



Grafham Water Sailability

Making Waves for Disabled Sailors

Autumn 2011

UK NATIONAL CHALLENGER CHAMPIONSHIPS

GW Sailability is hosting this event on **Saturday 1st to Monday 3rd October inclusive**. Meals will be available for a small cost on both Saturday and Sunday night. For details of accommodation and evening meals phone Grafham Water Centre on 01480 810521. The timetable for the 3 days is shown below.

SATURDAY 1st October 2011

Boats arrive on site during the morning and are built from their road trailers onto launching trolleys. Some assistance may be required.

The boat owners know exactly what is needed will explain this if they need help.

- 12.30 onwards: Complimentary sandwich lunch to all competitors and volunteer helpers.
- **Race 1.** Start time 14.00, launching the boats from 13.30 onwards.
- **Race 2.** Begins as soon as possible after the end of Race 1.
- The last boats should be off the water by 17.00 on Saturday afternoon.
- Supper at 18.30

SUNDAY 2nd October 2011

- **Race 3.** Start time 10.30, launching of boats from 10.00 onwards.
- **Race 4.** Back to back with Race 3. Boats should be ashore for lunch by 13.00.
- A complimentary sandwich lunch served to all competitors and volunteer helpers.
- **Race 5.** Start time 14.30, launching the boats from 1400 onwards.
- **Race 6.** Back to back with Race 5.
- The last boats should be off the water by 18.00.
- Supper at 18.30 followed by Challenger Class Association AGM.

MONDAY 3rd October 2011

- **Race 7.** Start time 10.30, launching of boats from 10.00 onwards.
- **Race 8.** Back to back with race 7.
- Last boats should be off the water by 13.00.
- A complimentary sandwich lunch served to all competitors and volunteer helpers at 13.30

THURSDAY SAILING

GWS sailing takes place at Grafham Water reservoir, Perry, Cambridgeshire just off the A1 at Buckden from April to October inclusive. We start at 1.00 pm on Thursdays. You can sail Challenger or Hobie Tandem Island trimarans. Both are very stable and so suitable for the disabled. You can sail with an instructor and later possibly sail solo. More disabled persons can sail in a large Drascombe lugger with an expert sailor



and 5/6 others. Racing under formal conditions takes place once per month. If you are able bodied then your help will be very welcome. You do not have to be an expert sailor but

if you are then you will probably be able to do some sailing.

BEDS AND CAMBS REGATTA

– 18 June 2011

This one day regatta is held each year on Grafham Water. It is an open regatta and so many different classes of boat take part. All of the GWS able bodied helpers were busy with other activities so the only GWS boat this year was sailed by David Campbell. Pauline Shaw and Ian Barrowman could not find enough helpers. The first challenger across the finish line was Kirsten Pollock followed closely by David Campbell.

FARMOOR CHALLENGER REGATTA – 18/19 July 2011

Farmoor Reservoir is just outside Oxford. Challenger regattas have been held there for many years. This regatta is a favourite normally attracting 25 to 30 boats. But this year only 11 boats took part. The cause of this worrying fact may be mainly present financial conditions. The only GWS boat this year at Farmoor was helmed by Judi Figures. On Saturday the weather was cold and wet and the winds very strong. At the end of a lively day Val Millward and Graham Hall both of Rutland Sailability were joint leaders. In Silver Class Patrick Mills of Oxford Sailability was outstanding Sunday was dry and the winds less strong. By the end of the afternoon Val and Graham were still joint leaders and everything depended on the last race. Both are outstanding sailors and their determination gave an exciting race. Each of them took then lost the lead. It was exciting for those on shore also. At the finish Graham crossed the line first winning Gold Class and was followed almost immediately by Val Millward. Patrick Mills won the Silver Class but was very closely contested by Diana Faulks who sometimes overtook Patrick. Bronze Class was won by E. Crees.

Final positions were:

- 1 Graham Hall
- 2 Val Millward
- 3 John Draper
- 4 Alex Hovden
- 5 Judi Figures.

