, the lawn and the car park. This should always be done even if you think you have told everyone that the racing is off, as there could always be someone that you have missed.

Owyn Wallace – Sailing Secretary

Trophy Day – coming soon!

Top Dog Trophy – 2nd Nov

Handicap, Mass Starts for all – Enjoy!

CLASS REPORTS

Lasers

It's been a pretty steady few months for the Laser fleet at WRSC. There have been regular appearances by Owyn, Adrian, Brian, Chris, Dave and myself, and returning to the class we have Charles and Hamish. Abi has decided to jump ship with the Fireball fleet and sail a real boat. Over the last few weeks she has revamped her Laser into a Rooster boat. Watch out boys, she's starting to worry me on the race course!

Laser 12hours Race

WRSC took a team to the Southport Laser 12 Hour Race in late April. The team was Owyn, myself and my brother Peter, with 22 teams competing. Peter started the race and led the race for the first two laps. In the end we finished 2nd, after a mistake by Team Rooster and WLYC (home team), who both decided to try to sail an extra lap in no wind. In the end the WRSC team needed a truck to take home all the wine and prizes they won on the day.

Great Regatta

The Spring Bank Regatta was a great event, with 9 boats and a strong breeze for all 3 days. Hamish came out of retirement to show us all how to sail in these conditions, winning the event closely followed by myself, with Owyn in 3rd place

Travellers

Hamish and I have been hitting the road and travelling to Laser open meetings. Hamish currently lies 2nd overall in the Northern Travellers with wins at Delph and Yeadon, and I'm currently leading the Wessex Travellers with wins at Bristol Corinthian and Clevedon.

Abersoch Dinghy Week

Well done Hamish for wining Abersoch Dinghy Week Laser fleet, beating my Iron Man / Triathlon brother into 2ndplace

Right that's enough from me, I'm off sailing.

Tim Keighley – Laser Class Captain (Laser 193466)

Solos

Mainsheet time again, and I must admit since a visit to Delph SC with John, I haven't stepped foot in the Solo. At the time of writing it is up for sale, and a certain amount of head scratching as to what to replace it with.

Open meetings attended by the fleet have included: - Burwain, Rudyard Lake, Sheffield Viking, Hollingworth Lake and Crosby (at Southport); not forgetting the annual pilgrimage to Abersoch with four participants in a fleet of 34 boats, Jonathan putting in a solid 4th place, including a venture into a big boat with Rachel.

Attendances at home have been solid throughout the summer with the resurgent Roy Goodison pushing for podium positions. (As if the Olympics get in the way!) *(continued page 10)*

James put in a convincing performance in the superlight weight division to secure Gold, and Howard had a solid result to take Silver in the Summer Series.

Seriously though, the Solo has been instrumental in the resurgence of sailing at the club. Let's keep the numbers up and the momentum going into the colder but breezier season. Well done to you all!

Mark Weston - Solo Class Captain

Swordfish

The summer season has again seen Swordfish sailors busy on the travelling circuit with visits to the Lord Birkett Memorial Trophy at Ullswater Yacht Club, and the Abersoch Dingy Week at South Caernarvonshire Yacht Club.

Interesting racing

Bill Gardner and Tom Harman were the only Swordfishers to travel to the lakes this year, entering 15/172 in the Lord Birkett Memorial Trophy 2008. This handicap regatta always produces interesting racing amongst a wide variety of classes in stunning scenery. Bill and Tom managed 104th overall, in a fleet of some 200 competitors - congratulations.

Ted Farrance and Julie Tree ploughed a lone furrow for the Swordfish fleet in Wales, taking 15/202 'Dinah' sailing in Cardigan Bay where they finished a respectable 7th overall in the Slow Mixed Dinghies Handicap fleet. Competing against Snipe, GP14's and Enterprises, they achieved consistent results including an impressive 2nd in race 5.

Situation "on the ground"

Sunday sailing at West Riding has also continued despite the low number of Swordfish owners currently in the club. However, the situation 'on the ground' differs somewhat from the official provisions for Swordfish sailing on a Sunday. Some of the regular Swordfish sailors who race on a Sunday approached me in May to discuss if they could elect to sail within the Handicap fleet to enjoy greater competition.

