

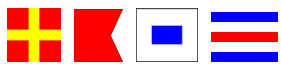
Mainsheet

Rollesby Broad Sailing Club Newsletter



Spring 2010 Edition

www.rbsc.org.uk



From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of Mainsheet and thanks to everyone who has contributed. This is my first edition of Mainsheet as editor; I was assured in the previous Mainsheet that this was 'a fantastic position' – obviously a real opportunity! .

Amy our previous editor grew up by the Medway, and having moved back to Kent has sent us an article about sailing there. Curiously, I also grew up by the Medway. I even spent the first year of my life living on a decommissioned MTB on the Medway at several moorings! However I didn't discover sailing until I came to Norfolk.

Especially for those of you who like me are fair weather sailors, we've included some stunning pictures of Rollesby taken during this last winter. Come along to the club soon to hear some of the winter sailing stories. I was in a winter OOD team. As one of the races progressed the snow fall was so heavy we couldn't read the numbers on the sails as they went across the finish line! We had to track the dinghies as they approached and as they left the line to decide the order of finishing. Luckily for the credibility of the results that day there weren't too many

boats out! I think the conditions that day were nothing to some of the other winter Sundays. I heard that a Wayfarer virtually beached itself on a huge ice flow on another Sunday.

Now, the temperatures are rising; the days are growing longer, and I shall hopefully have been for my first sail of 2010 by the time this is published. I look forward to seeing you all on the water.

Suzanne Thompson

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Club Contact Details

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From the Commodore...



Now that winter is at long last coming to an end, it's time for me to reflect and look forward to 2010.

The Annual Dinner in November at Gorleston Golf Club was well supported, as it has been for many years, but for 2010 we have decided it is time to change the venue. This year it will be closer to

the Club's home and be held at Filby Bridge Restaurant on Friday 19th November. Full details will be provided nearer the time.

I have been asked by members about coaching at the club. We cannot provide formal training without satisfying a whole raft of rules and regulations. RYA training is already provided at several venues in the area; notably at Filby by the NSSA and at Whitlingham Broad by Norfolk CC. This year Steve Grey and a small team have offered to provide coaching on alternate Saturdays throughout the summer.

Simon Purdon has joined the committee to promote and organise coaching at

the club, in particular for junior members. If you are interested in taking part or helping in any way please contact either Steve, Simon or me. Full details will be provided nearer the summer. We welcome your ideas and comments and hope for your support.

John Bailey has agreed once again to provide Safety Boat training in May and June. John's course is excellent. Numbers are limited and so early booking is essential.

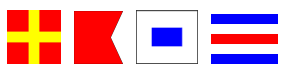
The Monday sailing was well supported last year but there's still room for more. If you're free, come along, it's not in any way formal. Wednesday evening racing will be provided again this year and of course racing every Sunday. If you have not tried racing, it is well worth giving it a try..

Finally if you have any ideas for activities, events, BBQs etc during the season, please let me know and I will do my best to support your plans.

I wish you all the best for the coming sailing season.

Tony Gibbs
Commodore





Sailing Scrawl



Spring is upon us, the first cuckoo has sung and the ice is gone from the broad! This year we really have experienced a winter, with four Sunday race days lost to ice and the broad looking more like a Scandinavian Fjord than a Norfolk Broad on more than one occasion. However there have been hardy souls venturing out whenever the possibility arises.

The experiment this year with splitting the larger fleets we get in winter has been an almost unequivocal success. With the minor tweak of letting the multi-sail fleet set off first, competitors have embraced the fleet split and welcomed the less crowded start lines and the opportunity to set different courses for spinnaker boats. Our winter turnouts have remained the highest in the local area (have you seen the write ups in the EDP most weeks) and we've seen more different helms at the front than in

previous years.

As the three summer series start we will return to our traditional A and B fleet divisions. We'll continue to review turnouts and how we manage the fleets, any new ideas are always welcome, but the mixture of different winter and summer splits seems to be a welcome rotation with those who sail all year round.

There is only one new sailing item for the summer and that regards the Eels Foot series. Several B Fleet sailors have expressed an interest in taking part (indeed some of them have already!). So this year we will experiment with the B Fleet having a start for the Eels Foot series, they will probably only do one lap of the 'Eels Foot' Broad, whilst the A fleet will do several; with the aim of having a longer race, making the passage worth the effort, but with no fourth race on Eels foot afternoons – race officers be alert to new instructions.

