

# DEE SAILING CLUB



Station Road, Thurstaston, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 0HN  
[www.dee-sc.co.uk](http://www.dee-sc.co.uk) [webeditor@dee-sc.co.uk](mailto:webeditor@dee-sc.co.uk) 0151 648 2300

## Commodores Report

By Mike Hilton

I have now been in the job for three months now and there have been some major changes down at the club. Since the Open Forum the various committees and individuals have worked extremely hard to put the membership ideas into reality. The clubhouse has been transformed internally to something we can all be proud of. We now have training and sailing on Saturday on the Dee, sailing on West Kirby lake on Monday. There has been training for Wayfarer sailors in the use of a RIB and Dawpool. A new sub-committee has been organised with our ex-president Mike Shillaker heading looking into building a new boat shed.

We had our Open Day on the 19th May, which was extremely well attended due to fantastic press coverage. However the wind got the better of us, so we were not able to take out any potential new members. Members did a fantastic job talking to

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our guests and showing the various boats parked on the lawn. We did have three cats go out for a blast. Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 also were out and performed wonders with two rescues.

The club has suffered bad luck with the boats this year – Dawpool suffered a broken fuel line, now fixed. Dee Rescue broken cogs in the gearbox, away being fixed. Dee Rescue 1 lost its oil from the leg, fixed by our supplier. Dee Rescue 2 electrical burn out, the engine has been replaced with a new four-stroke, we are hoping to fix the old engine and sell it on.

The Dart Open was a great success on several fronts even though numbers were slightly down. The use of external race officers was seen by all to be of great value. We hope to use them again for next years Dart Open. The Saturday night party was very well attended and great fun, with the usual games afterwards.

There is a lot to look forward to this coming season so lets hope the weather is kind to us all.

Happy sailing

Mike Hilton

## Social Diary Dates

**Saturday 16 June – Greek Night**

**Sunday 24 June – Commodores Cruise**

**Saturday 14 July – Hog Roast**

**Saturday 8 September – Civilised Evening**

**Saturday 27 October – Halloween Party**

**Sunday 9 December – Prize Giving**

**Saturday 15 December – Christmas Dinner**

**Sunday 16 December – Children's Party**

**Wednesday 19 December – Christmas Carol**

## CLUB CLEAR UP 2007 – DYSFUNCTIONAL/ABANDONED ITEMS TO BE DESTROYED/REMOVED

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The General Committee is concerned at the amount of boats, boat parts, trailers and other items which are left about the Club Premises (particularly, but not exclusively, in the Back Field) and which appear to be dysfunctional or to have been abandoned.

The Committee, therefore, gives notice that it intends, on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007, to institute arrangements for the destruction and/or removal from anywhere on the Club Premises of all and any items which appear to be dysfunctional or to have been abandoned. In order to minimise the cost to the Club of this tidying up exercise (and perhaps, even, to add to the Club's coffers) it is intended to seek to recover and dispose of as much scrap metal as possible.

If any member owns any item which might be destroyed/disposed of pursuant to this exercise and which he/she wishes to retain (and in respect of which storage charges are fully paid), he or she should contact the Hon. Secretary to arrange to meet on site, not later than 30 June 2007, formally to identify the item in question and to mark the item with the owner's identity. IN ALL OTHER CASES, THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DESTROY/DISPOSE OF SUCH ITEMS WITHOUT LIABILITY ON THE PART OF THE CLUB, ITS OFFICERS OR MEMBERS.

The General Committee feels sure that members will value this approach to keeping the Club premises in an acceptably tidy state.

David Edmundson  
Hon, Secretary

### Social Activities

The Clubhouse is open every Friday evening from 6pm, following the recent redecoration and implementation of an outdoor smoking policy. Gather at the club for an after-work wind-down from 6pm, with the family, or without! It's the ideal way to plan your weekend's sailing strategy, and failing that, it will get you out of making tea. (Just remember to pick it up the way home). For the more romantically inclined, why not enjoy a sun-downer together, watching a fabulous sunset over the Welsh hills beyond the estuary.

Note: Sunsets must be ordered in advance and will be made available at the bartender's sole discretion.

### **Greek Night**

A night of greek food, music and dancing has been organized for the 16<sup>th</sup> June starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from behind the bar on Wednesday evening, Friday Evening and Sunday afternoon.



