The Aldenham Owl

November 2009

Newsletter of Aldenham Sailing Club, Aldenham Reservoir, Aldenham Road, Elstree, Hertfordshire WD6 3BD - www.aldenhamsc.co.uk

An end-of-season greeting from your Commodore!

At the time of writing, in the last week of October, we are gliding along with temperatures in the mid 60s f. The longer we can delay the grim climb back into wetsuits the better!! We brace ourselves for the inevitable frosts and winter sailing but with the prospect of great racing, better winds, and a reduction in surface weed. If you have never sailed a winter series then do consider it. All fleets start together and are timed through the course. It's a jolly chase and a great way to fight flab in the winter months!

Coming back to the present, despite holiday interruptions, the Autumn 1 series has been well supported by all fleets. Thanks to Jim Strother the latest results are up on screen with wins for Roger McCartney (Hand.), Les Smith (Ent.), Steve Fischer (Laser), and Harry McVicar (RS300) … Harry who? This young teenager who recently joined us from Broxbourne has burst on the scene to win his first series with us. Fantastic effort, Harry, and well done!

Peter Ellis, our other 300 newcomer, hit form at the weekend winning the last race of the series. All this has been noted! There will be trouble ahead ho,ho! - Great to have you back at A.S.C. Pete, and to have 3 generations of Ellises on site again. Visit us any time Sue (Mum), you are always most welcome!

Before we hit the new year, there are 3 important events on our calendar which our wonderful Wilf will spell out in BIG TYPE in the hope of gaining max' response from you all. 1. The Working Party. 2. The Laying-Up Supper. 3.The A.G.M.

BERTHING IMPROVEMENT (Don't call the midwife!)
The Working Party will major on tidying up compounds, trimming, strimming, burning etc (so bring suitable kit). The other major effort is to improve boat positioning in the approach to the sail shed with a herringbone layout. We also plan to reward regular sailors with berthing nearest to water access. It seems fair to the Committee that rarely sailed boats berthed in prime positions should give way to regular sailors, regardless of longevity of membership. Careful movement of boats will take place probably over a longer period than the span of a working party. New berth numbering will also take place along with name tagging of launching and or road trailers.

Important dates for the rest of the year:

Autumn Working Party
Sun. 8th November
9.00 - 12.30
followed by informal racing, weather permitting

Laying-Up Supper and Prize Giving
Sat. 21st November

AGM and RYA Sailability Pursuit
Sun. 6th December

Rum & Orange pursuit
Sat. 26th December

New Year's Day pursuit
Fri. 1st January 2010

An end-of-season greeting...

This is not a witch-hunt but a fairer arrangement. If you are concerned at all, contact Julia Jenkins, Mike O'Brien or myself and try to be present on the day. In cases where boats have been abandoned and owners are either not currently paying fees or have vanished into the ether, then such boats will be grouped together until the issue can be resolved. If owner contact is impossible, then boats will be removed, sold or destroyed. What an unhappy and unnecessary end!

THE MAIN PONTOONS
Renovation plans for the 2 main pontoons have had to be delayed to beyond the working party but will resume when our supplier of specially cut timber completes his job. The timbers have to precisely fit the escalator rail fendering. In the meantime, users of the pontoons should not encounter any damage to their boats as the nail problem has been sorted. The Committee apologises to owners who have suffered damaged during the delay of the pontoons upgrade.

THE GREAT RULES QUIZ NIGHT ON SEPT. 16
Not a weekend of racing goes by without one or some of us being unsure about a rules incident. A visiting sailor was a little surprised at one of our Open Meetings to find that we had no protest forms to hand for him to spell out his complaint. The matter was resolved without a form but it got us thinking that we needed to take the RULES more seriously and to refresh ourselves about our rights and obligations on the water!

The R.Y.A. were unable to get someone to come on the date we had set and it became clear with little time to spare that we would have to do an in-house spectacular. James Le Couilliard came to the rescue and gave us an evening to remember! He did a superb presentation and engaged us thoroughly with a range of scenarios to test our brainpower and knowledge of the 2009-12 rules. Rebecca Lonsdale and David Reed were our chefs and waiters for the very well supported evening - providing a splendid fish and chips supper. Our thanks to these heroes who made the evening a delight and worthy of a repeat! Keep reading the rules. I know I need to!

