

# Nautical Notes

Newsletter – April 2013



## Dates at a Glance

### April

Sat 6th	Optimist Open
Sun 7th	Topper Open
	Spring Series A&B 5
Wed 10th	New Members Evening
Sun 14th	Catapult Open
	Spring Series A&B 6
	Spring Series A&B 7
Sun 21st	Family Picnic
Sat 27th	Family Picnic
Sun 28th	Spring Series A&B 8

### May

4th - 6th	Camping Weekend
	Youth Sailing Weekend
Sun 5th	Early Summer A&B 1
Mon 6th	5 Hour Race
Sat 11th	LWA Championships
	Members Guest Day
Sun 12th	Club Championships
18th - 19th	2000/Laser Vago Open
Sun 19th	Early Summer A&B 2
25th - 27th	Camping Weekend
Sat 25th	Enterprise Open
Sun 26th	Early Summer A&B 3
Mon 27th	Family Sailing and BBQ

## Bewl Valley Sailing Club Supports RYA Squad

Bewl Valley Sailing Club has been working hard helping Youth Sailors to progress into the RYA Squad System. This has been very successful and we have seen an increase in the number of young sailors being selected, which is great news!

The Club wishes to support these sailors further by offering any youth sailor, who is a member of an RYA squad, a discounted membership fee.

If you are interested in joining Bewl under this scheme please contact the club office for further information.

## Success for Hattie Cage

145 young sailors braved the wintry conditions at the Optimist Spring Championships on Mersea Island recently. Congratulations to Hattie Cage who achieved 1st Girl in the silver fleet Well Done!!



## New Members Evening

**10<sup>th</sup> April 8pm in the clubhouse.**

Come along and meet the Committee, Fleet Captains and staff while enjoying some light refreshments and discussing the vagaries of sailing/surfing at Bewl. Please let the office know if you are able to join us.

## Family Picnic

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Join us for a sail across Bewl and weather permitting, a picnic on the shore.

## Camping Weekends

**4th - 6th May and 25th – 27th May**

The weather must surely be warmer by then so why not have a great weekend camping in our field, with sailing just a short walk away.

Phone office, 01892 890930, to book a space

## Ladies Who Launch

Following last year's successful season, Ladies who Launch is starting again on Friday mornings, from 10.00am to noon, with lunch after the sail. An RYA instructor is on hand to help.

The cost is £10 per session but booking is essential, so please let the office know on 01892 890930 a few days in advance.

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## The Five Hour Relay Race

Monday May 6th.

You will need a team of AT LEAST 2 HELMS AND 2 CREWS but you could have more. It will be a race but also a fun family event I hope. See the posters in the Clubhouse for full details.

## Gaining New Members

Part of our mission as a club is to introduce as many people to our wonderful sport as possible.

As a club there is no secret we are under pressure in these trying times and increasing our membership is vital to our long term survival.

In addition to the sterling work done by the Training School introducing new members, this year we are also looking to our members to do what they can to introduce friends to the club.

### Guest Days – starting Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May

We are running a series of guest days where we strongly urge you to invite friends that you feel might be interested in sailing along to the club. We will have experienced members ready to take them out for a sail and the team on hand to make them welcome and introduce them to what the club can offer.

These will be fun days for all the family showcasing the “best of Bewl” we look forward to your support.

The first guest day is on **Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May** please ensure your guests are booked in advance, by contacting the office.

### Club Open Day – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June



This year’s open day will follow a similar format to last year’s successful event, save the date in your diaries, more news will follow.

If you can help on either of these events please get in touch with Trevor Spink  
oncomms@bowlvalleysc.co.uk

**Mike Wilcock - Commodore**

## Family Week

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 2nd August

Come and join us for a social extravaganza!

Family Week has been running for over 20 years and is the highlight of many members’ social calendar. Organised by volunteers, fun and frolics both off and on the water are the order of the day with prize giving every morning during the day’s briefing sessions. Camping is available and activities are organised throughout the day and evening. The galley is open for Breakfast, lunch and evening meals (special deals available) and a tab will be running to avoid the need to carry cash.



The programme of activities is yet to be finalised but will include:

- Cheese & Wine quiz
- Race Night (the gee-gees!)
- Quiz night
- Sail away and BBQ at Dunsters Bay
- The infamous Bewl’s Got Talent
- Square Dancing and Hog Roast Finale
- Games on the water
- Racing every morning
- Build a Raft Competition
- Tug of War, Rounders, Boule etc.

