



Bits'n' Bytes

Autumn 2012

No 48

UK Byte Class Association

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Byte Spring Training Event

20th-21st April 2013

Come and join a Spring Break at Rutland SC. Enjoy fantastic training with hints and tips on how to get maximum enjoyment and speed out of your Byte. Our last training weekend at Rutland was very successful so we are going to run it again.

Rutland is easily accessible from the North and South via the M1 or A1 and the area has lots for partners or families to do – cycle hire, walking, sailing tuition, boat trips etc. Have a look at www.rutlandsc.co.uk and also at www.rutlandwater.org.uk

This training is for everyone who sails a Byte. Whether you think you do it badly or well - you will be amongst friends! Coaching will include some time on land looking at how to set up the boat for different wind conditions and some classroom time looking at video clips of good (and bad) techniques. The vertically challenged amongst us have learnt new techniques for righting a capsized Byte and will get a chance to demonstrate.

On Saturday we will start at a civilised 10am. Kevin Moore will structure the day to suit as many of you as possible. We will concentrate on the CII rig, but Classic rigs are welcome too. On Saturday evening we would like to eat together at the local pub and will ask for numbers nearer the time.

On Sunday you can choose between staying together to continue training and run some short races, or join in the club racing.

Rutland SC has good bunkhouse accommodation at £11-13 per night, which can be booked directly through their office;

secretary@rutlandsc.co.uk

Ian Bruce sells Byte Rights

The long time Asia-Pacific Laser manufacturer Performance Sailcraft Australasia (PSA) has, after receiving permission from ISAF, acquired the Copyright and worldwide building and marketing rights to the single handed Byte and Byte CII dinghy from its designer and builder, Canadian Ian Bruce.

In 1969 Ian Bruce commissioned the Laser, designed by Bruce Kirby and, within three years, had opened seven manufacturing plants around the world and some 205,000 Lasers have since been built.

However in the late 1990's Bruce realised there was a need for a smaller single-handed dinghy for youth sailors and ongoing for smaller female sailors.

He designed the Byte and, in 2004, it was upgraded to Byte CII, with a highly flexible two-piece carbon fibre mast.

The Byte CII is one of two boats designated in the ISAF Regulations for use as the Girl's One Person Dinghy for the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships. The other is the Laser Radial.

The Byte CII has been used at two Youth World Championships, in Australia and Canada, and was also used very successfully in 2010 in the inaugural IOC Youth Olympic games in Singapore as the single-handed dinghy for both the boys and the girls.

In announcing his decision, the 78 year old Industrial Designer and boat builder said today. 'I have built a great many boats of many kinds in my life time and have decided that I am really not needed to build any more!

'I am delighted that the Byte is going into the Laser family, from whence it sprang, as PSA will do more with the boat and for the Class than I was ever able to do.'

For the 2014 Youth Olympics in China, the Byte has once again been submitted to ISAF by the Byte Class International Association for use as the boy's and girl's singlehander and that decision will be made shortly.

Chris Caldecoat, PSA General Manager stated 'We are fully committed to the Laser at every level. However we believe the adoption of the Byte CII for sailors just out of a small dinghy will increase the number of young sailors who graduate from the small dinghy ranks to the Laser ranks and that it will make them better Laser sailors.

'This boat being smaller than the Laser, allows young sailors to learn how to sail dynamically in a boat. They can move around just like the top sailors in the Laser class do, both upwind and downwind.

'We want to expand the opportunities for the many female and Asian sailors who are smaller in build and could never be competitive in the Laser.

'PSA was started by Ian Bruce in the earliest days of the Laser and we look forward to carrying the baton forward with the Byte CII. 'We want to see the Byte promoted, built, serviced and supported in markets around the world and that can best be done with the local manufacturing and distribution in North America, South America, the UK, Europe, Asia and Australasia where builders now exist.

'We will shortly launch the new Byte website and announce full details of expanded manufacturing and distribution for the Byte CII.'

The changes in the market place have already started with the Byte CII gaining significant exposure with PSA's newly appointed North American manufacturer/distributor VIM Sailing, having signed a multiyear sponsorship with US SAILING.

Zim will be providing Byte CII sailboats to the U.S. Single-handed Championships and to the Chubb U.S.

Junior Championships.

Zim President Steve Perry commented 'We are thrilled to have competitors from the US Sailing National Championships racing in our boats.

'The Byte CII is growing in popularity around the world and I'm sure these sailors will enjoy the experience.

'The Byte CII utilizes a modern rig, providing a perfect blend of performance and stability.'

Ian Bruce said 'I am delighted that the future of the Byte CII is in the firm hands of Laser manufacturer PSA.

'They understand the market place, they really care about dinghy sailing, they have a wonderful track record that stretches back 40 years and are highly regarded internationally.

'Chris Caldecoat has asked me to stay on as Acting President of the Byte Class Association and I look forward, hopefully, to seeing the Byte in the 2014 Youth Olympics.'

by Byte Class International Association

BYTE CLASS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 2012 Annual General Meeting

At Brixham Yacht Club 18th August 2012

Attendees

Eddie Pope, Maggie Futcher, Richard Whitehouse, Kevin Moore, Stuart Moore. Rachel Moore,

Apologies

Apologies were received from Olwen Binks, Hilary Ross, Sarah Kirk, John Futcher, Mike Radford, Clive Jackson, Angela Oakley, Cathy Brassington, Chris Rees, Louis Saunders,

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were accepted. This was proposed by Richard Whitehouse and seconded by Eddie Pope

Matters arising from minutes

The Traveller Packs as discussed at the Dinghy Boat Show have been purchased by the Association and all have been sold. More can be ordered if necessary.. Kevin Moore was thanked for organising this.

Reports

Chairman's Address Eddie Pope

Thanks&Successes

I am very grateful for all the support and hard work from committee, class association members and clubs, enabling the class to keep going during these difficult economic times. Many thanks, in no particular order, to: Kevin for giving such an excellent training session at Rutland, for his supply of new travellers at really good cost, and for setting up the stand and providing the boat for the London Dinghy Show.

Cathy for making arrangements for the Rutland training.

Maggie for her organisational achievements, especially in handling membership renewals and publicising events.

Chris for maintaining the website despite another technical setback.

Olwen for writing high standard and interesting newsletters, and her support of Chris in keeping the website up to date.

Hilary for maintaining the accounts with her usual efficiency.

All clubs which have hosted the events so far in 2012, and members at the clubs who have helped make the events a success - Mike at West Oxford and Rick at Combs (Combs had 11 entries this year). Cardiff have al-

ready agreed to have us back as part of their 2013 Regatta, and we expect to be back at West Oxford & Combs too. We are also looking forward to the remaining events at Weston, Haversham and Grafham.

All open and Championship attendees, especially if they finish behind me!

Members sailing at club level, in both Classic and C11 rigs. There are healthy returns to the RYA for PY purposes, and the C11 helms are clearly performing well in handicap events as the PY remained unchanged.

Two big positive international developments:

Choice of C11 for 2014 Youth Olympics in China.

Sale of Byte rights by Ian Bruce to Performance Sailcraft Australasia, which could herald a new era for the class.

Challenges

The challenges we faced last year remain:

Numbers of new boats - Ovingtons have sold quite a few rigs and spare parts, but have built no new boats.

Low attendance at events - remains at a low level when compared with the pre-C11 days.

PY allocated by RYA is hard to sail to, particularly on the sea or in anything but lighter winds.

Lack of recognition by RYA – though this could change in due course as I hear that UK is planning to bid for the 2018 Youth Olympics.

Difficult economic conditions – makes travelling really expensive.

Way Forward

As well as maintaining the things that are proven to be successful, we need to address the challenges.

2 training sessions next year. Firstly at Rutland on similar format as this year, and secondly at Combs as part of the open where Rick and Louis will provide go-faster advice.

Have continuity over event locations, and keep to the 2 day format.

Not sure what we can do about the PY, given calibre of our C11 helms (can't ask them to slow down!)

Need to keep up regular dialogue with builders, to encourage their support of and publicity for the class. Might also help with RYA, as they have the links.

Maintain strong presence at the London Dinghy Show. In 2012 we had our own stand away from (though paid by) Ovingtons, and this seemed to work well.

Further improvements to the website.

Offer "Try a Byte" sessions aimed at young people, i.e. late teens, who are too small for a Laser. For example how about taking a couple of boats to a Topper training session (with RYA's?? & Topper's agreement).

Try and gain sponsorships for our events.

Secretary- Maggie Futcher

The secretary thanked everyone for coming and for all the support from committee members and association members this year. The number of members is holding up quite well despite the recession and new members have joined the class this year. Future direction regarding building the Byte in the UK seems uncertain although the picture internationally looks strong.

The dinghy boat show was as always a time when a lot of interest is shown in the Byte CII. Having a separate stand from Ovington worked well, we hope a similar arrangement can be made for 2013. We have had very good support from Nathan Batchelor and Chris Turner at Ovington and we thank them for this.

Maggie said she had appreciated the help from Kevin in the training sessions. She said that the standard of sailing in the Byte Class is at a higher level than in previous years and it is encouraging that we are attracting new young members to the class.

Maggie has struggled with the role of membership secretary for the last 2 years and will be gratefully handing this over to Mary Moore for 2013. Maggie will continue to be secretary for a further year.

Treasurer- Hilary Ross

The year to 1 April 2012 was quiet, with no training costs and lower spend than usual on the Nationals. The

bank account remains healthy, and can for the time being support significant subsidy of training and Nationals costs. Subscriptions are slightly down on the level last year, but there maybe more to come in.. This will need to be kept under review, because they represent our main source of funding, If they continue to drop then the level of subsidy support would need to be reviewed, and it may be necessary to raise subscription levels in the future.

Web Site:

There have been problems with the web site crashing which have not been resolved. Eddie agreed to discuss with Chris Rees handing the website over to Olwen Binks. Chris would be asked to offer continued support as necessary. Olwen to be offered web-site training if that would be helpful.

All agreed that our website is the vital means of publicity to our members and prospective members.

Training

Kevin Moore ran a very successful training event at Rutland Water on April 21st and 22nd. Three new members were out on the water for this event. Kevin was supported by Gordon Tweddle and the event was organised by Cathy Brassington.

Election of Committee Members

Maggie Fatcher, Eddie Pope, Chris Rees and Hilary Ross said that they were happy to continue in post for another year. The current committee members were confirmed as:

Eddie Pope – Chairman

Vice Chairman, vacant

Hilary Ross-Watson – Treasurer

Maggie Fatcher Secretary & Fixtures Secretary

Mary Moore- Membership secretary

Stuart Moore– Youth representative

Chris Rees & Olwen Binks – website

Olwen Binks- Newsletter editor

Any Other Business

Events for 2013

Action:

Training

Cathy was asked to contact Rutland Water SC re training in April 2013

Combs SC have offered a race training session combined with an Open in 2013. Rick Whitehouse to book this for 2013

Nationals

Maggie to investigate a venue in North Wales as the majority of our travellers come from the North of England at present.

Inlands:

Eddie to contact Cardiff about joining their regatta in June 2013 for our inlands

Other fixtures

Mike Radford to be asked to book a date for West Oxford SC in 2013

Maggie to book Weston SC for 2013

Cathy Brassington to book Haversham SC for an Open in 2013

Dinghy Boat Show

March 2nd & 3rd at Alexandra Palace. Do we book a stand?

Action

Kevin agreed to bring Stuart's boat to the Dinghy Show

Fixtures list and list of 2nd hand boats to be displayed, also cost of new boat, parts, etc

Eddie to organise rota for the stand

Meeting of Bye Committee 2012 will be on Saturday November 17th at Grafham Water SC after racing

Byte Open at West Oxfordshire Sailing Club

By Mike Radford on 8 May 5-6 May 2012



Four visitors joined three local boats for the first Byte open meeting of 2012, the water was shared with the British Moths. Saturday was unseasonably cold with a very shifty 10-15 knot north-easterly making like difficult for the Race Officer who had to set short beats across the lake.

The first race saw a good start from the fleet with tight manoeuvring up the beat. Eddie Pope was first to round closely followed by everybody else. Eddie and Mike Radford eased away from the rest of the fleet but at the end of the first lap Mike failed to keep hold of the mainsheet and rolled in to windward dropping back behind Chris Rees and Cathy Brassington and giving Eddie some breathing space. Mike recovered to second place and was slowly closing on Eddie who nonetheless took first place. There were a few position changes in the chasing pack but by the end they were fairly well spaced.

© Alan Lawrence

Race 2, after lunch, saw another good fleet start with young Alex Baxter (local sailor and first day in a Byte) first round the windward mark. Mike and Eddie drew away from the rest and after a few swapped places where wind shifts occurred at inopportune moments Mike finished ahead of Eddie with Chris gaining on them as they fought for the lead.

After a short break for tea and cakes race three saw a familiar story with Eddie getting away from Mike (although Mike did shout (unsolicited) help at Eddie regarding the location of the finish). Once again there were several place changes in the chasing bunch and the very consistent results do not reflect the close competition.

Saturday evening at the club was very sociable with good food, good beer, a quiz, table football and pool.

Sunday dawned on lighter winds that had moved round to the east. Race 4 saw Eddie and Mike trading places once again, pursued by Chris who had broken away from the pack. After multiple place changes Mike crossed the line first (after having been reminded where it was by a sporting Eddie).

With honours even it was all down to the last race. Could the rest of the fleet benefit from an Eddie/Mike battle and return a different score?

The wind shifted hugely to the right shortly before the start turning the short beat into a fetch. Eddie started higher than Mike but Mike took him out to the right-hand side of the course before bearing away for the mark only to find that Bruce Waymark had easily beaten everybody to the top. Mike led Eddie down the course in the increasingly shifty conditions having to defend all the way and the pair crept away from the rest of the fleet. Mike got on the right side of a lucky shift and eased away from Eddie but there was no relaxing as it could just as easily flip the other way. The rest of the fleet were swapping places as they reacted to the shifts. As the wind eased Mike stretched away from Eddie to take first place in the race and the event. Some distance behind Eddie the bunch was still in close combat with Cathy leading in to the final mark with Guy Shaw and Chris in hot pursuit. Chris maintained momentum better in the light airs to finish in third place with Cathy close behind.



© Guy Shaw

This was a keenly fought start to the Traveller series. The open water sailors may have suffered from the light and shifty winds but they will have their revenge at the varied venues to come. Many thanks to West Oxford-

shire SC for hosting an enjoyable event with special thanks to galley (Tina and Donna) and Roger Post-beschild (Commodore, Race Officer, quiz master, barman, eater of cakes...).

Overall Results:

Pos	Sail No	Helm	Boat Name	Club	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	
1st	1465	Mike Radford	Damfino	West Oxfordshire SC	-2	1	2	1	1	5
2nd	3130	Eddie Pope		Ogston SC	1	-2	1	2	2	6
3rd	2620	Chris Rees	Terra	Warsash SC	-3	3	3	3	3	12
4th	2629	Guy Shaw	Higgs Bosun	West Oxfordshire SC	4	4	4	4	-5	16
5th	806	Cathy Brassington			-5	5	5	5	4	19
6th	2943	Bruce Waymark	Twin Stars	Netley SC	6	6	6	6	(DNF)	24
7th	1010	Alex Baxter		West Oxfordshire SC	-7	7	7	7	6	27

Byte Open at Cardiff Yacht Club

By Eddie Pope

Cardiff Yacht Club (CYC) hosted its annual regatta on 2 & 3 June, with dinghies racing inside the bay in fresh water and yachts racing out on the sea. Despite the clash with the Diamond Jubilee there was a health entry of 20 dinghies, including 5 visiting Byte CIIs and 3 boats from Cardiff Bay Yacht Club (CBYC).

This is an event not to be missed – the sailing on the bay is challenging yet safe, and the hospitality and food are unsurpassed.

On Saturday the wind was light and variable. But to his credit the Race Officer held all 4 races without a hitch, including good beats as part of Olympic courses. In the Byte fleet Eddie Pope won 3 races, with Mike Radford winning the other. They were closely challenged by Stuart Moore.

On Saturday night a full clubhouse of competitors and club members were treated to a tasty barbeque and visiting band. The weather started to turn just after the barbeque was served up, and it proved to be a very wet night under canvas for some.

Sunday morning dawned with much stronger winds and the threat of further rain. The safety boat was needed by a few competitors and the fleet size was reduced. Luckily the rain kept away until after the racing finished. In the Byte fleet Eddie again won 3 races, and Stuart won the other. Mike and Kevin Moore (Stuart's dad) also led at times.

Overall results were calculated on the best 6 from 8 races. A lovely buffet was laid on after prizegiving, with another band for evening entertainment.

Overall Results:

1. Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) 6pts
2. Mike Radford (West Oxfordshire SC) 11pts
3. Stuart Moore (Hawley Lake SC) 14pts



©Chris Britten

Byte Open at Combs SC 28th-29th July 2012

R W Whitehouse

Combs hosted a two day Byte open meeting, attended by nine visiting boats. The weather was perfect, with winds varying between force 0 and force 5 and with rain, sun, hail, thunder and lightning. The surrounding hills ensured that no two gusts arrived from the same direction.

In addition to the visitors, there were two Combs members racing – Louis Saunders (current Inland National Champion and ex National Champion) and Rick Whitehouse (current National Champion and ex Inland National Champion). Sailing on their home water and used (!) to the conditions, Louis and Rick battled for first place throughout every race, challenged by Mike Radford who regularly closed on them, only to be disappointed and left in third place. By Saturday evening Louis was leading 2 firsts to one, Rick second and Mike third. The fleet retired to the Beehive public house for food and beverages.

Sunday dawned cold with a fitful breeze. Sausages, bacon and eggs prepared by Rick and Louis fortified the sailors. The lighter winds on Sunday favoured Rick, who caught and passed Louis in the fourth and fifth races of the event. The sixth and final race then became the decider as Louis could still win. The final race start favoured the starboard end of the line, with a transit pole on the end of the pontoon. Rick slipped into the dead water beneath the pontoon, intending to pass beneath the transit pole on starboard, on the starting signal. Louis had the same idea, but seeing Rick already in position, dropped down onto him, trapping him against the pontoon and crossing the line dead ahead with a clear, but small, advantage. Rick, unperturbed, chased Louis up the first beat and overtook him to looward to be first round the first mark for the first time in the event. Rick held onto this lead for the rest of the race. Stuart Moore, attending straight from the Topper Nationals and the leading junior in the Byte fleet, made his best start in this race, rounding the first mark in second place and closing on Rick down the reach, staying ahead of Louis for most of the lap, but eventually relinquishing second, then third places to Louis and Mike. The rest of Stuarts family were present, his older sister Rachel and father, Kevin raced as well. Kevin claims to be 100 lbs over the optimum weight for a Byte and was an impressive sight, carving a deep furrow up the lake and a serious challenge to the fleet whenever the wind got up. Another family group was John Futchter and mother Maggie. John found lake sailing a challenge as the water was less lumpy and didn't move sideways as much as in the Solent. Maggie finished on equal points with Rachel and Bruce Waymark, but with a best race place of 4th, took the first lady from Rachel. Another Junior, sailing her first open meeting was Alex McLoughlin and also new to sailing a Byte was Alastair Hall, who spent the Sunday morning fitting a double car traveller to his boat, missing two races but resulting an a three place improvement in his last race.

Next years event is already being planned, with the promise of a Saturday morning training session from Louis and Rick to start with.

Results:

1st	Rick Whitehouse	Combs SC
2nd	Louis Saunders	Combs SC
3rd	Mike Radford	West Oxfordshire SC
4th	Stuart Moore	Hawley Lake SC
5th	Maggie Futchter	Weston SC
6th	Bruce Waymark	Netley SC
7th	Rachel Moore	Hawley Lake SC
8th	John Futchter	Weston SC
9th	Kevin Moore	Hawley Lake SC
10th	Alex McLoughlin	Jumbles SC
11th	Alastair Hall	Ripon SC

Byte Nationals at Brixham 18th-20th Aug 2012

By Rik Whitehouse

The Byte CII National Championship was hosted by Brixham YC with sailing in Torbay about a mile from the harbour. This was a three day event with eight races, six to count. Although the venue was being shared with a Hornet European Championship, Brixham had the facilities and personnel to support both events, with separate courses, officers and support craft provided without apparent difficulty or compromise. It proved to be a super venue, with lovely clubhouse enjoying panoramic views, excellent courses, catering and organisation.

The fleet was small with seven competitors, as many of the usual suspects were unable to attend, but the racing was still to a high standard and the fleet surprised the race team with the speed they completed the course.

Racing was on an old Olympic style triangle-sausage course with the first two races on Saturday afternoon. Bright sunshine and a breeze of around force 2-3 provided a pleasant day's racing with little real excitement. Rick Whitehouse, defending his 2011 title won both races, though first place alternated with Eddie Pope in both races, with Rick consistently starting behind, pulling through upwind but losing ground on the reaches.

Sunday dawned damp and misty, with no wind and visibility dropping to less than 100 yards across the harbour. Sailing was postponed until after 1pm but then the sun came out, the wind picked up and the fleet set out around 2pm. Despite the late start three races were completed, finishing after 6pm, thanks to the professionalism of the race officer and his team. The breeze initially built and changed from Westerly to North Westerly during the first race but dropped again during the last race. Rick and Eddie again contested first place, with Rick winning through in every race. With 5 first places, Rick needed only one more 3rd place or better to clinch the championship.

Monday's forecast offered increased winds but these did not persist. The day was sunny, warm but the initial wind of force 3-4 only lasted to the end of the first beat. This favoured Kevin Moore who was second around the first mark, immediately behind Rick. Unfortunately the wind then dropped to force 1-2 and did not rise above this for the rest of the day. Kevin consequently dropped back as all the (lighter) helms overtook him. Perhaps Rick relaxed a little and despite being in first place, Eddie overtook him to take first place in the 6th and 7th races. Rick did not start the eighth race, having clinched the championship and Eddie got his third first place of the event and a comfortable second overall.

In third place in every race was Kevin's son, Stuart. Starting consistently well and sailing fast, he lost second place to Eddie in several races to give an overall third place. New to the Byte fleet was Clive Jackson who was very competitive but perhaps unfamiliar with all the foibles of the Byte CII rig. He was first to the windward mark in one race and a rapid improvement from 4th position in the fleet is anticipated in future events.

Maggie Futchter finished 5th overall to win the ladies trophy. Stuart's sister Rachel completed the Moore team, beating her father into 7th place by being consistently lighter.



Prizes were awarded by Ralph Bowles the Admiral of Brixham YC, and everyone agreed it had been a memorable event for all the right reasons.

Overall Results:

- 1st Rick Whitehouse (Combs SC)
- 2nd Eddie Pope (Ogston SC)
- 3rd Stuart Moore (Hawley Lake SC)
- 4th Clive Jackson (Papercourt SC)
- 5th Maggie Futchter (Weston SC)
- 6th Rachel Moore (Hawley Lake SC)
- 7th Kevin Moore (Hawley Lake SC)

Byte Open Meeting at Weston Sailing Club 15/16th Sept

By Cathy Brassington

We shared this Open with Contenders. A midday high tide gave us easy launching and the Race Officer set the start and finish lines 50yds off the slipway so the whole business of getting out to the race area was effortless.

On Saturday the first start was delayed till the wind steadied so we sat around drinking tea on the patio in warm sunshine until the trapezoid course could be set. Once underway we had a marvellous day of close racing, with positions changing on every leg. The Moore family showed their strength in depth by taking the top 3 places in the first race – Stuart, Rachel and then dad Kevin crossed the line ahead of the rest of the fleet.

Race 2 was also close, but this time Cathy Brassington got between Stuart and Rachel to take a 2nd place. What happened to Kevin? Well the waves were small but interesting and he sailed downwind very fast - by the lee, maximum speed –until he capsized. Although we ran out of time and water to run a 3rd race, the RO gave us an extra lap in Race 2, so we all felt we had a good day out in the sunshine.

Congratulations to Angela Oakley, who sailed her first Byte Open, finishing both races.

Overnight the cloud came in and Sunday provided us with a steady F2/3. We fitted in 4 races, both trapezoid and Olympic, and met some interesting wave patterns caused by shipping in the main channel pushing wash over to the shallows. Competitors came and went during the day – Maggie and John Futcher joined us, and the Moore family had to leave after Race 4, although by then Stuart had the event wrapped up with three 1sts. Races 5 & 6 were breezier, raising a few downwind heart rates, but there were no nasty gusts, and more than a few delicious waves to catch.

Final Results were;

867 Stuart Moore
806 Cathy Brassington
1663 John Futcher
850 Olwen Binks
1267 Rachel Moore
167 Kevin Moore
1663 Maggie Futcher
1433 Angela Oakley

At the Prizegiving the RO complemented both the Contenders and Bytes for their textbook starts, with everyone on the line and no recalls. Many thanks go to Weston SC, particularly the RO, Safety & Catering. Weston suits Bytes very well, with sheltered sea sailing, easy launching and very good onshore facilities.

Byte Open at Haversham SC 6/7th Oct

By Mike Radford

Three visitors joined three locals for a two day event at Haversham SC. Three races were planned for each day but the forecasts indicated a distinct lack of wind on Sunday.