TASTER DAY ON SEPT. 12
This was another first time trial for a late summer invitation to go sailing for a half day with some basic instruction, time afloat and a tea break mid-morning. 12 prospective members came and were inspired!

Getting a taste for it...

Great credit must go to David Reed for dreaming up the idea and our thanks to all the Instructors who turned out on the day. We have every hope that these inspired ones will firm up their membership intentions and join our motley crew.

NICK'S CRACKED IT!!!!!
Paul Layzell and Laurie Salter have for some time been itching to pull the trigger on the Canada geese on our behalf. On several grounds we have had to withdraw from any idea of culling but this year has seen the worst invasion of more than 60 geese. Wonderful birds though they are, they have plagued our foreshore and pontoons with unspeakable fouling and the matter has become a health hazard and an extreme nuisance. It has involved members having to spend at least an hour pressure hosing and scrubbing all 3 pontoons before mid week racing and at weekends. We will all agree that we have had enough of it.

We have tried plastic owls, spinning balls, sonic signals but nothing has touched the problem. Nothing until Nick Turner, with the blessing of the Committee, trialled a simple rope line with plastic bags fluttering from it. The new pontoon was the test zone and it worked!!!! Nick, you are now Rear Admiral!

BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVO! and thanks for cracking the goose code. We look forward to developing a shoreline version of this in the real hope that the geese will move to new pastures and not get dismissive of the plastic bag technology!

FINAL BITS:
I will be holding an Induction Day on Sunday Jan. 31st at 1.00-2.30pm for all new or recent members or any members who need to be reminded about club access codes, access to the sail shed, boat shed and loos. There will be a practical session on how to start up and use the rescue boats and how to assist with race duty etc. There will also be a brief user-friendly Q&A session and certainly a decent cup of tea to conclude. All new members should make every effort to attend but further opportunities will be posted during next season. Contact me or Julia Jenkins.

PLEASE RETURN TROPHIES (polished, to box provided in clubhouse for David Reed to complete engraving in time for the Prize-giving).

ALEX RUBE has provided us with untainted filtered water. Enjoy! Thanks, Alex, for fitting this facility for us. Excellent!

CLUB LASER REPAIRED
The club Laser has been hired 3 times per week through the season. Roger McCartney and David Lambert have overseen necessary repairs and the boat is back in tiptop condition. It is likely that we will have another Laser for hire next season. All the hire boats are in good order and ready for 2010. Thanks, Roger.

THE GREAT WEED PROBLEM
Along with the geese, this has been another menace and time waster for the membership. We are grateful to all who have taken generous time to clear weed whenever they can. We are currently in a lull and winter frost and ice could help, but there is no simple solution. The Committee has considered a range of approaches to

minimise the menace and we intend to use them all! It will require help from the membership but we intend to win on this one.

STACKING CHAIRS
If you have a contact, we are looking to get 20 more stackable chairs for use at clubhouse events. Let Rebecca Lonsdale know of any source.

THE ALL-FLEETS CUP RACE DAY
Thanks to the Illusion Fleet for manning the race box for this excellent race day.

WELL DONE!
Bravo to all who have ventured forth this season to do combat at Open Meetings and Nationals. The rs300 fleet have tales to tell and other fleets as well. Let's be hearing reports in the next issue of the Owl. Bravo to all who worked hard to put on the Opens at A.S.C. this year. Sadly the wind failed for our rs 300 meet' but thanks Steve for the effort you made to try and make it happen!

OUR THOUGHTS are with Helen O'Brien and Ted Richards who are both recovering from illness. We wish you both good health and regular return to the club.

FINALLY
You may see 2 fishing boats on our water during the week and on Saturdays. They are not allowed on the water on Wednesdays or Sundays but the lease allows them access at other times. Simply, we ask you to be courteous if you are on the water at the same time and avoid tangling with lines! We can co-exist and we must make it work. The fishermen in turn have obligations to us. If there are any problems contact me or the Fishing Bailiff, Eric Barney.