LLYN BRENIG CHALLENGER REGATTA - 23/24 July 2011

For this regatta you leave the A5 and drive up into the hills. As you do so you can see the mountains of Snowdonia on the horizon. Llyn Brenig reservoir is in an attractive location. This regatta has always attracted a good number of Challengers - even some from Scotland. But this year there were only 4 visiting Challengers and the Llyn Brenig SC Challenger. John Heron the Scottish able bodied helper who recently died of cancer was sadly missed. The only GWS sailor in 2011 was Ian Barrowman sailing the Challenger belonging to Llyn Brenig SC. The winds were medium strength for both days except for the last race when they were light. During every race Val Millward and Graham Hall, both of Rutland Sailability, were the leading the leading boats. Behind them were Diana Faulks of Rutland Sailability and then a new sailor and then Ian Barrowman. The new sailor lives locally and sails at Llyn Brenig. He was loaned a boat brought from Rutland Sailability. Val and Graham closely contested the lead. Ian had problems keeping the sail close to the centre line of the boat when sailing to windward because of the old cleats. The rudder cleats also gave problems and he sailed one race with a rudder half up. Llyn Brenig SC is going to fit better cleats. The only race Ian did well in was the last race. The windward mark was close to the shore trees and there was almost no wind. Getting round the mark was nail biting. Ian was in third position for the entire race but Diana Faulks crossed the finish line just ahead of him. Results:

1. Graham Hall
2. Val Millward
3. Diana Faulks.

JUDI'S LAKE GARDA REGATTA

GWS sailor Judi Figgures races Skud monohulls as well as challenger trimarans. The Skud was not designed especially for the disabled but is sailed and raced by the disabled. It has a mainsail, jib and a spinnaker and is sailed by 2 persons. It is fast and leans over [heels] considerably. Judi's trip to Lake Garda in beautiful north Italy meant that a Skud had to be taken out there for her. That was done for her by Roger Smedley, her scud sailing buddy. Judi travelled on her own to Italy by budget airline. Unfortunately, this dream holiday did not reward Judi and Roger's hard work. Roger became ill because of an unusual allergy just before the start of this international Skud event and was ill for the rest of the regatta.

RUTLAND MULTI CLASS REGATTA - 12/13/14 August 2011

This is one of the biggest of the Regattas for disabled sailors. In 2011 over 60 boats took part. Many classes of boat took part - Challengers, Skud 18's, Artemis, Stratosboats, Rinsmans, Lasers, Neo495 boats, 2.4m Keelboats and various classes of Access dinghies. Friday was a training day but light winds meant few boats on the water.

Saturday dawned and to everyone's relief the winds were medium to strong. The winds stayed like that for the rest of Saturday and it was not cold so every sailor was expecting an excellent day. On this day each class of boat started to race at a different time. The crowded race conditions experienced on Sunday were absent on Saturday. It was an excellent day of racing. In the evening most of the competitors enjoyed a meal

together in Rutland sailing club's large clubhouse.

On Sunday the winds were possibly a little less strong than on Saturday but still they were medium to strong and again it was warm. This time every class of boat was going to start at the same time and sail the same course. It was going to be very crowded. The jockeying for the best position on the start line which is a very important part of success in boat races was nail biting. The crowded conditions led to a couple of collisions and some boats being damaged. The start line between buoy and the committee boat was short considering the number of boats. Many boats, big and small, sailed by very competitive helms all determined to cross the start line at the moment of the start signal [but not a second before] was something for our memory banks. It was not surprising that the committee boat had to signal a general recall because so many had crossed the starting line before the starting signal sounded. We would all have to start again. The windward mark was not too close to the shore and its trees so there was good wind for going round that buoy. But the large number of boats of all shapes and sizes meant that skill and thought had to be used to avoid a collision and a penalty. If a boat hits the buoy or another boat then it must sail through 360 degrees as a penalty, a committee boat is stationed at each buoy to ensure the rules are followed or a points penalty is imposed. In most races there are 4 or 5 or more boats at many such marks of the course.

Races can be won or lost rounding such marks [buoys]. After that the boats became more spread out but you can

never stop thinking in races like these if you want to do well.

On Sunday the winds stayed the same for the whole day and we sailed two races without leaving our boats. It is a good thing that each competitor had water bottles in their boats. The GWS members taking part were Judi Figgures sailing a Skud 18 with Roger Smedley, and Pauline Shaw and Ian Barrowman both in Challenger trimarans. Pauline Shaw distinguished herself by once again winning the silver cup of the Challenger group. Judi and Roger got 2nd place in the Skud 18 group. Ian Barrowman was 5th in the Challenger gold group and was the fifth Challenger across the finish line in 3 of the 6 races. He came last of all the boats in one race because of a rig failure. The first Challenger across the finish line on Sunday was sailed by John Draper of Burghfield [Reading] Sailability. This was an exciting weekend of races sailed in attractive surroundings by people with many disabilities, the popularity of this event was shown by sailors taking part who travelled from Devon or the Netherlands [and in past years 2 or 3 helms have travelled from Scotland].

WET WHEELS - THE HOBIE TANDEM ISLAND TRIMARAN

At GWS we have got a new class of boat, a Hobie Tandem Island Trimaran. Because it is a Trimaran it is very stable and can be sailed by a disabled person without moving from the seat. This Trimaran is good fun but cannot handle the strong winds that a Challenger can handle.

It was not designed especially for the disabled. Its injection moulded

polyethylene construction gives strength, durability and lightness. The outer floats can be easily moved toward the centre hull and getting into the seats is easy from a wheelchair. It is easily prepared for road towing. Its launching trolley can be easily moved onto its tow trolley. It is a 2-seater so can be sailed with a helper or instructor. The rig is unstayed so the only sail – its mainsail - is easily furled around its mast for quick depowering. It can be propelled by its pedals or by paddles so it is suitable for cruising. The middle hull on its own is a canoe. When it was demonstrated to GWS it was sailed by a blind member with a sighted buddy. All the GWS members who have sailed it are enthusiasts about it. This article was written with the help of GWS sailor, Pauline Shaw.



GWS Diary Dates

GWS sails every **Thursday** from **April to October inclusive** starting at about 1.00 pm **subject to weather conditions.**

Thursday 3rd November 2011

Lunch – meet at 12.30 pm at Brampton Park Golf Club

Thursday 10th November 2011

Meet at 1.30 pm in the cabin for discussion on any queries arising from Quiz No. 1 or any sailing matter.

Thursday 17th November 2011

Winter Racing takes place 10.30 am.

Thursday 1st December 2011

Lunch – meet at 12.30 pm at Brampton Park Golf Club

Thursday 8th December 2011

Meet at 1.30 pm in the cabin for discussion on any queries arising from Quiz No. 2 or any sailing matter.

Thursday 15th December 2011

Winter Racing takes place 10.30 am.

Thursday 5th January 2012

Lunch – meet at 12.30 pm at Brampton Park Golf Club

8th January 2012

The Grafham Grand Prix at Grafham Water Reservoir. Challenger trimarans and other classes of boat can take part in this New Year regatta.

Thursday 12th January 2012

Meet at 1.30 pm in the cabin for discussion on any queries arising from Quiz No. 3 or any sailing matter.

Thursday 19th January 2012

Winter Racing takes place 10.30 am.

Thursday 2nd February 2012

Lunch – meet at 12.30 pm at Brampton Park Golf Club

Thursday 9th February 2012

Meet at 1.30 pm in the Cabin for discussion on any queries on sailing matters.

Thursday 16th February 2012

Winter Racing takes place 10.30 am.

Thursday 1st March 2012

Lunch – meet at 12.30 pm at Brampton Park Golf Club

Thursday 8th March 2012

Meet at 1.00 pm in the cabin for discussion on the queries submitted to Roy

Thursday 15th March 2012

Winter Racing takes place 10.30am.

Thursday 29th March 2012

Preparation and cleaning of boats.

Thursday 5th April 2012

2012 sailing season begins