*Get your tickets from behind  
the bar for the Greek Night.  
Buy them now as numbers are  
limited!!*

## LBSA

By Mike Shillaker

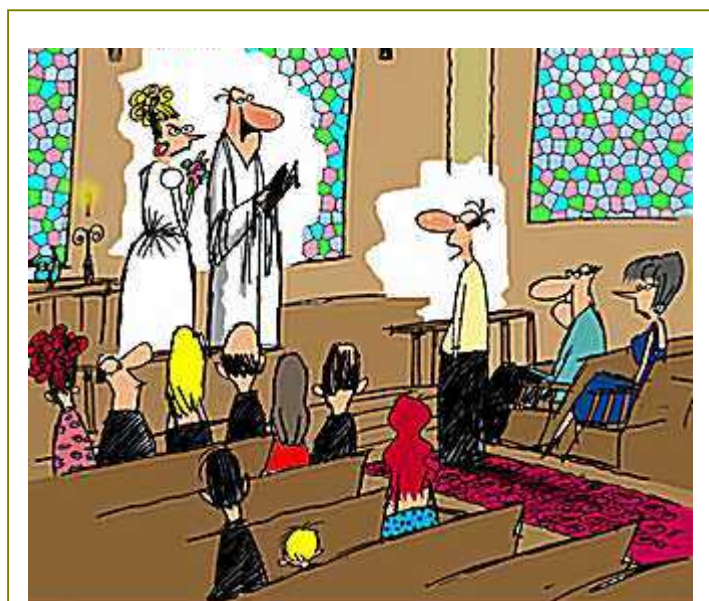
Denis Benson my partner of some 14 years in Dilemma has now become an octogenerian and feels he would like to ease down. We would like to see the boat stay in the club so if there are any keen cruiser/racer sailors who would like a 1/3, 1/2, share or buy the boat please contact us on 342-3604 or 342-1733.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Andrew and Jenny Hiscocks. Jenny is expecting their second child in October and this means that Wild Oats will not be sailing in the 2008 season. Colin Trantom and David Edmondson are also thinking that this season could be their last in Slipstream.

However, this could be a good time for the LBSA to take stock of itself. At present we have 3 Hunter Deltas (price circa £10K) and 2 Super Seals (£15K+) in the fleet.



*Hunter Delta under Spinnaker*



*"Jim called to say he apologizes to you and the 300 guests, but he'll have to marry you next week instead. He totally forgot he made plans to go to a boat show this weekend."*

There is more than ample room for a moored one-design fleet at Thurstaston and there is a feeling that we should go for a smaller boat priced at circa £5K. Unfortunately, the fibreglass Hilbre was never made but there are at least 3 designs (see June PBO p66) which could fit the picture. Hunter, Sonata I/k, Caravela 22 I/k and Foxterrier I/k

What are YOUR views? Anyone interested in following up these thoughts PLEASE contact us on the above numbers.

Finally, on behalf of the Heswall and Gayton Ladies Lifeboat Guild, Denise Shillaker would like to thank the club members who gave invaluable help in the collections in Tesco and the streets in 2006 on Flag days – Rod Walker, Stuart Marsden, Denis Benson, Colin Trantom, Don Smith, Dave Fagan, Roger Davey, Len Quinton and past member Doug Griffiths. Collection day this year is on Sat 1st September!!!

## Dart 18

By James Douglas

The season started in March with the Warmup series which was interrupted by a good deal of windy weather. Pete Spedding won the series.

For the Spring series we had a change of boat owner as Pete Clements took on the Dart 18 from Mike Johnson. Welcome to the fleet! We also welcome Roger Sanders back on the scene, whilst he had the boat last year then he is now a regular supporter.

This year the series structure has been slightly modified to have a 'Premier Series' (they have it in football and rugby so why not us!), which runs along side the normal series. The idea is to have a series which does not clash with any Dart 18 Grand Prix events and/or major optimist events (so the Dad's can guarantee to be there!). So far the idea seems to be working with turnouts good for these days.

## Dart 18 Events

**Dart 18 Inland Nationals**, 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> June, Datchet Water SC

**Grand Prix 4**, 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> July, Snettisham Beach SC

**Grand Prix 5**, 21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> July, Helensburgh SC

**World Championships**, 27<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September, Lake garda, Italy.

**Grand Prix 6**, 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> September, Royal Yorkshire YC

**Grand Prix 7**, 22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> September, Pentewan Sands SC

**Grand Prix 8**, 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> October, Parkstone YC

**Singlehanded Championships**, 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> October, Rutland Water SC



*Dart 18's on the Beach at the annual Dart open at Dee.  
Photo by Dave Clements*

The regular travellers, Will /Amy and Gareth (+Simon Moruzzi when he can) have been flying the flag for the club at Dart 18 events at Bognor and Stokes Bay. The Dart 18 fleet as normal came to DSC for the Easter open which was a great success with 11 DSC entries out of 26 with Pete and Will in the hunt in 3rd and 4th place respectively.

