

BRIGHTLINGSEA ONE DESIGN

Autumn 2008 SAILING REPORT, AND OTHER NEWS

This has been an exceptional and exciting season for the class. In a summer of mixed weather, the competitive status and numerical strength of the fleet has returned to bear comparison with any period in its history. Eight of the races counted eleven or more boats. We have every reason to be pleased with ourselves - and every reason to look forward and further capitalise on the wonderful suitability of the boat to our sailing waters, and the great sporting, social and community spirit it engenders.

"Bring your friends" - well over a hundred have enjoyed the racing this season and plenty more have cruised or been on one of Nick's well catered trips to Rowhedge and elsewhere.

For those who like statistics, (and counting Pyefleet Week with 15 boats as one race), the overall average racing turnout for the season was 8.1 boats against 6.2 in 2007. Taking the best ten entries to allow a few "discards" for weather and weddings the average rose to 9.6 against 6.8 last year.

Turning to the results, if any pecking order holds at all it is by the skin of its teeth, with five boats winning trophies. The faster boats have progressively less scope for improvement and this is now clearly evident in the upward compression of the fleet.

Jack Wills in "Sarah Louise" broke into the top three in his first Pyefleet Week with some determined sailing and despite an unfashionable rigid mast. In an enthralling Ladies race, eleven rather focussed boats finished within ten minutes with just twenty-seven seconds separating the first three. Congratulations to Ladies champion, Julie Eeles, sailing "Avocet" and to Sue Saker who won the CYC R.V. Crook trophy - and many thanks to Tom and the CYC for the lovely tea party at the prize giving.

As if to sum up the season twelve boats contested the final CYC race in glorious autumn sunshine, and sailing that typified the competitive trend. Continuous place changing saw the Vergemere Trophy decided by a single point and persistence rewarded with a best ever result for our lovely "Ruff lot".

So thanks and congratulations to everyone for the competition and for your continued support, win or lose. Sure, under the stars, the result of a sailing race cannot possibly matter? - but somehow it does! Fortunately in the B.O.D. fleet, the frustrations quickly turn positive, and up goes the ante for the next race!

Speaking of which, surely we are due a really good summer soon?! One with a string of races beating out against a summer sea breeze, in T shirts, and sunglasses - oh and those refreshments afterwards - see you there. Meantime many thanks to both Clubs for their support, and to Bernie and Ian and the Harbour Commissioners for theirs. Thanks to Tom and all for the Pyefleet Week party (what a week it was!) - and a massive thank you once again to Nick, Pam, and Richard Readings for all the COD duties this year with their rib. We know how precious Sundays are, and we are very aware how many of yours you give up, - thank you.

(Trophy winners, 2008 - Avocet, Gelasma, Egret, White Magic, Jean)

PEOPLE and BOATS

Keith Clubb, "Dulcet", and Phil Rust

Keith has owned and raced "Dulcet" for over thirty years, he told me that in his first season he was last in every race! - but has gone on to win numerous trophies including Pyefleet Week and the Vergemere Trophy on many occasions.

Keith is retiring from continuously active racing and we thank him for his competitiveness, his fairness, and his humour, - and the massive contribution he made to the fleet as chairman for many years. We wish Keith well with his other pursuits, inevitably competitive! His involvement with the B.O.D.s continues as a valuable member of the General Purposes Committee, and half owner of C9, "Bidi", - and I would be extremely surprised if he manages to avoid racing altogether. A very warm welcome to Phil Rust and family, the new owners of "Dulcet". Phil is a past Commodore of the Sailing Club and a keen fleet racer, previously in GPs, ISOs and RS400s.

More Competition

Reg White started sailing in B.O.D.s in 1950, firstly in C5 "Sybil" and later in the new "White Magic". Then, with John Osborn, Reg went on to become the Olympic champion in the Tornado catamaran class, in Montreal in 1976.

We are honoured to welcome him, and his son Mark, back to the fleet for 2009 in their new GRP boat (which MG is finishing from a shell) - really great to have you both.

Similarly John Mullins began sailing in the class as a young lad in the 1950s - crewing and keeping his head down! - then to great success building and sailing "Blue Peter" in the 1960s. And now after setting up the project, building the fourth GRP boat for himself.