Solution proposed

This was discussed within the Sailing Subcommittee and a solution proposed which allows individuals to elect to sail in the Handicap fleet if they wish to do so. If so, they must compete within that fleet for the whole of that series - they cannot then elect to sail handicap one weekend and Swordfish fleet the next. It is hoped that these arrangements will allow all Swordfish owners to enjoy their preferred type of Sunday racing.

However, I think the repercussions of this decision will come back to haunt us.

Speedy recovery

Finally, I'd like to wish Alan Padgett, my father a speedy recovery and return to racing. I know he's missing Sunday sailing tremendously and keen to rejoin once he is fit and well.

James Padgett – Swordfish Class Captain

I'm sure all club members will join in wishing Alan well after his recent operation – and a speedy return to the helm of 207 next season.

Handicap

As the mis-named “summer” series comes to a close, I’m pleased to report the continued success of the Handicap fleet. Our numbers are increasing with the addition of the RS400s, a Streaker and a Solution, with hopefully more to come. It was a disappointment that the Swordfish fleet chose not to join us on Trophy Day as they would have made a welcome addition to the Series. Perhaps next year?

I realise that the other fleets must be looking forward to the late autumn when they too can join the premier fleet in the club and the big beasts in the jungle can once more fight it out!

Gales & drifters

In a lot of ways autumn and winter sailing is becoming more settled than summer. At the time of writing we seem to alternate between howling gales and complete drifters. Should we have a lower limit? I would say so, but many of our fleet show great patience and skill in the very light conditions – I wish I was one of them!

New two person class

One discussion which has been raised by various members of the Handicap glitterati is whether we should be looking to introduce a new two person class with a conventional spinnaker. The Handicap class fleet could nurture it with the hope that it might establish a new fleet at the Club, as we are now in the position where the only two other viable fleets are both singlehanders. What does anybody think? Do we need to do some research? Any suggestions? I would be happy to organise trials etc., although I do realise that club bye-laws prevent me from sailing with any other person!!

Another interesting matter to arise in the Class this summer has been the work on the Vago handicapping which has been done with the blessing of the RYA, and so far calculations seem to be putting it slightly faster than the Class Association PY. Dave Baxter has put in a lot of work on collating times and when the RYA introduce their on-line handicapping returns next year, Dave has kindly offered to input the data.

New members crewing

We are getting a lot of useful input from the various try-sailing events, but we are now getting to the stage where we have potential new members who need a crewing position. James, Dave and I all have enthusiastic and competent beginners who would like to get to the front end of a reasonable boat, which in real terms means the Handicap class. Do we have anybody with a vacancy?

So, as the dismal summer slips slowly towards the gleaming dawn of a golden autumn and hopefully the weed dies on the bottom of the lake, we look forward to an even better autumn series, followed by the ultimate reunification in winter!

Happy handicap racing!

Mike Woodhead – Handicap Fleet Captain

Guests & Visitors The club appears to be attracting more of these, which is good news because it is the way to more new members. Members are reminded that the club rules allow individuals to be introduced as a guest on not more than three occasions in one year. They should be asked to sign the Visitors Book so that we have a record of their visit, and also to meet with the conditions of our bar license. Members are also requested to ask any unattached visitors to sign the Visitors Book. Thank you.

West Riding SC Spring Bank Open Regatta 2008

This year's Spring Bank Regatta, the premier event in the club's sailing calendar, will be etched in the memory of competitors, race officials and spectators for many a long year. In a nutshell, it was a blast!

A forecast of strong winds and heavy rain kept entries down to a total of 45 boats. Amongst this entry, 15 Streakers were competing for their Northern Area Championships, about half the number normally expected. But lack of quantity was more than made up for by the quality of the entry with names such as Steve Cockerill of Rooster fame, and the promising young Tom Gillard who is capable of making any sail boat sing.

Spared some carnage

The Streaker event was only for the first two days of the three day regatta, so they were spared some of Monday's carnage. Saturday opened in sunshine and a strong north easterly which gradually swung and increased as the afternoon wore on. In the evening competitors were entertained by local band Becks and the Bullets. The Bullets failed to appear, but Becks was there with her guitar and had plenty of ammunition!