Will and Simon were at the Dart 18 nationals in Weymouth over the Whit bank holiday. Unfortunately due to bad weather the event was void as not enough races took place to decide the championship.

There are a couple of boats on the market for reasonable prices so if anyone knows of anyone who wants some good one design racing (single handed also possible) then let me know.

Finally some of the helms might be a bit over 40 but good to see a regular set of under 18 crews out in the fleet.



## Fast Cat News

By Simon Stannard

It has already been an interesting year for the Fast Cat fleet. The season started with early rumours that we would be joined by another Spitfire. As the only Spitfire sailor at the club for the last couple of years, I was particularly keen for this rumour to materialise into reality – not least, to demonstrate that 16 foot spinni boats are manageable and fast. Richard Stacey finalised his deal in mid February, resulting in a sister for White Tiger. Richard set out to even things up as quickly as possible, balancing relative inexperience of the boat with a crew from the same mould as my own, with the added advantage of weighing in at a stone or two lighter. So, not only Spitfire versus Spitfire, but brother versus brother! A hearty welcome goes out to Alex Harris. Richard almost won the first race of the season, being narrowly pipped at the post after leading the entire race. He's been less fortunate since, dislocating his knee in the deciding races for the Spring Series, again falling at the last – he'd topped the table for the entire Series until that point. Rich is recovering well and talks of getting back on the boat during the Summer Series – we have our fingers crossed.

Even older rumours, long since dismissed as fantasy, also proved to be well founded after all when Ian Kirk appeared out of nowhere in March. We'd heard that he was considering a move to Dee a year ago, but it turns out that an accident had stopped all sailing for him last year. But we'd heard nothing since, so when he pulled up at the club with an F18 (Klingon – geddit?), a completed membership application and his fees in folding beer tokens, I was well chuffed. He's sailing with his nephew, Andrew, who is new to sailing and in jumping straight onto an F18 has a steep learning curve ahead of him. Klingon is out every week, so their experience will develop quickly – and they already have proved themselves to be very effective upwind. A bit more practice with the kite and they'll be flying. [I don't wish to carp here but

I'm sure that Ian Kirk's boat is called Klingon 2 and I assumed that was because there was nothing to cling on to! Ed]

Would you believe it? Another new arrival: towards the end of last season, Rob Lucking asked me what I thought of putting a spinni on his Dart 16. I didn't want to knock it per se, recognising that the 16 has many advantages, but I can't say I was overly enthusiastic and suggested he ask people with more experience of using one. Then I realised that for a similar price, he'd be looking at a 'proper' spinni boat. With good timing, Rob sold his boat in early May and was the proud owner of an F18 about a week later. Ali had just decided not to sell his Prindle 16 after all, but figured he really only needs two cats – so Deelerium and Rob were introduced post haste, and the rest is history. Rob is a 'quiet' sailor, who knows his ropes. His potential was seen for what it is in his first race: Jonathan and I were thinking that Klingon was going well upwind again, closing on us even, until we realised it was Deelerium – on Rob and Arthur's maiden voyage! They scored a second with five boats racing.

Graham and Nigel have outgrown Scare Dee Cat, so with another change of ownership of the 'other half' completed in Spring, Animal is getting a regular ride out. The Beast is a much better proposition for this pairing, who have also started to crank it up in a windward direction. Unfortunately, the Beast is having a rest after the previous-but-one co-owner took the current co-owner for a demonstration sail during Open Day... Animal will soon have a new mast to compliment her new bridle and front beam. She was already the newest Nacra 6.0 in the country – and after her refits, she's increased the margin considerably.

Mark's shift patterns are playing havoc with his sailing time, but he and Kate have kept themselves sharp, giving White Tiger a good chase whenever they're out. It looks like they'll need to get sharper though if they want their dinner bought for them at the end of the year! There's a private 'series' going on, with a meal out at stake...

Pieter Gregory has also raced regularly, using both boats as needs dictate. It's good to see all the spinnaker boats out, and even better when Pieter has Pitch Pole Pete, his Nacra 6.0, on top form, challenging for the windward mark. The other stalwarts have finally made it out of hibernation, and now find a much bigger field to contend with. Last year Colin and Mike were chasing us around and causing trouble. This year they have a few more boats to get past!