Saturday saw the Bytes sharing the lake and the light shifty winds with the Streakers.

In Race 1 Stuart Moore and Cathy Brassington had great starts and pulled away up the first beat pursued by Mike Radford with Hannah Craik in close contention. Stuart got away from Cathy who was then overhauled by Mike. A luffing battle ensued as Mike caught up with Stuart on the run allowing Cathy to slip past into the lead which she held as Stuart and Mike continued to chase each other all over the lake.

Race 2 saw Stuart get away well as did Cathy. Mike had his usual mediocre start but managed to take the

shifts to arrive at the top ahead of Cathy. Once again there was some luffing action as Mike tried to get past Stuart but this time both of them kept an eye on Cathy who was never far behind. Mike managed to get past Stuart and eased away for a nervous lead as the light airs continued to shift wildly. Stuart and Cathy benefitted from a large shift on the beat to lift past Mike who had been chasing the wind wide to the left. Stuart stayed ahead of Cathy while Mike came under increasing pressure from Hannah who was showing good boat speed and the final beat saw Mike having to pay close attention as Hannah threw in real and dummy tacks to try and break cover.

The winds continued to ease for race 3 but seemed to be more settled with less wild shifts. Stuart, Cathy and Mike broke away again, this time Mike went under Stuart on a run to take the lead which he held to the end. Kevin Moore, being the heaviest, was disadvantaged in the light winds and further compounded this with his intra-race coaching meaning Angela Oakley's newly increased off-wind speed enabled her to beat him.

During the evening a decision was taken to move Sunday's 10:00 start to 9:00 in an attempt to capitalise on the forecast wind as it was due to fade away in the afternoon. Unfortunately Sunday morning saw no wind and some fog over the lake and we didn't get started until 11:30 in very light airs. The time was well spent with an impromptu boat tuning discussion and rig tweaking session.



Photo courtesy of Ben Falat

The Byte fleet lost Hannah as she supported her team in the Wash Rivers Challenge. The 27 boats in the Challenge started off 5 minutes ahead of the Bytes as they consisted of faster boats, although one or two of the helms may have been suffering from the after effects of a very jolly evening at the club. When the flag dropped for the Bytes a good quarter of the Challenge fleet were still in the vicinity of the start line which limited options for the Bytes and made for interesting traffic negotiation during the race. Stuart, Mike and Cathy were once again first to the top mark. In the presence of traffic and the absence of wind Stuart and Mike called a temporary truce and with the aid of a shift towards the top of the second beat Mike got ahead. In very light and shifty airs Mike was able to extend his lead and put a couple of Challenge boats between himself and Stuart with both Bytes showing off the efficiency of the C2 rig.

After lunch the race team made a valiant attempt to run another race but the wind decided to go elsewhere and so racing was abandoned. The overall result was determined by the result of race 4 as Cathy, Stuart and Mike were so close on points.

The Byte fleet would like to thank Haversham SC for their great hospitality (especially Gordon Tweedle) and hope to return to the club on a windier weekend.

**NAVIGATORS
& GENERAL**

**Byte Class Association
Insurance Scheme**



**Standard Rig
only £49.50 annual premium
to Association Members**

(£69.50 to non members)

**C2 Rig
only £59.50 annual premium
to Association Members**

(£79.50 to non members)

At Navigators & General we pride ourselves on excellent cover and service - that's why more Byte Class Association Members choose to insure their dinghy with us than any other Company. The Scheme officially approved by the Class Association and administered by specialist brokers Fastnet Marine Insurance Services Ltd provides the following benefits:-

- ◆ **Unique "New for Old" Cover** irrespective of the age of your boat
- ◆ Loss & damage cover includes Theft
- ◆ Includes free cover for Life Jackets & Buoyancy Aids
- ◆ Includes damage whilst in Transit
- ◆ Includes unlimited use in all European Waters
- ◆ Full racing risks at no extra cost
- ◆ £3,000,000 limit for Third Party and Passenger indemnity.
- ◆ £250.00 cover for trailers for just £2.50.
- ◆ Full replacement cost of sails and covers when under 3 years old.
- ◆ Full claims support services from Fastnet Marine Insurance
- ◆ Legal Expenses upto £50,000 available for just £7.50 per year

For full details and prospectus contact

**Fastnet Marine Insurance Services Ltd
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