FINALLY, FINALLY...continue to enjoy the best of sports! SAILING!!! See you at the working party and laying up supper!

BAZZA

Laying-up Supper and Prize Giving

Date: 21 November

Venue: Letchmore Heath Memorial Hall

Time: 7:30 for 8:00

Price: £25

Tickets
and all info contact:
Rebecca Lonsdale
tel. 01727 855067

This Sunday, 8th November don't miss the

Autumn Working Party

9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

followed by informal racing, weather permitting.
Please bring gardening equipment
(secateurs, branch cutters, rakes and shovels).

AGM Notice

As required by the Club's rules the Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Clubhouse on

Sunday 6 December 2009 at 10.30am.

The draft Agenda is set out below. (The AGM will be followed by the Club's annual RYA Sailability Pursuit Race)

The management Committee gives notice that the following resolutions are to be decided at the AGM:-

- **Approval of the Club's accounts for the year ended 31 August 09**
- **Elections of Officers and others**

Detailed below are the Management Committee's nominations of Officers, Committee Members and Class Captains. Members have the right to nominate alternative club members for Management Committee positions. Any nominations proposed and seconded in writing by two members together with the nominated member's acceptance of the nomination should be submitted to the Hon Secretary by no later than 3 December 09. In the event of a contested position, a ballot will be held at the AGM

All members of the club are invited to attend the AGM. A quorum of 25 owner members is required.

David Weisfeld (Hon Secretary)
8 October 2009

ASC - Annual General Meeting
Sunday 6 December 2009 at 10.30am
Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 7 December 2008. A copy of the minutes will be displayed on the Club Notice Board prior to the meeting and the minutes will be taken as read

2. Matters arising from the minutes

3. Commodore's Report (BS)

4. Hon Sailing Secretary's Report (DR)

5. Hon Treasurer's Report and submission of Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2009. A copy of the Accounts will be posted on the Club Notice Board 14 days prior to the meeting (AG)

6. Report on Hilfield/ClubLease (JS)

7. Elections – in accordance with the Club's rules, the following Officers and Members retire. Those marked * are not eligible for re-election in their present posts.

Officers

Commodore	Barry Steel
Vice Commodore	Jim Strother *
Rear Commodore	Wilf Kunze *
Hon Secretary	David Weisfeld
Hon Treasurer	Tony Gold
Hon Sailing Secretary	David Reed

Management Committee

Hon Social Secretary	Rebecca Lonsdale
Hon Work Superintendant	Mark Donnelly
Hon Membership Secretary	Julia Jenkins
Hon Bosun	Ted Richards
Committee Member (and trustees rep)	Ralph Spring
Committee Member	Nick Turner

Class Captains

Laser	Nick Turner
Illusion	Richard Farrow
Enterprise	Antony Cole
Handicap and Cruising	John Toseland
RS	Steve Sharpe

Sailing Committee

Commodore, Vice Commodore, Hon Sailing Secretary, Class Captains, Junior sailing (Richard Jenkins)

Other appointments

Park Liaison Officer & Hon Berthing Officer	Jim Strother
Hon Auditor	Douglas Hill
Hon Legal Advisor	Keith Robinson
Hon Editor (The Owl) & Publicity officer	Wilf Kunze
Hon Training Officer	Mark Cresswell

9. AOB

(After the AGM there will be a pursuit race in aid of RYA Sailability)

Nominations for AGM

Role	Incumbent	Nomination
Commodore	Barry Steel	Barry Steel
Vice Commodore	Jim Strother	David Reed
Rear Commodore	Wilf Kunze	Jim Strother
Hon Secretary	David Weisfeld	Roger McCartney
Hon Treasurer	Tony Gold	Tony Gold
Hon Sailing Secretary	David Reed	Antony Cole
Hon Membership Secretary	Julia Jenkins	Julia Jenkins
Hon Works Superintendent	Mark Donnelly	Mark Donnelly
Hon Bosun	Ted Richards	Ted Richards
Hon Social Secretary	Rebecca Lonsdale	Rebecca Lonsdale
Committee Member (and Trustee's rep)	Ralph Spring	Ralph Spring
Committee Member	Nick Turner	Nick Turner
Committee Member		Marcus Flint