Ian Ayres

DON'T FORGET!

1 May Club Open Day

**5 May Wednesday Eve
Series Start**

Autumn Series

A-Fleet

Race 1

1. John Saddington & Dennis Manning
2. Ian Ayres
3. Roger Wilson

Race 2

1. Ian Ayres
2. John Saddington & Dennis Manning
3. Roger Wilson

Race 3

1. Ian Ayres
2. Roger Wilson
3. John Saddington & Dennis Manning

B-Fleet

Race 1

1. John Ayres
2. Daniel Bull
3. James Denley

Race 2

1. John Ayres
2. Daniel Bull
3. Suzanne Thompson

Race 3

1. Daniel Bull

Frostbite Series

Multi-sail

Race 1,2 &3

1. Roger Wilson & Dennis Manning
2. Peter Dearnley & Di Holmes
3. Val & Chris Hansen

Single-sail

Race 1

1. Ian Ayres
2. Laurence Milton
3. John Saddington

Race 2

1. Laurence Milton
2. Ian Ayres
3. Kevin Postlethwaite

Race 3

1. John Saddington
2. Chris Mann
3. Barry Graver

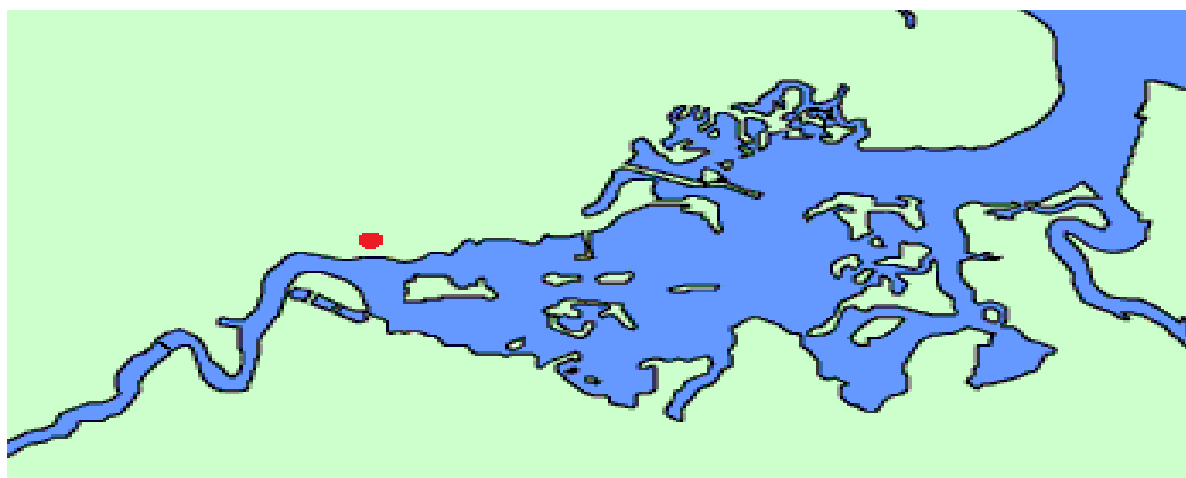
Greetings from Kent!

I heard that it was time for the new edition of Mainsheet so I am sending all at Rollesby a hello from Kent! As many of you know I left the delights of Norfolk in October to move back to sunny Kent...it has not turned out to be quite as sunny as I remembered! Having finally brought my boat back and carried out some minor repairs to her I was ready to get sailing on tides again. The bad weather that hit the country at the end

feet to get back out on the water again (and driving my whole family mad in the process) the warm up series finally got underway on Valentine's Day.