Impressed by Laser fleet

Sunday started with more sun, but the north easterly was up to force 5, with the promise of more to come. Only five Streakers started their penultimate race in the afternoon, and only two Solos survived to their finish. The last race of the day was truly a race for the hardened sailor with only 13 boats from all classes making it to the start line, and gusts of force 8 recorded. As conditions worsened the OOD, Jonathan Gledhill, considered abandoning the race but was so impressed by the Laser fleet planing down to the start, he let the race continue, albeit for a reduced length of time.

Disco contest

The Streakers departed to peace and tranquillity, leaving the remaining competitors to retreat to a hot evening meal and the bar. After the infamous WRSC quiz, won once again by team AppleCook, the 1970's Enterprise World Disco Champion, Mike Rimmer, laid down a challenge for a disco contest between Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. After a cool performance from an eight strong team from Yorkshire, demonstrating that you can dance without getting up from a chair, it was up to team Lincolnshire to seek victory. Rimmer, after little persuasion, selected his track and with a little help showed that he still had what it took to impress on the dance floor, if only through comedy value.

Punishing test of skill

Despite warnings at the OOD's Monday morning briefing that there was more wind than appeared from the shore, even more than the previous day, the intrepid Laser, Solo and Handicap fleets set out to do battle with the elements. In what became a punishing test of skill as the wind increased, only eight boats survived the onslaught, seven of them from WRSC!

As the rescue crews towed boats back from the dam wall, the possibility of a final race seemed to be in question. Whilst the sailors munched on their lunch, a three strong team took to the lake to ascertain the conditions. Initially the wind seemed to abate, but within several minutes it returned and after consideration the race officer decided to abandon the final race.

Boats were packed up, prizes were awarded and everyone agreed it was one of those events that will be remembered as "a little bit windy!"

Huge thanks are due

As well as those who helped in race organisation and rescue, huge thanks are due to Andy and Nicky Hoey who manned the galley, almost without break, throughout the whole 3 day event. At the end they looked more exhausted than the competitors, and deserve a standing ovation for their efforts.

The Streakers were impressed by WRSC and hope to return for next year's regatta as part of their Northern Paddle series. Despite a strong showing from WRSC Lasers, the Solo entry was disappointing with many of our own members away. If they and members from our other fleets can be persuaded to return to the fray next year, we may have the quantity as well as the quality. Class captains get to work!

Streaker Northern Area Championships

1.	1657	Steve Cockerill	(Stokes Bay SC)	5pts
2.	1581	Tom Gillard	(Sheffield Viking SC)	6pts
3.	1619	Ian Bradley	(Ouse Amateur SC)	11pts
4.	1354	Peter Cogill	(Rotherham SC)	20pts
5.	1500	Robin Wright	(Rotherham SC)	27pts
6.	1618	Dave Butler	(Welton SC)	37pts

Lasers

1.	185960	Hamish Gledhill	(WRSC)	5pts
2.	182623	Tim Keighley	(WRSC)	6pts
3.	135842	Owyn Wallace	(WRSC)	11pts
4.	186947	Chris Greenwood	(WRSC)	20pts
5.	146446	Matt Velamail	(WRSC/Ulley SC)	21pts
6.	173168	Adrian Thear	(WRSC)	21pts

Solos

1.	4662	Chris Gillard	(Sheffield Viking SC)	4pts
2.	4475	Richard Harding	(Frensham Pond SC)	10pts
3.	4650	Colin Bradley	(Pennine SC)	11pts
4.	2844	Merv Griffiths	(WRSC)	14pts
5.	4447	Paul Brunner	(WRSC)	14pts
6.	4497	Tom Langford	(WRSC)	26pts

Handicap

1.	Topper 46174	Oliver Wright	(Rotherham SC)
2.	Swordfish 202	Ted Farrance & Julie Tree	(WRSC)
3.	Fireball 14452	Matt Cook & Abi Morgan	(WRSC)
4.	Swordfish 216	Alan Beecham, John Dyson & Mike Price	(WRSC)
5.	RS200 968	Mike & Sue Fogg	(WRSC)
6.	Albacore	Sam Mason & Sally Smith	(Hykeham SC)

**Remember, Remember Work Days 6th September & 8th
November**

WRSC Beats Lleyl Lergy

Fun in the Sun Abersoch

Entries were down, but the temperatures were up. Some WRSC sailors were afflicted by the Lleyl Lergy and missed races, but WRSC was amongst the prize winners. 12 of the 213 entries were from WRSC, and wherever they finished in their respective fleets, they were able to enjoy a return to what Abersoch Dinghy Week is all about - Fun in the Sun.