Set up on the jig and ready for the bulkheads and deckbeams, the work proceeds immaculately as ever! John tells me that the decks will be conventionally finished this time, rather than teak, and he has already rigged his new Z spar 170 mast and successfully trialled it in "Gelasme".

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The committee continues to take direct action on various minor matters, and present the more critical ones to the membership for general consideration and voting. This autumn the spinnaker measurement rules are being scrutinised, and the provision of an "A" frame for mast stepping and removal has been agreed. Also several Sailing Club trophies have come to light, and re-allocated within the present racing. Do contact any member of the committee with any matter or raise it at the AGM.

Moorings/Drysailing

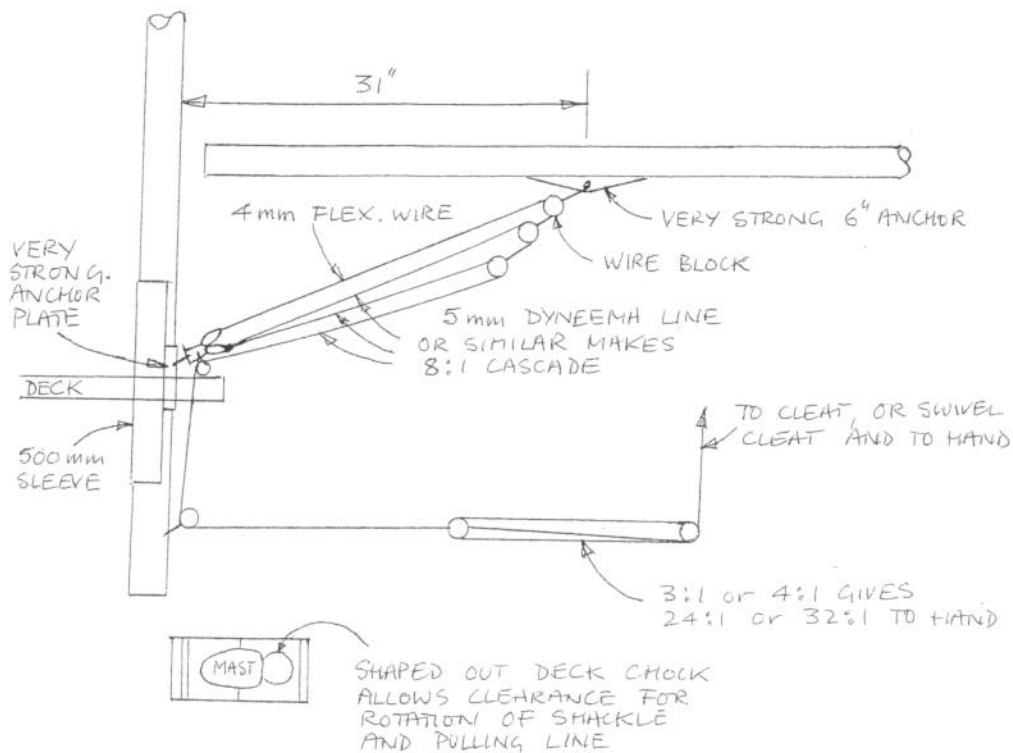
Do please book your 2009 moorings promptly when the forms come round in December. Don't let's lose any B.O.D. moorings if general demand increases. Newcomers please contact the Harbour Office (302200) at the earliest opportunity and get on the list and in the queue.

Drysailing is an increasingly valid and attractive option - again book early either for the Colne Yacht Club yard (cheapest overall option) or Park and Ride, as there may be increasing pressure on space next year.

Technical

The first mast to the new rule, a Z Spar 170, looks well, and reacts as predicted set up in the boat and sailing. At least three will be sailing next year including one available for you to try, via the Association. - Apply to Alan Hicks on 07719899880 or 01206 304020. Many thanks to Alan and Craig for rigging the mast.