Friendly competition is enhanced by team captains heading up Starboard or Port both fighting for the commemorative plaque awarded at the end of the week – points are awarded for everything! Which team will you be on?

Bookings should be made through the club’s website and is a bargain at just £50 per Adult and £30 per Child plus additional £25 for guests. This cost includes all activities listed above plus many more. And while you’re at it, order your Family Week 2013 polo shirts as a good value keepsake. Book early on the website – Family Week is an annual sell out.



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## Notes from the RC sailing

I did always suspect that the 13 in 2013 would play its part in the year. For those of us who have wished to sail in the first 3 months it has been exceedingly disappointing. We have encountered rain, gales, snow, rain, flat calms, rain, freezing temperatures, rain, frost and yet more rain.

But congratulations to all of those who have ignored most of the above and enjoyed some challenging sailing in brisk winds. The Flying Fifteens do have the advantage of the keel, which does make them more problematic to launch and retrieve but, take my word for it, is a great comfort when sailing in strong winds. The Flying Fifteen Open meeting was successful even if the snow prevented too many visitors driving to Bewl. But alas the Beating of the Bounds could not take place. The onshore wind made Bewl look more like Brighton beach in a gale. Big brown waves crashed up the little shingle beach.

But I am hopeful the worst is past, we've beaten the hateful 13 and are now bound for a good season, sunshine and fair winds.

I look forward to seeing you sailing soon, or just enjoying watching others sailing.

**Jo (RC sailing) to be seen in the Fifteen with the blue and red spinnaker!**

## Flying Fifteen Open

Despite some testing weather conditions eight boats competed during the Spring Thaw Series. The trophy was won by two of the usual suspects, Eric Scott and Bill Whillock.



The weekend of 23rd/24th March saw the much planned Open Meeting. The weather forecast at the beginning of the previous week seemed

reasonably promising and hopes were high for a fifteen plus turnout. However, as the week progressed and snow set in around the UK the

hopes of attracting visitors to the much publicised event receded rapidly. In the end two boats, one from Chew Valley, Bristol and the other from Hayling Island braved the weather. They were joined by Robert Hogben and Glyn Morgan, with a Bewl based boat to provide a trio of National or World Championship crews. The fleet was completed by six regular Bewl Sunday race Series boats. The winds were surprisingly modest at Force three plus but were ENE to provide a daunting –6 degrees C. chill factor.

Despite these adverse conditions five high quality, closely contested races were provided by the dedicated and extremely cold Laser race team, based in the Orkney.

It was interesting to learn from the visiting crews the way that national Flying Fifteen racing is heading. The emphasis is on shorter (thirty five minutes plus) races with more up wind and downwind legs, at the expense of reaching legs. The latter has been found to provide more close and less processional racing and a number of the Bewl boats seemed to be accepting this thesis by the end of the two days sailing. The Bewl fleet will be canvassed on their views as to whether some of these features should be tried in the Sunday Series racing.

The winner overall, after particularly close racing between the first three crews, was the Hayling Island boat of Richard Lovering, an ex



Bewl sailor and currently designer of the Hyde Flying Fifteen sails. The first Bewl boat was, as anticipated Robert Hogben and Glyn Morgan, in third place.

The commitment of the Bewl Sunday Series boats to race in these extremely testing conditions and to make the meeting a success should be acknowledged and is much appreciated by the considerably relieved Fleet Captains

Robin Taylor and Jo Morgan  
Fleet Captains

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## Midweekers



### Percy's Report:

17 Midweekers enjoyed a trip to North Greenwich on the Thames Clipper followed by a meal at Garfunkels and a "Flight" on the Emirates cable car s over the Thames some 300ft above the river We could see the approach of a squall which after we had landed closed the cable cars for about an hour. We

then visited "The Crystal and an Exhibition on the enviroment. Finally a walk across Tower Bridge and to our delight it opened just as we got there. A very enjoyable day out

(This walk is being repeated on April 25<sup>th</sup> for those who missed it.)

Midweekers are now sailing on Wednesday afternoons, from 1.30 to 4.00pm. each week. We provide our own safety boat cover for the session and would welcome new members or visitors any time. If you can sail on Wednesdays, please either contact me or just turn up around 12.30pm, when we usually picnic outside (!) before going afloat.