Put out to grill

Sunday morning's racing got underway in an exciting north westerly blowing offshore, which made it more exciting the further out you sailed. But the sun was out by mid-day, and the wind decreased so that by mid week the Lasers and Solos were put out to grill for three hours and the afternoon racing was abandoned for lack of wind. The sand castle builders didn't complain. Friday morning spoilt things with a bit of mizzle, but by the afternoon the sun had won again.

WRSC had 2 entries in the 23 strong Laser fleet, which started first every morning. Despite suffering from the aforementioned lergy, Hamish Gledhill put in a devastating performance of 3 wins and 2 seconds to win by a clear 10 points. Commodore Cook started the week well with some solid results including a 4th in race 3. Alas, he succumbed to a variant of the Lleyl Lergy and missed two races, but nevertheless still managed 14th place.

A contented smile

The Solos had the biggest fleet of 34, including 4 from WRSC. Jonathan Gledhill had a solid score line of 4,5,9,5,3 that gave him 4th place and a place on the prize list. Pat Percival enjoyed himself mid-fleet and finished 18th. This was 2 places ahead of John Gledhill who, after a first race 3rd became the founder member of the Lleyl Lergy and missed 3 races. Mike Wallace gradually improved as the week progressed with a 12th and 14th on Thursday and Friday, 23rd overall and a contented smile saying it all.

Tour de France Impression

John Lang and Damian Abbatt were the sole WRSC entry amongst the 11 Fireballs. They impressed all with a Tour de France impression to and from the beach each day. Alas John fell off his bike, which prevented any sailing over the last 2 days. Damian carried on with a crew plucked, some say blindfold, from the beach, registered the best result of the week with a 5th, to finish 9th overall.

Ted Farrance and Julie Tree were the only Swordfish entry in the Slow Mixed Dinghies Fleet of 15. Despite a great result of 2nd place on the final day, their other results were mid fleet and they finished a good 7th overall.

As usual the RS200 fleet of 23 contained some hot competition that was too strong for the three WRSC boats. Tom & Sue Davidson had their best result of 12th on the first day and ended up the week in 16th place. Tony & Ellie Short and Mike & Sue Fogg each registered a 14th, but were well down overall. At least they didn't get the lergy!

"Iron Man" thing

Last fleet off every day, and one of the strongest in talent, the 15 RS400's included 1.5 WRSC entries. The 0.5 was Sailing Secretary Owyn Wallace at the front end of a Leigh and Lowton RS. Fortunately the WRSC entry of Hamish and Rachel Gledhill managed to beat him with 5th overall to Owyn's 8th!

Hamish was doing the "iron man" thing, sailing morning and afternoon races, except when the lergy got hold of him and he had to miss a race. Rachel, not wanting to miss her daily sail, combed the beach in vain for a suitable helm before falling back on brother-in-law Jonathan – "Any port in a storm" as one well known RS helm commented on the starting line. Newcomers to RS400 *(continued page 15)*

fleets normally get spat out of the back like a cherry stone, so Jonathan took great delight in leading that well known helm all the way round until just short of the line. The red face and profound apology were greatly enjoyed.

Travellers Tales

Who's been doing what and where

More of our members seem to have got the travelling bug, and are popping up at events all over the country. What's more, they're getting good results and showing the sailing world that WRSC produces quality sailors.

Pillaging and plundering

Laser bully boys, Tim Keighley and Hamish Gledhill, have been bossing the competition. Tim has descended on the Laser Wessex Travellers circuit like a pillaging and plundering Viking from the North and put all comers to the sword at South Cerney, 1st from 33 in light winds; and at Clevedon where he won the first 2 races from 23 entries in a force 2-3. He is leading the series, and the Wessex-ites must be dreading his re-appearance.