Other posts

Role	Incumbent	Committee's nomination
Park Liaison Officer	Michael O'Brien	Jim Strother
Hon Berthing Officer	Michael O'Brien	Michael O'Brien
Hon Legal Advisor	Keith Robinson	Keith Robinson
Hon Auditor	Douglas Hill	Douglas Hill
Hon Editor (The Owl)/Publicity Officer	Wilf Kunze	Wilf Kunze
Hon Training Officer	Mark Cresswell	Mark Cresswell

Class captains

Class	Incumbent	Class nomination
Enterprise	Antony Cole	Les Smith
Handicap	John Toseland	John Toseland
Illusion	Richard Farrow	Richard Farrow
Laser	Nick Turner	Nick Turner
RS300	Steve Sharpe	Steve Sharpe

In each case the nomination is proposed by **Barry Steel** (Commodore) and seconded by **David Weisfeld** (Hon Sec).

Trustees

Robert Cox, Tony Soanes, Ralph Spring and John Graham Taylor

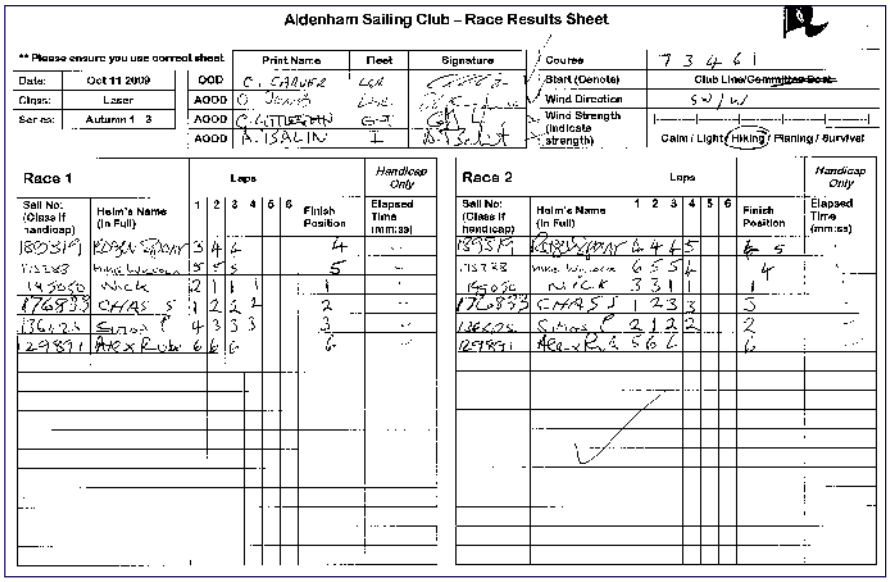
RACE RESULTS - some useful information

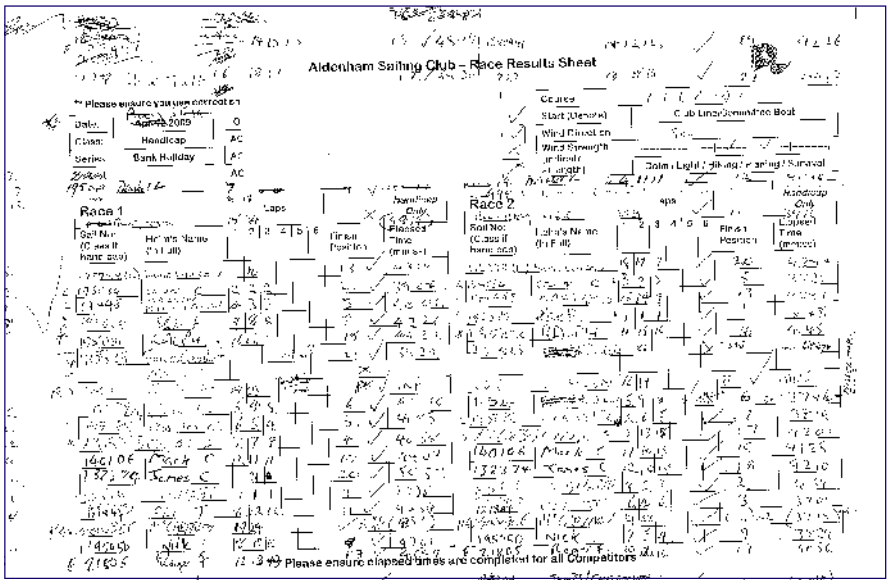
ON THE DAY

Racing results are recorded by the OOD team. David Reed (Sailing Secretary) leaves prepared sheets out which should be left in the folder in the OOD box cupboard for collection.

Have a look at these examples. The first one is pretty good, everything is filled in, and it is clear and easy to use. Some names are incomplete, but fortunately I know these are regulars. (Ignore the ticks, they are just for my reference when transferring results to the web).

The second one to be fair was a difficult one on a windy day with lots of times to record. OOD team names have been obliterated to protect the guilty. It was a bit of a nightmare for me to understand though with all sorts of notes and amendments and incomplete entries. I am happy not to receive many like this!





Important points:

When signing on -
Show your full name and sail number clearly or your result may not be recorded. Even if you are not seriously competing in the series, you should do this, otherwise it is confusing for the OOD crew.

If it is not obvious what class boat you are sailing, show that as well - including variants such as Laser radial, Enterprise single hander.

If the OOD doesn't understand your entry fully the results may be incorrect for other sailors, not just you.

When recording results -
Always show elapsed times for all handicap races (not Wed. evening pursuits.) If you don't, the results will be wrong.

Write clearly. You can always use a scrap sheet to record the results as they happen. Don't forget to complete the form fully afterwards - it has happened and we lost the whole day's racing.

If there is an unusual occurrence or you're not sure of something, let me know with a note on the sheet or by email or phone (see club diary).

Remember - I am not a mind reader. If someone finished a lap behind, or didn't finish at all, I need to be told.

ON THE WEB

I currently transfer the results to a programme which calculates the series scoring and then publishes them to the Club website. When I can that is as soon as possible after the day's racing, but if I'm away they will be delayed unless someone else stands in. You can sign up on the club's home page to a notification service so you receive an email when the results are changed, rather than having to keep checking. Thanks are due to Mark Cresswell who set up the website, and James Le Couilliard who taught me all I know, but can't be blamed for my mistakes.

If you see any errors or you think something may be wrong, don't hesitate to let me know through the club contacts page or give me a ring. I would rather know quickly as sometimes a later change will rely on someone's memory at the time.

LAYING-UP SUPPER

The final results are agreed by the Sailing Secretary in time for presentation of trophies at the annual Laying-Up Supper.

Jim Strother

The amazing world of sailing rules

Any spectator from the country park will wonder, what makes these little boats on Aldenham reservoir go about their way, sometimes very slowly and sometimes in a rather hectic manner, without bumping into one another. There must be some rules. Similiar thoughts may have crossed your mind whilst racing towards the windward mark.

To clear up this mystery the first ever Rules Evening was held on September 16th at the clubhouse. Expertly presented by James le Couilliard with the enthusiastic support of our commodore, the 23 attendants were informed about the detailed meaning of hails like 'WATER!', 'NO WATER!' or similar. With an ongoing questions-and-answers session.

Several lessons were learned, including the fact that it makes sense to know and observe the rules, however complex they may be to begin with. But one of the outcomes was also, as James put it *"If you're hugging a rule, you're definitely mistaken. Sailing is the art of keeping clear!"* And who

has not experienced that, whilst battling it out with the next boat, the others are passing to windward? So common sense must prevail.

An eye-opener was the explanation, what 'three boat lengths' means in reality for an Enterprise sailor. First, he (or she) has to allow for the fact that the measurement counts from the bows of his boat and he's sitting at the back. And then, Enterprises seem to be longer on land than they look on the water. To cut a 'long' story short - three boat lengths, as seen by the helm of an Enterprise, are about equivalent to the entire length of the clubhouse. Bear that in mind when coming round the next windward mark. And what counts is the length of the boat nearer the mark, if they are different. So if it's an Illusion, this is your lucky day.

Thanks and appreciation also have to go to Rebecca Lonsdale, David Reed and Mark Donnelly for organising the supply chain with delicious fish and chips plus free soft drinks of the famous Britvic brand!

And everything on the water, James summarised, even on cup racing day, and whilst neck-and-neck racing, should utimately be governed by the advice given by Paul Elvström:

Winning is no victory,
if in doing so,
you lose the respect
of your competitors.

Wilf

PS - Other themed evenings are under preparation for the winter season!

Club Boats

The club has a small number of boats that are available for hire in time periods ranging from half a day upwards. **We have 8 Oppies, 6 Picos, 1 Enterprise, 1 Laser, 1 RS 200** (on loan for 2009).

Fees for 2009 are: Enterprise - £80 per race series, Laser - £80 per race series, Picos - £80 per annum/£10 per half day, Oppies - £40 per annum /£5 per half day (the fees for 2010 will be published after the AGM).

The fleet and all the bookings are looked after by Roger McCartney (contact him via the website link). Roger will be very pleased to help with bookings and also to receive payments for the use of the boats or answer questions about accessing the equipment. Please do book the use of boats in advance. Please also note that these fees (eg annual fees) do not cover exclusive use of the boat unless booked for a specific race series or time. Currently pre-booking does not apply to the Oppies but if you are planning to use one, please check that it does not clash with any training courses. For details check the club website, under 'Club Boats' in the menu section.

Contact the Aldenham Owl by e-mail:
owl@aldenhamsc.co.uk

If you have something to say to all members, your fleet or any other group within the club, send it in. No charge, even for private adverts. Race results, holiday experiences, family news, articles lost, wanted or for sale, helpful suggestions, friendly comments. Obviously, all info is given in good faith, but without any guarantee for correctness etc.

Contact: Wilf Kunze, 40 Poplars Farm Road, Kettering NN15 5AG, e-mail: owl@aldenhamsc.co.uk

To receive the OWL by e-mail just send your own e-mail address to: owl@aldenhamsc.co.uk

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Enterprise Open Meeting Sunday 27th September 2009

A game of patience... Photo: Mark Cresswell

High pressure and a forecast of calm or light airs may have reduced the turnout this year but a respectable fleet of 10 boats was rewarded with some competitive racing over 3 races in light variable north westerly winds characterised by unpredictable and large shifts.

The first race was won by Kevin and Scott Bilham (Ely SC), closely followed by Phil and Laura Bevan (Grafham SC) and John and Molly Wells (Ely SC). The leading three boats established an early lead and remained well ahead while calms and light airs dogged the rest of the fleet.

The second race saw much closer racing with Phil Bevan losing out on the last leg when the leading 4 boats realised they were heading for the wrong mark of the sausage/triangle course. The finish was extremely close with John and Mollly Wells leading round the last mark, followed closely by Antony Cole and Andrew Holmes (Aldenham SC) and Kevin and Scott Bilham (Ely SC). With all three boats, abeam and within metres of the line on a downwind finish, Antony and Andrew managed to edge their bow ahead and over the line to take first place, the first home boat to win a race the ASC Enterprise Open for some years!

After lunch the wind filled in slightly and became more westerly for the third race on a dogleg course. Well meant suggestions about Aldenham sailors needing more starting practice seemed to spur Les Smith and Cathy Littlejohn to up their game for the third race. Les established a clear lead from the start followed by Antony and Phil. The second and third lap saw Les's lead gradually eroded and produced some very close racing that, from the shore was very interesting to watch - especially at the leeward mark where the jockeying for position was, to say the least, entertaining on at least 2 legs where several boats met. Kevin and Scott lost out because they decided to cover Antony and Andrew rather than Phil and Laura, who achieved a well-deserved 1st place and became overall winners of the 2009 ASC trophy.

Thanks to all competitors and volunteers, especially Steve Sharpe OOD and the AOD's for well-run races and good courses, and to Tim Ross-Esplan and Louise Halle for a fantastic lunch.

Antony Cole
ASC Enterprise Fleet Captain

Delicate boat handling and full concentration required!