Our winter walks have now finished – the last one was on one of the rare sunny – albeit still very cold - Wednesdays at the end of March, when John Wynne took 8 of us from Hadlow down to the River Medway, along the river and back to the Harrow pub. I was the token sole female but it was a great way to end the winter.

Mo Tiller Girl. Gull Spirit 2617  
01622 831529 or email [tillergirl2913@aol.com](mailto:tillergirl2913@aol.com)

## Laser Fleet Report

Congratulations to the hardier Laser sailors who have braved the winter elements and made it on to the water in the past few months. The extended cold and wet weather may be have put a lot of people off, but the good news is that the reservoir is now full to overflowing, ready for the warm dry summer ahead! For the racers amongst you we are keen to get your views on the best format for

racing to encourage the greatest numbers on to the water, such as numbers and length of races, types of course etc. For the non-racers who may be interested in starting to race what would encourage you to do so? I'll be in touch shortly to get your views. For the non-racers there are various events planned such as picnics - check out elsewhere in the newsletter and the website for more info. So dust off the centreboard and get on the water.

Finally, thanks to those from the Laser fleet and others who assisted in the running of the Flying Fifteen Open. The weather reduced the turn out but feedback from those that did attend has been very positive.

Martin - Laser 144922

## Fast Handicap Fleet

The winter may be clinging on but the Fast Handicap Fleet is doing well. In particular a warm welcome to Debbie and John, Debbie and Paul and James and crew Adrian all proposing to do battle in their newly acquired Xenons – kidnapped from the Slow Handicap Fleet! A welcome too to Alex who is crewing for Gavin in a Xenon until regular crew Martin can resume his duties – he absconded from the Saturday club. There is now a nice fleet of Xenons to add to the crowd on Sunday mornings. There is also a steadily increasing fleet of RS400s – the mean machines of the sailing world. The Xenons are, in my humble opinion, rather generously handicapped requiring the RS400s to be sailed particularly well to win. However recently some RS200s have also appeared on the Start line, sailed very well and are providing stiff competition. The Laser 2000 also provides excellent competition and it would be very pleasing to see more of our 2000 fleet on the Start line.

Not sure about racing and would like more info? Or wish to do a bit of crewing before actual racing? Then contact the Fast Handicap Fleet Captain who would be very pleased to help. The Bewl racing crowd are very welcoming. Want an opportunity to talk to the Fast Handicap Fleet Captain? I would welcome a chat at the New members meeting 8pm on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Yes it is for New Members but it is an ideal opportunity for anyone considering trying

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their hand at racing to ask questions and find someone who will make them welcome.

## Board Sailors Report

Hi fellow board sailors

I know it is still very cold out there and still snowing, and most of you have not dusted down your equipment and wet suits since last year but hopefully it will get warmer soon.

There are 3 dates in the calendar this year that the club has arranged for Andy Kerr to give his coaching. These are 28 April, 21st July, 21st September 2013

10 am - 4 pm all day!! a bargain for only £20

The coaching is not limited to purely windsurfing members, but open to all Bewl sailing members who have also windsurfed in the past and can benefit from his instruction. All those who have participated on the course before have confirmed they benefit regardless of whether you are intermediate or expert.

The club can also hire a board to you on the day if required, please speak to the front desk to clarify.

Please contact the Club directly to reserve places.

Tony Purkis Windsurfing fleet Captain.

[tony.purkis@gmail.com](mailto:tony.purkis@gmail.com)

## Life jackets

If anyone has a small child size life jacket they would be willing to donate to the club we would be very grateful. We are hoping to encourage families with young children to experience the joys of sailing in the Luger at the Open Day (note change of date now JUNE 8th), but need some life jackets for 4-6 year olds.

## Being official

Saturday afternoon races will probably have started by the time you read this and it would be wonderful to have some help in running them. It would be an ideal time for anyone who would like to try their hand as Race Officer, Deputy/ Assistant Race Officer, Results Secretary, to have a go. There will be little pressure and someone on hand to aid and abet you. Please contact Dave Radford in the Club office if you would like to give any of these a go.

## A Plea

Is there a kind soul out there who would be willing to hire/lend me a caravan for Family Week? I would look after it very carefully! Please contact Sue Humphries on [suzie.humphries@gmail.com](mailto:suzie.humphries@gmail.com) if you can help me.

## STOP PRESS....

### Training School Wins RYA Onboard Award.

The award is presented to the training school for their achievement in getting youngsters involved into sailing and windsurfing.



Award proudly being held by a younger member.

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Please submit content for next issue by 25th April 2013