Hamish has slipped to 2nd in the Laser Northern Grand Prix series after a 6th on the sea at Southport in Qingdao type conditions, light winds big chop. But he bounced back at Abersoch, showboating through the week like Usain Bolt in an Olympic 100metres with three 1sts and two 2nds to win by 10 points.

Winds peaked at 40mph

Hamish returned to Abersoch with Matt Velamail in August for the Laser Nationals. The fleet of 88 contained every 2012 Olympic hopeful, which must have been daunting for Matt, and made Hamish feel his age. Winds peaked at 40mph over the first two days, nice with two back-to-back races a day. The winner of this year's Lord Birkett Trophy (200 entrants) could only finish 67th, so Hamish was not unhappy to finish 38th, exactly the same position as when he last sailed the Laser Nationals eight years ago, and second Master Apprentice (over 35). Matt finished a plucky 80th, and will have learned a lot from the experience.

Putting themselves about

As usual, the Solos have been putting themselves about in numbers, although not reaching the dizzy heights of the Laser sailors. Sheffield Viking attracted four WRSC boats. Howard Frear enjoyed the return to his old waters with 4th place out of 17. Mark Weston finished 6th, James Porter 8th, and Peter Cogill made an unexpected return to the class in 10th place.

Mark was a lone entry at Crosby's open, perversely held on West Lancashire Yacht Club's Southport Marine Lake. A good entry of 31 saw Mark finish a fine 4th, once he'd got used to being able to sail both sides of the islands, unlike in the famous 24 hour race.

John Gledhill joined Mark at Delph on a blustery, shifty day and a fleet of 17 Solos. Highlight was Mark's win in the second race with John 3rd. Mark ended up 3rd overall and John 7th.

Hollingworth Lake is always a popular venue, so surprisingly only Jonathan Gledhill made it from WRSC. In light, unpredictable winds that threw up some unusual winners, Jonathan was satisfied with his 9th place out of 31 Solos, showing good boat speed after some poor starts.

Mark has just sold his Solo for an RS400. At the time of writing he has just lost his 3rd place in the series and currently lies 4th. Will he return in something new and fantastic in '09?

Blokes called Matt

Abi Morgan has “a thing” about blokes called Matt. Sailing the Fireball in the Pick Everard Construction Regatta on Rutland Water, she teamed up with Matt Jenkins from Sheffield Viking and was placed a very commendable 5th out of 36 fellow brickies.

She was less successful with Matt Cook on Grafham Water. In lovely force 3-4 conditions they had a crash and burn capsize with another competitor, ripping a sail and re-arranging the steering gear. A DNF and a DNS did not help their prospects. The other Fireball split its centre board in a quid pro quo.

Those hardened campaigners John Lang and Damian Abbatt only enter blue chip events, and could be found at lovely Mounts Bay with 90 Fireballs for their nationals in late August. This was another hairy week for wind, so the dynamic duo was pretty solid in 57th place amongst all the track stars and works boats found at these events.

Close racing

New member Stuart Hoare has joined the travellers scene in his eye-catching Solution. Earlier in the year he took part with a fleet of 12 Solutions in their nationals at Northampton SC. After two 3rd places in the 12 -15 knots breeze on the opening day, he slipped a little in the lighter winds that ended the meeting to end up 6th overall. Stuart followed this with a 5th place out of ten in some very close racing at Delph SC.

Limitless enthusiasm

That shrinking violet, Dave Baxter, has been putting time in on the water this season and had a successful outing at the Vago nationals at Grafham Water. In a fleet of 19, Dave and his crew Debbie enjoyed the light breezes to finish a commendable 6th and take home some prizes.

Dave is one of those with enough time or money, or both, to sail on both Saturdays and Sundays! This, combined with his limitless enthusiasm, has improved his skills no end this year. It demonstrates that there are no shortcuts to sailing success other than practice on the water. We have our role model!

Diary Dates

<i>6th September</i>	<i>Work Day</i>
<i>13th – 14th September</i>	<i>Southport 24 Hour Race</i>
<i>27th September</i>	<i>Italian Evening</i>
<i>2nd November</i>	<i>Top Dog Trophy – Start of Frostbite Series</i>
<i>15th November</i>	<i>Annual Dinner Dance & Prize Giving</i>
<i>21st December</i>	<i>Christmas Fuddle in the clubhouse</i>