My new club (marked with a red spot on the map) is on the River Medway, which is where I learnt to sail. The river, if you do not know it, is one of the best places I have ever sailed (apart from the mud!). It is a wide estuary with fairly strong tides and a fair amount of

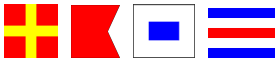
which. That said I had a course the other week which included amongst the normal channel buoys a mark called 'The Buoy'. The Buoy?! I was informed that 'The Buoy' was "the orange mooring buoy with nothing on it, just past the white motor boat". There are a number of moored white motor boats on the river and still being the winter season there are also hundreds of empty mooring buoys...I had a feeling that the other sailors were keeping some information from me!



of last year kept preventing this. At first the snow meant I was unable to get my boat to the club and when it had cleared from my town the road to the sailing club was still snowed in! So by the time I finally got my boat to Wilsonians Sailing Club the winter sailing season was over. (They are far more fair weathered than Rollesby sailors!). So after about a month of having very itchy

commercial traffic, making racing a little bit more interesting! However there are a number of islands and creeks meaning that race courses are always varied and wide reaches that are great fun if the wind is in certain directions but very hard work if the wind is against you! Thankfully I seem to have remembered how to sail on tides and which channel marker is

The warm up series consists of average lap races sticking to the reaches near the club and made up of all handicaps. This means that I can be racing my Laser Radial against RS800s and Miracles! The average lap time seems to work very fairly and leads to some interesting results. Even though the fast handicap boats can have lapped a slower boat a couple of times, once average lap time and



handicap has been worked out the faster boats often come out quite a way down the results table.

Despite thoroughly enjoying being back on the River Medway my stomach muscles certainly are not up to sailing on waves again and I am not sure I enjoy having to pull my boat up miles when the tide is out. Also, the food, it just is not up to Liz's chilies and crumbles!

Outside of sailing when I first moved back I was doing a lot of voluntary work both in museums and in archaeology but I managed to get a job over the Christmas months working at Waterstones. This month I have started a new job working as an assistant curator at the Royal Engineers Museum (<http://www.remuseum.org.uk/>) in Brompton, Gillingham, Medway. I am very pleased with this job as it uses my Masters that I got whilst in Norfolk. Our collection is very varied dealing with both the history of the Corp and also home to a number of artifacts that the Engineers brought back from their campaigns. Amongst the objects the museum has is the revolver Chard used at the defence of Rorke's Drift (as in the film 'Zulu' – Chard was the one who wasn't played by Michael Caine!) and a Harrier Jump Jet,

which is very cool! However most of the collection is full of very heavy things such as tanks and bombs. I think I will have to build up my muscles for when I have to move them!

I look forwards to reading this Mainsheet and hear how everyone is. If I'm ever back in Norfolk on a Sunday I shall be sure to pop in and say hello. If anyone at Rollesby is down in Kent and wants a tour round the Royal Engineers Museum come and say hello. Hopefully I'll have a better knowledge about the collection by then! Also June 20th is the Medway Marathon if any Rollesby sailors fancy a quick 26 mile race and the Medway Dinghy Regatta is July 10th and 11th, do get in contact with me if you fancy doing either of these and I can forward you the entry forms etc

All the best

Amy Adams

amyclareadams@hotmail.com

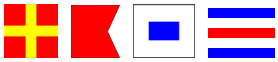


Kids@RBSC

As a family we joined RBSC two years ago.

Why did we choose Rollesby and what did we want from a club that didn't sail on the sea? For me it was a chance to sail again after a 20 year interlude, and for my wife, Sue, it was an opportunity to try something different that we could enjoy as a family. We are committed boat people having been brought up in Southend on Sea, spending many years afloat on the Thames Estuary and Essex and Kent waterways, sailing, fishing, waterskiing, in fact anything to do with boats. What we hoped to get from sailing at Rollesby was what we left behind in Essex (no jokes please), a pleasant place to mess about in a boat, perhaps graduate to racing, make new friends and enjoy the social life that sailing so successfully creates.

By and large the experience has been what we hoped it would be, Rollesby being a picturesque but challenging place to sail with friendly and welcoming members. But where are the families, children and teenagers? Where are the young sailors? At this point I should mention our daughter. Holly is an 11 year old teenager who sometimes likes boats but seemingly only when there



are other kids around to ignite the competitive urge to do what they are doing, only better. It's a kind of "they're having fun and I want a piece of it even if it's not something I'm totally keen on but I might grow to like it" scenario. Do you have a child/children like this? Having been a member of various sailing clubs the apparent lack of young sailors at Rollesby has been quite a surprise and equally a disappointment. I know that clubs evolve and junior members come and go as their interests change and they grow older, but Rollesby kids, and the committee acknowledge this, seem to have largely gone.