The above the deck kicking strap has given such good service on C11 that Alan says he would not go back to the usual system with its attendant problems of binding on the centreplate and cockpit coaming. He also comments that the additional clearance for the crew was instantly missed when they sailed on another boat! So here it is again:



Please comment on the Tuning Guide published in January, - scanning it again myself it still looks fine. A lot to take in though, and it might well be worth another look in the light of the seasons racing. If all else fails have another go at the list of priorities on page 2.

Keeping the bottom clean is definitely a priority, and will make a critical difference especially in light weather when skin friction is the primary brake. Supermarket stainless steel pan scourers are brilliant! - and quick, especially on coppercoat, or enamel, but also on hard anti-fouling, cheap too!

Racing Courses

The best of the set courses are as intended and have, I think, provided some good racing (please comment). Also Dave Gibbons set a fine windward/leeward from the committee boat on the last day of Pyefleet Week - a format which would definitely stand repeating on the right occasions.

Unfortunately two of our set courses persistently fail to give a proper beat. It turns out that the bearings of BB/Coc and Gaz/Coc are not as assumed and those courses will be shifted round one and new course cards printed for 2009.

The facility to shorten course at any mark on CYC races has proved rather useful on several occasions. Only possible, of course, because the races are started and finished by committee rib. Even in light winds a standard long course can be set with confidence and the race duration nicely controlled - Mike Hempstead's idea.

BSC Thursday evening series

Very low tides on alternate weeks and strong winds at times unavoidably affected the courses and the racing. Whether or not the B.O.D. (and the Laser/others) are fairly handicapped is under review by Dave Gibbons at the Sailing Club. Next years tides will alternate between half in and half out on Thursday evenings instead of high one week and very low the next - so if we get some good weather ...

Subscriptions

Association subscriptions, from this autumn, are £20 for owners and £10 for Associate members. Please be kind enough to pay direct to the secretary (Tom Sargeant, 5 Oyster Tank Road, Brightlingsea).

As well as regular costs such as mailings, tea-parties and prizes, recent Association expenditure has included weighing equipment, Boat Tuning Guide and Course Cards. Imminent costs include class rules booklets and mast "A" frame.

Taking a broad view the Association continues to foster the heritage, and the wider interests of what it regards as a design classic, and a local treasure. For that reason, while it is affordable, the mailing list is not entirely restricted to the membership. Your support is very much appreciated.

DATES

B.O.D. AGM 10.30 a.m. SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2008 at CYC
LUNCH PARTY afterwards at 23 Tower Street.

Pyefleet Week 2009, Sat 1st to Sat 8th August
(Avoiding Mersea Week but clashes with Cowes)

This winter's social programme is planned to include a (partly nautical!) quiz with a very fine buffet at CYC during February and the B.O.D. dinner in April.

Please bring any ideas for next summer's programme to the AGM. It is likely to be similar to 2008 with around twelve Sunday class races split between the two Clubs, plus Wivenhoe, Rowhedge, and CYC Regattas, Pyefleet week, and the Ladies Race.

Boats

For new readers brief confirmation that, as well as the racing fleet, we do have track of every other existing B.O.D. - (30 in total out of an original 38, plus currently four new GRP boats.) And that several are available "from stock" at various levels.

Local Businesses/Suppliers

Z Spars (Craig Bond) 01473 822130
Advantage sails/covers (Mark Self) 07909 542138
Speedline Trailers (Barry Fountain) 307788 or 07790 676999
Hart Metalcraft (trolley - Steve Hart) 01206 822017
John Mullins (GRP boats, first contact) 01621 783320

Next day national mail order Chandler

Sailboats.co.uk tel. 01604 720500

B.O.D. website (thanks again, Lance!)

www.bseeonedesign.net

Malcolm Goodwin 01206 823223

Tom Sergeant (secretary) 01206 302035

Excess 100 copies to owners, crews, members and friends.

STOP PRESS:

"Avocet" changes hands - Welcome to Jeremy Newmen and his family (another world champion and Olympian!) now looking forward I know to all that the B.O.D. has to offer, both racing and cruising.

Many thanks to Geoff for his enthusiasm and generosity, frequently loaning the boat when he couldn't sail it, and not least for chasing round the wilds of Suffolk picking up derelict B.O.D.s!