



# ***Rollesby Broad Sailing Club***

## **Spring Series 2026**



### ***Race Reports & Results Summary***

## **Contents**

<b>Previous Events and Upcoming Programme .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Week 1 – Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April: .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Week 2 – Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April: .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Week 3 – Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April: .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Week 4 – Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May: .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Week 5 – Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May: .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Week 6 – Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Week 7 – Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May: .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Week 8 – Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May: .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Summary &amp; Overall Results .....</b>	<b>12</b>

## Previous Events and Upcoming Programme

As we are now into our 'summer' programme, sailing is now permitted any day on Rollesby Broad as long as adequate safety cover is arranged (e.g. organising a small group via the WhatsApp community). For full details of the sailing programme, see link here: <https://www.rbsc.org.uk/racing-2/programme-2026-27/>

- **Solo Open** – 18<sup>th</sup> of April successful event with six visiting boats!  
<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/2026/04/eastern-area-solo-open-2026-race-report/>
- **Club Open Day** – 25<sup>th</sup> of April we had lots of visitors, some even joined us as members and completed the Adult Course.
- **Three Rivers Race** – Some Rollesby members enjoyed both competing and spectating this event held over the weekend of the 30/31<sup>st</sup> May  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rollesbybroadsclub/albums/72177720333957433>
- **Junior Sailing** – Block 1 has finished, but don't worry Block 2 is underway!  
<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/rya-training/>
- **Whit Regatta** – Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June will start off the new series  
<https://www.rbsc.org.uk/events/open-meetings/>
- **Wednesday Evening Series** – Just over a third of the way through this series and its still all to play for [https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race\\_results/2026\\_we.htm](https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race_results/2026_we.htm)
- **Junior & Novice Regatta (Sailing for All)** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of July, with camping from the Friday TBC and bring your own BBQ food.
- **Summer Regatta & Social** – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, club organised BBQ and prize giving after the regatta, with camping from Saturday TBC.



## **Week 1 – Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April:**

A strong south-westerly breeze tempted only twelve dinghies to Rollesby this Sunday, where white horses glittered in the bright sunshine as they rolled down the Broad. As conditions looked extremely challenging, more spectators than sailors gathered ashore, though two enthusiastic juniors still managed to enjoy a brief exhilarating blast.

With the Summer Programme now underway, the fleets were combined, and ten boats made their way to the start line. Several competitors chose to shorten their race as fierce gusts tore across the course, leaving only half the fleet remaining after the first lap. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) and Chris Foster (Wayfarer) were locked in a close duel at the front but the chasing pack refused to let them escape. Just three boat-lengths from the finish, Bull held the lead until a savage gust capsized him, driving his mast deep into the mud. The remaining boats swept past, allowing Ellie Edwards (Splash) to close the gap. On corrected-time, Edwards claimed victory by just four seconds over Roger Wilson (Streaker), with Foster securing third.

In Race 2, Bull stayed upright and, despite pressure from Phillip Highfield (RSAero 7), took both line honours and the handicap win. Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) flew downwind under spinnaker to finish second on corrected-time, with Highfield third. With all competitors thoroughly worn out after their battles, Race 3 was cancelled.



Ian Ayres with some breeze! – [Flickr Album](#)

## Week 2 – Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April:

A moderate north-westerly breeze drew 18 boats to Rollesby this Sunday, as the mixed handicap fleet took to the water following the successful Solo Open the previous day. With the full length and breadth of the broad in play, racing was close throughout and conditions proved ideal.

In Race 1, the faster boats broke clear early, with Daniel Bull (ILCA 7), Chris Barker (ILCA 7) and Roger Wilson (Streaker) trading positions at the front. The final lap saw the wind turn fickle, with the leading pack becalmed at the windward end and boats still in good breeze at mark 3. This allowed Ellie Edwards (Splash) to surge through on her last lap, taking victory on corrected-time. Wilson claimed second place, just three seconds ahead of Bull. Although Bull and Barker crossed the line almost simultaneously in a photo-worthy battle for first on the water, the handicap results pushed them down to third and fourth respectively.

After a slight course adjustment, Race 2 got underway in some gusty conditions. Once again Bull, Barker and Wilson pushed ahead, this time joined by Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo). Bull and Astley-Jones duelled throughout, but Bull broke free on the final lap to claim both line honours and the handicap win. Wilson stayed close enough for second, with Astley-Jones completing the podium.



The leading pack heading downwind taken by OOD.

### Week 3 – Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April:

A light, fickle breeze and bright sunshine met 28 dinghies at Rollesby this Sunday. The warm, calm conditions encouraged five juniors onto the water. The long races brought a mix of lively tussles and quiet drifting spells as the wind faded in and out.

