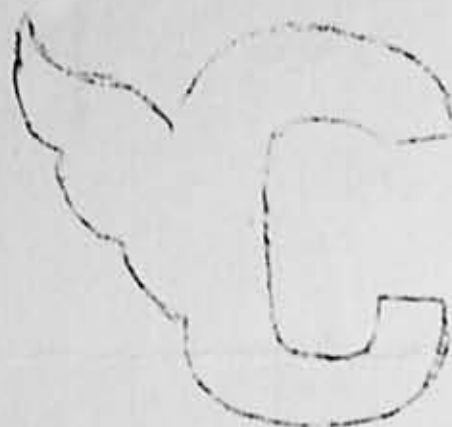


1980 NATIONALS
CHAMPIONSHIPS



PLYMOUTH
AUG 10-15

SEAFLY NEWSLETTER - JULY/AUG 1980

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HELLO PLYMOUTH!

This will be my last epistle before the Nationals. I understand from the Royal Corinthians that the entries have started arriving, but only a trickle as yet. Please do get them in as soon as possible. I've repeated the entry form again in the Newsletter together with the camp site booking form for the hardy individuals who'll be under canvas and for those who'll be enjoying the luxury of a home on wheels.

Judging by the number of inquiries I've been receiving there seems to be a healthy interest in the Seafly. Several people have contacted me since Picketts Lock asking for details about new and second-hand boats, and where they can get plans for home building. Just in case any of you are thinking of building your own Seafly plans can be obtained from Arthur Edmunds, Zygai Boats, The Harbour, Whitstable, Kent (Tel: 0227-272531). The £30 fee also includes the royalty payment.

The next Open Meeting is at Worthing on July 12/13 and the club is hoping for a good turn out. Please make the effort to travel. If you contact Alan Green (Worthing 63040) I'm sure he'll do his best to find you a place to lie your head. The first race is on Saturday at 1.30 p.m. with two on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Scovell way to Worthing gets a special mention later on.

You'll also be sure of a warm welcome at the other opens so please make a note in your diary:

July 12-13	Worthing Open
July 19-20	Starcross Open
Aug 10-15	Nationals - Plymouth
Aug 30-31	Blakeney Open
Sept 14-15	Seasalter Open
Oct 12	South Cerney Open

VIC'S TIPS

Information from "usually reliable sources" around the fleets indicates heavy money going on Highcliffe runners May, Black, Slater and McPherson occupying four out of the first six places in the Nationals, Latest starting prices: Mugger May and Dazzling Dave joint favourites, Big John 3-2, Young Arthur 3-1 and Boy Gray, each way treble. The Spitfire Kid, Vicious Vic and Ferocious Furlong (stewards inquiry).

COMMITTEE NEWS:

A committee meeting was held at Picketts Lock attended by Vic Birtles, Colin May, Jimmy Wren and Peter Gray. The following was agreed:

1. Helms have to be full members of the association to compete in the national championships and open meetings.
2. Worthing Y.C. recommended for 1981 championships.
3. The secretary would investigate possible inland venues for the 1982 championships. Graffham Water and Rutland Water were mentioned as two possible locations.
4. Concern was expressed about the situation regarding the current wood builder Dick Flower. Colin May was asked to contact Dick to find out if he was still interested in building wood boats.

5. Peter Gray was thanked for his work in re-writing the current rule book to clarify ambiguities and insert essential information to assist home builders in measuring. Essential information on measuring was still awaited from Ted May.
6. It was stressed that the re-writing of the rule book was not a rule changing operation, but merely a clarification exercise. Suggested rule changes arising from the revision will be dealt with separately and proposed at the AGM at Plymouth.
7. It was reported that the association's income from subscriptions barely covered basic administration costs and that officials were having to subsidise costs out of their own pockets. It was agreed to recommend to the AGM that membership subscription be doubled to £4 for full members and £2 for associate members.

Members are asked to note that any resolutions for discussion at the AGM at Plymouth must be notified in writing to the Secretary at least three weeks before the meeting.

Still wanted - Chairman for Seafly Association. No experience needed. Anything considered!

PICKETTS LOCK

This year the association mounted a respectable two boat stand at the Picketts Lock National Dinghy Exhibition in March. Vic Birtles and Brian Cooper (Blakeney S.C.) provided Brian Blogg's new wood boat and Colin May (Highcliffe S.C.) brought his championship winning foam sandwich boat, Also Amazing. The stand was manned throughout the weekend by the above with help from several members including Brian Howe (Seasalter S.C.), Alan Izzard (Fishers Green) and Peter Gray (Chew Valley). There was considerable interest in the Seafly and those on the stand were kept fairly busy all weekend dealing with inquiries about new and second-hand boats. Despite the hard work involved in organising and manning the stand, everyone agreed the effort well worthwhile.