All in all, it has been a good start to the Fast Cat year, with a regular hard core of six sailors out most weeks, and a sudden boost to the number of spinnaker boats – they're now the norm rather than the exception. If anyone is wondering why, it's because they are so much FUN! Just ask one of us if you'd like to have a go.



*Richard Stacey and Alex Harris racing in the Spring series. Photo by Kate Spark.*

## Fast Cat Events

**Spitfire TT**, 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> June, North Devon YC

**F18 TT**, 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> June, Worthing

**Spitfire TT and F18 TT**, 30<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> June, Eastbourne

**F18 Europeans**, 7<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> July Lake Como, Italy

**F18 Nationals**, 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> August, Weymouth

**F18 TT and Spitfire TT**, 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> September, Stokes Bay SC

## Useful Websites

[www.catamaran.co.uk](http://www.catamaran.co.uk)

[www.f18.org.uk](http://www.f18.org.uk)

[www.spitfiresailing.org.uk](http://www.spitfiresailing.org.uk)

[www.arubaregatta.com](http://www.arubaregatta.com)

[www.f18euro2007.eu](http://www.f18euro2007.eu)

## Junior Handicap Dinghies

By David Harris

So far the Junior Handicapped fleet has consisted of 3 Mirrors, helmed by Julie Griffiths, Charlie Ewing, Paul Oliver, and 2 Toppers with Jacob Waterhouse and Alex Harris at the helm. Jonathan Harris's Mirror is still undergoing intensive refurbishment and time will tell if it will ever see any water this year. (You simply cannot get the land crew these days). Occasional Topper sailors have also been Rachel Harris and Diane Griffiths.

Alex is in the lead at present, closely followed by Julie, who has had a variety of crews, most of whom usually end up making sure Julie has a swim and gets her hair wet.

Jacob, who is one of our younger Juniors, has shown tremendous progress and skill in helming his Topper and has now progressed to banishing his Dad, Nigel, to the jetty. It has been lovely to see Cameron Douglas recently with his newly acquired Laser 4.7 but obviously national and international commitments mean that Cameron is frequently sailing away. Good Luck Cam for the next GB series! Robert Douglas is now following in his big brothers' footsteps and is helming his optimist confidently.

(See the Oppie Fleet captain's report for more bath tub details). Visiting recently were Charlotte and Hannah Brown with their RS Feva, who have been getting to grips with their asymmetric spinnaker in light winds. Well done girls! Pete Thompson has also been down with his Mirror. Hopefully we will see his daughters on the water soon.

Finally remember you are never too old or too important to helm a Mirror. Even our previous Captain and newest Spitfire helm has taken the opportunity to test –drive one, reaching land safely in a vertical not horizontal position!



*The Junior Dinghy Fleet*

## Optimists

By Pete Spedding

Many of the major achievements of the Oppy fleet have been well documented both on the website and National Press.

Michael and Cameron continue their upward spiral physically and in their sailing exploits you'll see them in the results of all the major championships home and abroad. Its maybe an unfortunate development that when you get to the top in Oppies you have to move on, so over the next year or so I 'm sure they'll be getting involved in bigger boats. You'd better keep a look out and avoid whatever class they next choose..unless you want some hard racing.

Alex Douglas and James Hazlewood meanwhile are getting going and developing well participating in local and national events while being trained via the Zone Squad.



*Optimists racing on the lake on New Years Day*



*Cameron Douglas Sailing at West Kirby Marine Lake on New years Day*

So what of everyone else – thats an untold story. James Douglas (Cam, Alex and Robert) and Simon Moruzzi (Michael and Katie) have demonstrated what can be achieved giving up nearly every weekend. Roger Sanders (Abbey and Thomas), Tony Marston (Holly), Dave Ewing (Charlie) and of course special mention to Dave Harris and David Edmondson committed so much time and effort on Saturdays to help the children develop in this great sport. How I wish there were more names to list, maybe we should get Santa to give out lake licences at the Xmas party! Here we are running an Open day to attract more people to the sport but not getting our own children involved.

What have we to do??

There are club boats in great condition fettled and available to be sailed but no one queuing for them.

Training sessions at least every two weeks but nobody new shouting for help.

Top national sailors coaching and available for advice.

Treasure Hunt cancelled but nobody clamouring for a rerun.

Hurry up and come down before we all move on...