From my own experience, sailing teaches youngsters a strong sense of responsibility. Lest we forget the sea can be as dangerous as it is enjoyable, and just because we sail on an enclosed broad, don't think that the same level of responsibility and care isn't essential. It also gives them a social life far removed from hanging around on street corners/village green/Lidl's car park* (* delete as applicable) and gives them a chance to grow up as better balanced individuals. (Even my nephew, 6'3", aged 17, sails a fluorescent orange Intl Moth and owns a series one Land Rover.) It gives them a skill and an interest that can

serve them well throughout their lives, and who knows, produces the champions and Olympians of the future.

Enough of the background - as you're now either bored or wondering where this rambling is going.

Having posed the above questions and expressed an interest in trying to promote youth sailing at Rollesby, I was recently co-opted onto the committee to do just that. As a family we are prepared to put in the time and effort, and have the full support of your committee to see where this will lead, but we need your support.

We want to know what Rollesby family members want from their club, what would encourage you and your children to sail and enjoy to the full what is a fine club in a super location.

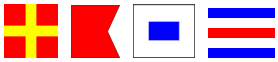
I have all sorts of ideas, the main one being a regular use of Saturday mornings and/or afternoons to get kids on the water to have fun in a safe and supervised environment. What we do



not intend is to compete with the RYA standard training facility at nearby Filby Broad, although there is likely to be some formal training available during August. (Watch the events section on the website for this.) Equally there's no intention to emulate other clubs in the area as I believe every club has its own unique position in the sailing world.

Rollesby has all the appearance and feel of a friendly, welcoming club that has the ability to offer something to everyone, from the committed racer (Sunday racers, watch out for the next talented youngster) to the total beginner who (quite rightly) thinks port belongs in a bottle. The hope is to encourage a nucleus of youngsters and their parents to make greater use of the club in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Let's face it, youngsters get enough formal tuition 5 days a week and also for some reason sailing and the membership of a sailing club is perceived by some as quite intimidating.

For those of you with internet access, please post your thoughts on the club website. For all others, please scribble them on a piece of paper and address them to me, Simon Purdon, at the Club.



Duties

As a small volunteer run sailing club it is expected that under all but extreme circumstances members are required to carry out 2 race duties per year. The vast majority do an exceptional job and a few even volunteer to do an extra duty in order to fill in any gaps in the calendar. Thanks folks.

For the last couple of years we have been subscribing to 'Duty Man' to help organise our duty roster. However this software is only useful as long as email addresses are up to date and has sent out several spurious duty dates, usually after changes are made, even sending out at least 2 requests for duties in 2012! So unless someone is willing to volunteer to mastermind the data we are returning to the previous telephone networking system.

Everyone will receive a hard copy of the duty roster as early in each season as possible. Sign up sheets for Winter duties will be in the clubhouse from mid July to mid August, and for Summer duties in from mid January to mid February if you want to chose your own date. It is each member's responsibility, in all but emergencies, to arrange a swap if they can't do the date allocated. If you do arrange a swap please alter the master copy in the clubhouse, or let me know, preferably by email – sailing@rbsc.org.uk.

I'll endeavour to update the copy on the website as often as I can.

I've also been asked about children doing duties, and whilst we don't specifically allocate any under 16s, any



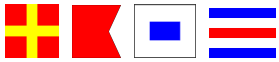
child of secondary age would be more than welcome to come and help out with parents. They'll certainly learn how the system works faster than most of us!

The same goes for partners, crews or any other interested parties. Bring them along. There is always a job for any willing helper and it all helps to reduce the headache of filling our duty teams in the future.

In theory every annual member does a winter and a summer duty. Winter duties usually fill up as a few experienced sailors return, but the summer is not always so straight forward. If you'd rather do two duties at the same time of year let me know. There's no guarantee I can do anything but it may just help too.

Ian Ayres





From a Winter Migrant

As spring begins to stir and I finish my second winter season at Rollesby, I feel the urge to express my thanks for the wonderful hospitality that is extended to winter visitors. Rollesby was the first club I joined when I moved to Norfolk many years ago. It came to pass because I bought a boat from a member and it was simple to keep it where it was. The club, then as now, was welcoming (cheap) and unpretentious. I enjoyed a few seasons before the call of the sea took me elsewhere.