WORTHING NATIONALS

Worthing Y.C. have agreed to hold the 1981 Nationals. The date will probably be the third or fourth week in August, depending on the tides. The organisers will try to keep away from the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Alan Green sent us this report on the Worthing contingent: "We are now, sadly, down to eleven boats plus one new one to come for Ray Howard from Colin May which we are all eagerly awaiting - Ray more than the rest of us. However, small as we are in numbers we make up for in enthusiasm. The first class points race had seven entries and yesterday there were nine on the water. Peter Scovell is still turning out new sails and several other boats have visited the sailmakers during the close season.

"One event that has pleased us all -- at last the RYA have harkened to our plea that the Portsmouth Yardstick should be 113 on a par with the Scorpion. We've been saying so for years in our annual returns to the RYA and are very pleased that they have now listened to us.

"Our Open Meeting on July 12/13 promises to be a big occasion since we are having it with the Dart catamaran class who may well muster 50 or more boats which will pose problems for the beach party. They will be having four races starting on Saturday morning but the Seafly's meeting is the normal three race affair with two to count. We are hoping for enough visitors to justify keeping our Open for future years.

"I note the reason for the afternoon starts at Plymouth and now recall that a similar reason was given on a previous occasion. Obviously the locals know best and we should follow their advice since the object of the week is mainly sailing." ALAN GREEN, Worthing Y.C.

Peter Scovell, Worthing's Seafly fleet captain, has thrown out a challenge to other fleets to come and do battle at the Worthing Open, especially to the "Blakeney Boys".

He's even come up with a suggested quick route to Worthing to speed the Norfolk lads to their doom! M11 to Blackwall Tunnel, Greenwich, Lewisham, Catford, Beckenham, Hayes, Selsdon, Caterham to M23 and you're there.... in 3½ hours! Don't go round London on the North or South Circular says Peter.

If any prospective travellers have problems (other than with their boats) Peter would be happy to advise. Give him a ring on Worthing 41662. What about it Blakeney? How about taking up the challenge.

HIGHCLIFFE OPEN

Brilliant sunshine and a steady onshore breeze greeted the Seafly and Contenders for their Open Meeting at Highcliffe Sailing Club at the weekend.

National Champion Colin May set off to a cracking start in the Seafly fleet but once again the unstoppable John Slater and crew John Hartley took the fleet by the scruff of the neck and led for the remainder of the race. All credit to Dave Black and crew Bill Rabbetts for hanging on grimly as by the finish they had overtaken Colin May and crew Dave Smith and cut John Slater's winning margin to 75 seconds.

Once again on the Sunday the Highcliffe based Seaflys came to the fore immediately. Alistair McPherson, crewed admirably by his Father, John, overtook John Slater around the penultimate mark in the second race and held off John's late challenge so the final race was going to be a very close finish. Alistair led at the first windward mark as John had to crawl his way up the fleet after having to re-cross the starting line. By the second time round Colin May had taken over from Alistair but if the McPhersons were going to win the series they had to remain second and John Slater had to finish fifth or lower; and by this time John was fourth.

On the final beat the wind eased and shifted dramatically. Colin May finished at the head of the fleet and Alistair McPherson took second slot. Jim Fricker from Starcross, who hadn't shown his true form in the first two races, at last put his skills to use, read the tides correctly and came through to third position, and D. Shepherd who came LAST in the second race beat John Slater into fifth place and second overall.

A.McPherson and J.McPherson	Highcliffe S.C.	1st
J.Slater and J.Hartley	Highcliffe S.C.	2nd
C.May and D.Smith	Highcliffe S.C.	3rd
D.Black and W.Rabbetts	Highcliffe S.C.	4th

Highcliffe Sailing Club would like to thank local fisherman Roy Stride and Southbourne Cliff Marine for the loan of two extra rescue boats for this Open Meeting. BILL LACK (Highcliffe S.C.)

SOUTH CERNEY

Jim Wren writes: "Ian Ross has bought George Cross' old boat, No. 360. No. 252 will be returning to the club after a prolonged absence and will be sailed by A.J.Burford. The Saturday and Sunday points series have so far been well attended compared with previous years although the mild weather has probably helped.

"Dave Tarrant is leading both series to date. Two boats will be going to the Nationals, Dave Tarrant and myself. Incidentally my new GRP boat should be ready for the championships. I am in need of a crew so anyone interested can contact me on MALMESBURY 2481 or at my home, 4 Pembroke Green, Lea, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

"A possible way to improve the sales of the Seafly would be if some of the better helms entered inland Open Meetings. Large numbers of inland sailors have not even seen a Seafly. With the increased handicap rating the Seafly should give a better account of itself and attract more interest in an area which has been relatively neglected." JIM WREN, (South Cerney).

South Cerney Open Meeting, Sunday October 12. Three races starting at 11 a.m. The club is situated between Cirencester and Swindon. Details on racing and accommodation from JIM WREN (Malmesbury 2481).

LYMINGTON TWO OF A KIND

Colin May (No. 622) and Alistair McPherson (No. 69) represented the class in the Lymington Two Of A Kind. According to Colin the organisation was something of a disaster and the weather too was pretty rough - 5, 6 and 7 gusts.

In the marathon pursuit race on the Sunday, which lasted three hours, only 10 boats finished out of nearly 30 starters.

The two Seaflys came into their own in the near survival conditions, and although Alistair had to retire with gear failure (a broken kicker lever and rudder) Colin completed the course and was the first placed boat in the two-man non-trapeze entries.

BLACK TAKES THE PLUNGE...

Former National Champion Dave Black (Highcliffe S.C.), for many years the association's most eligible batchelor, has finally got hitched. The lovely Mrs. Black is a charming young lady by the name of Christine. After sampling Mrs Black's excellent hospitality and considerable culinary talents during the Highcliffe Open, Mr. Black will hopefully be grossly overweight at Plymouth!

Donations and any old fittings, clothes and wet suits please to: The Blacks Retirement Home for Destitute Seafly Sailors, 16 Tyrrells Court, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset (Postage will not be refunded).

Footnote: See Dazzling Dave "live" on stage in cabaret at Plymouth.

SEAFLY SCENE

Roger Beavis (Blakeney S.C.) is going to Moscow with ITV's Olympic coverage team. Roger, a supervisory engineer with Anglia Television, will be making sure we get at least some coverage of the Games on our screens.

He's planning to be back for the Nationals at Plymouth even though at present he doesn't have a boat. He recently sold his Beavis-Zygal "special" and hasn't yet decided whether to go for wood or GRP, although he's already ordered a Proctor F mast and a load of go-fast fittings in anticipation.....!

* * *

Former National champion Brian Blogg (Blakeney S.C.) is replacing his bendy Boyce mast with a new Proctor F after disappointing results with his new rig.

* * *

Veteran John Slater (Highcliffe S.C.) one of the first Seafly helms to replace his centre main track with a hoop, has returned to the old system. He won the Spring Series at Highcliffe convincingly - showing old rivals Colin May and Dave Black no mercy.

* * *

Roy Perryman (Blakeney S.C.), a strong challenger in the Seasalter Nationals, has been off the water most of this season while building a house for his wife and family. He's busy training a new crew following the departure of Peter Bailey and plans to return to competitive sailing with a vengeance next season.

* * *

Terry Acheson, from Hollywood, in County Down, has bought No. 502, a three-year-old boat built at Newcastle in Ireland and is busy on a refit.

* * *

Switching to a set of Bruce Banks sails like current champion Colin May is Dave Black. "I've been going like a rocket ever since I made the switch," commented Colin. "It's neck and neck every week at Highcliffe between John Slater, Dave, Alistair McPherson and myself."

* * *

Last reminder. Will all trophy holders please ensure they bring or return them to the Secretary at Plymouth.

* * *

Vic Birtles regrets he will be resigning as secretary/treasurer at the AGM. "I'm still planning to stick with the Seafly but it's becoming increasingly difficult to find the time to devote to association affairs."

Plymouth bound is new Seasalter member Ivan James (No. 401) who says he is looking forward to meeting the rest of the fleet - "if only a distant view of their transoms."

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BOATS FOR SALE

No. 165 wood, new fore deck, Proctor F mast, Seahorse sails and spinnaker. Bailers, trolley and trailer. Contact Len Purvis, Tel: Terrington St. John 453. £650 o.n.o.

No. 444 GRP stiffened hull, minimum weight. Needlespar mast and boom. Cover, trolley. Excellent condition. Good racing record. Contact Gordon Thomas, Tel: Highcliffe 5221. 2725.

Spinnaker shute for sale, £10. Contact Laurie Lanham, Two Bells, Bonhay Road, Starcross, Exeter. Tel: Starcross (0626) 890477 (after 6 p.m.)

SUBS. Many members still have not paid their annual subscriptions. The association cannot operate without funds. Please pay up NOW! The Newsletter will not in future be sent to those who are in arrears. The association cannot afford to subsidise production and postal costs.

SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return to Secretary/Treasurer:

Vic Birtles
12 Somerset Way
Taverham
NORWICH

Tel: Norwich (0603)
867048

I enclose my subscription for 1980:

Full membership £2.00

Associate membership £1.00

NAME..... BOAT NO:
ADDRESS BOAT NAME
..... CLUB
.....
TEL:

Cheques or postal orders payable to:-

SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS ASSOCIATION

DON'T DELAY -- PAY TODAY

SEAFLY DINGHY CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - August 10th to 15th
1980

ENTRY FORM

Entries to be sent to: Championship Secretary,
Royal Plymouth Corinthian Y.C.
Madeira Road,
PLYMOUTH, PL1 2NY. Devon.

Name of Helm..... Crew
(Christian & Surname)

Helm's Address.....Tel:
..... Helm over 45
..... years
..... YES / NO

Club.....

Boat Name..... Sail No:

Hull Colour.....

Car Registration No:.....

ENTRY FEE £19.00 Cheque/P.O. payable to Royal Plymouth Corinthian
Yacht Club

Signature..... Date

Number of tickets for the licenced steamer River Trip, 75p each
.....

(Tickets to be paid for on arrival, see the Beachmaster).