Race 1 saw five boats break free from the mid-fleet congestion and master the large wind shifts. Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) crossed the line first, closely followed by Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo), but both were pushed down the results on corrected-time to fifth and fourth respectively. From the leading pack, John Saddington (Solo) stayed in touch throughout and claimed victory, finishing just five seconds ahead of Roger Wilson (Streaker) on handicap, with Rob Black (Solo) securing third.

After a course adjustment, Race 2 began in similarly light and shifty airs. A pile-up at the first two marks caused some chaos, but Astley-Jones and Fullford slipped through cleanly and established an uncontested lead. Ultimately Astley-Jones took the win on handicap, with Fullford in second and Saddington settled into a comfortable third. Junior sailor Dalton delivered an impressive performance in his Topper, persevering through the frustrating lulls to finish a commendable sixth out of 23 boats.

In Race 3, Bob Sparrow and Shaun Burland enjoyed some class racing in their Wayfarers. Line honours went to Sparrow, with Burland close behind in second and Vince Steele (Solution) third.



Boat pile up at the windward mark, such a great turn out but not enough room!

## Week 4 – Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May:

The mist gradually lifted over Rollesby Broad and 17 dinghies launched into light airs this Sunday. The breeze took time to settle, shifting between a gentle southerly and occasional westerly, but once established it produced close, tactical racing throughout the day.

Race 1 began in fickle conditions, with three long laps initially looking ambitious until the wind filled in on the opening leg. Several leeward mark pile-ups briefly compressed the fleet but the faster boats eventually broke clear. Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) and Darren Pike (Phantom) pulled away, with Astley-Jones taking a comfortable win both on the water and on handicap. Bob Hawkins (Solo) stayed in touch with the leaders to secure second, while Kevin Postlethwaite (Solo) edged into third by just two seconds on corrected-time.

With the breeze stabilising, Race 2 became a sharper, faster contest. Once again Astley-Jones established control and delivered a clean victory, finishing first across the line and on handicap. Behind him, Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) led the chasing pack but could not escape Postlethwaite, who claimed second place by only three seconds on corrected-time.

Race 3 offered a blend of the previous races' conditions. Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) took a decisive victory, with Kevin Postlethwaite and Phil Atherton working their Solos hard to keep up with Bob Sparrow (Wayfarer). Ultimately, Sparrow was knocked off the podium on handicap, with Atherton in second and Postlethwaite third.



Light airs and mist for Race 1

## **Week 5 – Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May:**

A strong north-easterly breeze met a determined group of eleven sailors on Sunday morning, with spectators lining the bank to watch the action as fierce gusts tore down the length of the broad.

The course for the Eels-Foot Race was set, sending competitors on half a lap around the usual marks before they disappeared through the cut in the reeds and onto Ormesby Little Broad. Despite capsizing before the start, Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) recovered well, breaking clear to take a comfortable win both on the water and on corrected-time.

The kilometre-long upwind slog back to the clubhouse proved gruelling after three tiring laps around Ormesby, with the race approaching an hour in length. Several boats became stuck in the narrow cut and needed retrieving from the reeds, though Wayfarer team Chris Foster and Chris Codling escaped with only minor difficulty. The delay allowed Ellie Edwards (Splash) to slip past and close rapidly on Bob Hawkins (Solo), staying close enough to secure second place on handicap, with Hawkins third.

Race 2 saw only five boats braving the challenging conditions. After brief confusion locating the leeward mark, Bull again pulled away to lead unchallenged, securing his second win of the day. Hawkins and Foster were unable to shake Edwards, who claimed second place from Hawkins by just three seconds on corrected-time.



The fleet disappears into the cut heading towards Ormesby Little Broad – [Flickr Album](#)

## **Week 6 – Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May:**

A fickle westerly breeze and moody skies met 18 dinghy sailors at Rollesby this Sunday. The wind was constantly fading and shifting, often leaving sections of the course in complete calm. Both races proved lengthy affairs, with each averaging a finishing time of 53 minutes.

Race 1 saw a small leading pack form as the faster boats began to break away after the opening lap. Daniel Bull and Chris Barker in their ILCA 7's managed to get clear as the race progressed, engaging in a tight duel for line honours on the final leg. Bull crossed just ahead of Barker, yet both were displaced on corrected-time by Ellie Edwards (Splash) who took victory on handicap. Kevin Postlethwaite (Solo) stayed close enough throughout to secure second, with Bull settling for third and Barker fourth.

Race 2 followed a similar pattern, with a small group stretching away while the mid-fleet repeatedly compressed and spread out in the changeable conditions. Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) pulled away at the half-way point, taking a comfortable win both on the water and on handicap. Bull again broke free of the chasing group to take second, while Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) held off the pack behind to finish third.



Dark clouds over the mid-fleet – [Flickr Album](#)

## Week 7 – Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May:

The bright sun reflected off a rather glassy-looking broad for 17 dinghies at Rollesby this Sunday. An inconsistent easterly breeze filled in patches across the course, sending part of the fleet surging toward a mark while others sat becalmed, creating an unpredictable and often frustrating challenge for the sailors.

Race 1 began in light airs and the first leeward mark produced a pile-up as boats converged with little steerage. Breaking free from this congestion was Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) and Mike McNamara (Wayfarer) who steadily extended their advantages to claim first and second respectively. John Saddington (Solo) steadily picked his way through the chasing fleet to finish third on handicap.

After a course adjustment, Race 2 delivered a near-repeat performance. Fullford again escaped early and never looked back, taking another decisive win. Daniel Bull (ILCA 7) just held off the fast-closing pack to take second by only three seconds, while McNamara and Saddington finished equal on corrected-time to share third place.

Only a handful of boats ventured out after lunch, but the reduced turnout did nothing to slow Fullford, who claimed a further uncontested win. Behind him, Chris Foster (Wayfarer) looked set for second until an issue at the leeward mark allowed David Goodwin (Enterprise) and Mike Horwitz (Solo) through. The fleet then spread out, with Goodwin taking second and Horwitz third.



The Broad looks like a mirror as boats launch hoping for some wind to appear!

## Week 8 – Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May:

Despite the exertions of the Three Rivers Race yesterday, with several regular helms either still out on the river or recovering, 19 dinghies took to the water at Rollesby on Sunday. The breeze shifted endlessly around the broad and troublesome weed added another layer of difficulty, ensuring both sailors and race officers faced a challenging day.

Race 1 began with Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) breaking clear early, but the erratic wind patterns allowed the fleet to compress once more and although first across the line, he slipped into third on handicap. John Saddington (Solo) judged the shifts superbly to secure a comfortable corrected-time win, while Daniel Harvey (ILCA 7) claimed second, finishing just seven seconds ahead of Fullford.

As the wind strengthened, Race 2 again saw Fullford establishing an early lead, but this time it remained uncontested enabling a decisive victory. Bob Hawkins (Solo) took second on handicap, staying ahead of the remaining Solo fleet while Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) claimed third.

After lunch, a smaller fleet returned for Race 3. Fullford maintained his dominance, adding another win. David and Diane Goodwin (Enterprise) delivered a strong performance for second, while a late surge from Phil Atherton (Solo) earned him third place.



The Broad looks like a mirror as boats launch hoping for some wind to appear!

## **Summary & Overall Results**

This is the first series of the year where sailing becomes mixed handicap as both multi-sail and single-sail fleets are combined. There was an average turnout of 17 boats a week, with a record high of 28 and lows of about 12 or less. This was mostly caused by the weather, on cooler and windier weeks, less people felt so inclined to participate! The first Eels Foot race in April was cancelled due to high winds, but the second went ahead despite similar gusty conditions.

Another point of contention was the growth of the dreaded weed which started to thicken up towards end of May. Hopefully it begins to die back soon! There was also some discourse around course setting and mark laying/positioning in the WhatsApp group. Then there was four weeks of light wind, several mark pile-ups and an increasingly weedy broad, yet racing was still very well attended.

Looking back to 10 years ago, the Spring Series in 2016 saw 27 different entries but only 10 'qualify' for a position. Whereas in the present day, this is almost double where we saw 48 individual entries and around 20 people qualify – this is amazing! Race 3 was also more well attended compared to last series, with enough races completed to make a series, likely influenced by the (mostly) warmer weather.

Overall it was very close in the top 4 for the AM series, whilst also for the remaining lower positions it was very tight with the final results not decided until the last week of racing. The same is also true for race three, even though there was a comparatively small number of races sailed and Tony had his top spot confirmed early on, the rest of the fleet were battling for their top 5 every week.

<b><i>AM Series (R1 &amp; 2 Combined)</i></b>	<b><i>PM Series (R3 Combined)</i></b>
<b>1.</b> Daniel Bull (ILCA 7/Laser) 16pts	<b>1.</b> Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) 3pts
<b>2.</b> Howard Astley-Jones (RSVareo) 18pts	<b>2.</b> David & Diane Goodwin (Enterprise) 11pts
<b>3.</b> Tony Fullford (Comet Trio) 20pts	<b>3.</b> Vince Steele (Solution) 11pts
<b>4.</b> Ellie Edwards (Splash/Streaker) 23pts	<b>4.</b> Bob Sparrow & Crews (Wayfarer) 12pts
<b>5.</b> Mike Horwitz (Solo) 54pts	<b>5.</b> Phil Atherton (Solo) 12pts

[https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race\\_results/2026\\_sp\\_am.htm](https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race_results/2026_sp_am.htm) &  
[https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race\\_results/2026\\_sp\\_pm.htm](https://www.rbsc.org.uk/race_results/2026_sp_pm.htm)