I have enjoyed the last two winters sailing so much despite the frustrations of the erratic winds and restricted space that have always ruled here. The whole experience of turning up on a Sunday, quick and easy launching, short races, welcome breaks and delicious lunches is so comfortable and civilised. The racing is mysteriously satisfying (maybe because such concentration is required) even for those who sail around towards the back of the fleet, and the ambiance is friendly and relaxed. The whole show is a credit to the members and committee and especially Liz whose hard work ensures everyone is well fed and who is also a dab hand at first aid (must

remember, lower head or raise boom).

Well, I'm off to Gorleston for the summer, not quite such easy launching, but space and waves and long courses, generally steady winds and a whole different set of challenges. It's hard to beat on a sunny summer day, so why not give it a try? First start is at 10:30. Just turn up with your boat (and a wetsuit and fiver) there's lunch too! Gorleston uses an average lap time system so all speeds of boat get similar racing time. There is always help for launching and recovery and people to offer helpful advice. It would be great to see you there.

Steve Leigh

Waterside Café Craft

For longer now than anyone can remember (and some have very long memories!) we have enjoyed almost exclusive use of Rollesby Broad, save for the odd fishing boat or an energetic rower from either the Filby Café or the Eels Foot Pub.

However at Easter this year the new Waterside Café opened and began to hire rowing and electric boats, along with a tour launch subject to demand.. This means there will be other

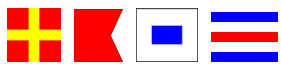
boaters around on our patch!

The committee have been talking to the new owners/operators for some time and they are well aware that we have both busy and less busy periods in our sailing activities. It has been agreed that the café will not launch boats for a few minutes either side of our busiest start times on Sunday mornings. Their boats will also be instructed to stick to the edges of the broad whenever sailing activities are in place.

We in turn will have to leave a little more room in the area of the café for their launching as neither of us are allowed to access far into the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) in the bay by their building. We will also need to be aware that there will be inexperienced boaters around at all times and they may not anticipate all of our sometimes irrational (to non sailors - and sometimes sailors alike) manoeuvres.

Please be patient with any other craft using the broad. The owners of the café have been pro-active in seeking our advice to give to their hirers and will welcome feedback via our committee as their business builds.

Thanks
Ian Ayres



Winter Race Series Results

Single Handers

Race 1

23 Entrants (11 Qualifiers)

1st Ian Ayres – Solo

2nd Laurence Milton - Phantom

3rd Kevin Postlethwaite – Solo

Race 2

22 Entrants (9 Qualifiers)

1st Ian Ayres – Solo

2nd Laurence Milton - Phantom

3rd Dave Salmon – Laser Radial

Race 3

18 Entrants (3 Qualifiers)

1st Barry Graver - Solo

2nd Dave Salmon – Laser Radial

3rd Ian Ayres – Solo

Multi Sail

Race 1

14 Entrants (4 Qualifiers)

1st Peter Dearnley / Di Holmes

Wayfarer

2nd Derek Page / Gill Stevenson

Stratos

3rd Bob Sparrow / Dave Parsons

Wayfarer

Race 2

16 Entrants (6 Qualifiers)

1st Peter Dearnley / Di Holmes

Wayfarer

2nd Roger Wilson / Denis Manning

Albacore

3rd Derek Page / Gill Stevenson

Stratos

Race 3

13 Entrants (3 Qualifiers)

1st Derek Page / Gill Stevenson

Stratos

2nd Bob Sparrow / Dave Parsons

Wayfarer

3rd Chris Codling - Wanderer

Quiz Evening

Friday 23rd April 7.30pm

Come along and enjoy a light-hearted quiz
with club members and friends

Bring your own team

Food Provided by the Committee

Bring your own alcoholic drinks

Tea and Coffee provided

Cost £5.00 Adults Under 16's Free

If you would like to enter contact Tony Gibbs

Open Day

Saturday 1st May

11:00 onwards

**If you can help on the day or can
promote the event by putting posters
on notice boards contact Hilary
O'Donnell or Tony Gibbs.**

**Tea, coffee, fruit juice and cake
available.**

Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome.