



Spring 2011

Bits'n'Bytes

www.byteclass.org.uk

UK Byte Class Association

Travellers Series 2010

The 2010 Byte Travellers series followed the usual format of two days for opens, two days for the Inland Championships and three days for the National Championships. The series ran from April to October with monthly events. Rick Whitehouse stamped his authority on the first open in light breezes at West Oxfordshire, followed home by Chris Rees and guest helm Phil Kirk. The fleet then moved onto the Inlands at Burton SC, where there was a bit more breeze. Rick again prevailed while Sarah Kirk clinched second ahead of Eddie Pope. The cobwebs were truly blown away in the open at Thornbury SC in fresh conditions. Going into the final race Rick and Eddie were even, but despite a capsized at the gybe final mark Rick just stayed ahead. Chris came third.

The nationals at Plymouth Mayflower in wind varying between Force 2 to 5 saw six different race winners in the 11 races held, and a new face at the front. Louis Sanders borrowed his dad's boat and clinched the event on the final two legs of the last race ahead of Rick. Sarah just pipped Eddie for third on countback, with defending champion Gordon Kevan fifth.

Blackwater SC then saw the strongest winds of the series. The effective sail controls and de-powering carbon mast were put to good use by Eddie in particular. Although he was beaten by Mike Radford in the first race after sailing the wrong course, he won all the remaining races to take the open ahead of Mike.

The last event was at Weston SC, again with good breezes. Rick was only able to attend the first day, when he won two races. Mike won the third race. On day two the wind was a bit stronger, and Eddie won all three races. Eddie therefore won the open, ahead of Mike, with Ruth Tayler (Warsash SC), who was making a welcome return to the circuit, taking third. Rick's strong performance in the early events meant he had just done enough to take the RWO Travellers Trophy away from Eddie, who had held it for the previous two years. The leading two Travellers boats were both built by Ovingtons, who took over construction from Topper and are approved by the designer Ian Bruce. There were a total of 19 entrants in the series, of which six qualified.

Overall Results:

- 1st Rick Whitehouse (Combs SC) 3pts;
- 2nd Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) 4pts;
- 3rd Mike Radford (West Oxfordshire SC) 8pts;
- 4th Chris Rees (Warsash SC) 8pts;
- 5th Sarah Kirk (Frampton SC) 9pts;
- 6th Maggie Futchter (Weston SC) 19pts.



Byte Travellers Series 2011

If you have been inspired by the report on last year's Travellers Series and would like to take part in 2011, here are the events planned for this year:

Open meeting West Oxfordshire 7th/8th May

Inlands – Cardiff Bay Yacht Club 4th/5th June

Open meeting - Thornbury Regatta 9th/10th July

Open meeting Combs 6th/7th August

Open meeting - Minnis Bay Club Regatta 24th/25th September

Nationals - Warsash 29th/30th October

Information on each of the events is detailed on the following pages along with relevant websites. Places to stay have been included for information only and are not recommendations by the Class Association. If you are intending to attend any events, check the Byte Class website (www.byteclass.org.uk) or the relevant sailing club website for the most up to date information. Please contact a committee member if you need any further help.

1. The series will be scored using the overall results for the above meetings and by applying the Low Point System for a series longer than a Regatta (Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2005 – 2008).
2. To qualify for the series, boats must have entered at least three of the six events.
3. If all six events are held, two discards shall be allowed. If four or five events are held, one discard shall be allowed. If only three events are held, all shall count. If less than three events are held, the Trophy Series shall be void.
4. The Fixtures Secretary or other Association Officer appointed for that task shall fix the declared entry for the series.
5. Prizes to be awarded will be not less than the square root of the number of boats qualifying for the series.
6. Both CII and traditional rigs are welcome.
7. It is the responsibility of the winner of each meeting to ensure that a report is sent to the yachting press after the event and to the Byte Class web master

Open meeting West Oxfordshire 7th 8th May

www.wosc.org.uk



West Oxfordshire Sailing Club is known as a very friendly and welcoming venue, The water is a flooded gravel pit some 1000 m long by 300 m wide providing close racing enlivened by shifty winds.

The club premises can be found at the end of an access road off the B4449 Stanton Harcourt to Hardwick road near Hardwick in Oxfordshire. The nearest Postcode for Sat Nav use is OX29 5AG which is Beard Mill Farm near the entrance to the track.

Registration will be possible from 9:00 on Saturday morning. The first race on Saturday will start at 12:00. The fee for entering the open meeting will be £15/boat.

Camping is possible on club premises for visitors on the Saturday night, if you wish to camp please let Mike know by Thursday 5th May.

For further information, please contact:
Mike Radford (results@wosc.org.uk) or
Martin Gibson (sailingsecretary@wosc.org.uk)

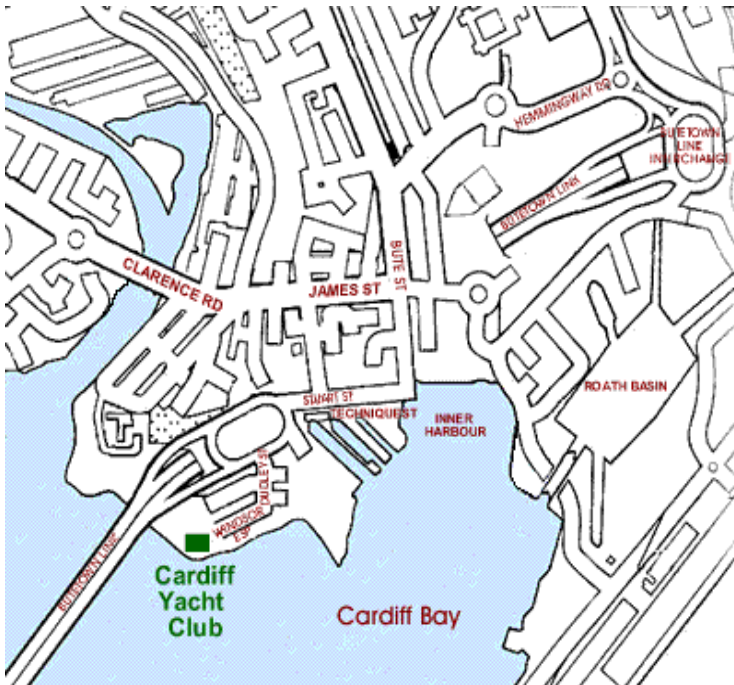
Places to stay

Rose Revived	Swan Hotel
Newbridge	21 Acre End Street,
Witney	Eynsham,
Oxfordshire OX29 7QD	Witney. OX29 4PE
Telephone: 01865 300221	01865 881225
www.rose-revived-inn-newbridge.co.uk	www.eynshamswan.co.uk

Inland Championships 4 & 5th June Cardiff Yacht Club

www.cardiffyachtclub.org

An ideal venue if you are travelling with a non-sailing partner or family, the Cardiff Yacht Club is located within minutes from the new dockland development. Here you will find entertainment, night life, shops, cafes, bars, factory outlets, and restaurants from around the world. Another 15 minutes or a short bus ride will take you to the town centre and all the facilities it has available. To see what Cardiff Bay has to offer, visit www.cardiffbay.co.uk



Directions

From the west, leave the M4 at junction 33 and head towards Cardiff Docks. Once you have crossed the flyover across the bay, turn off. Around the roundabout into Dudley Street and follow the road to the clubhouse.

From the North and East

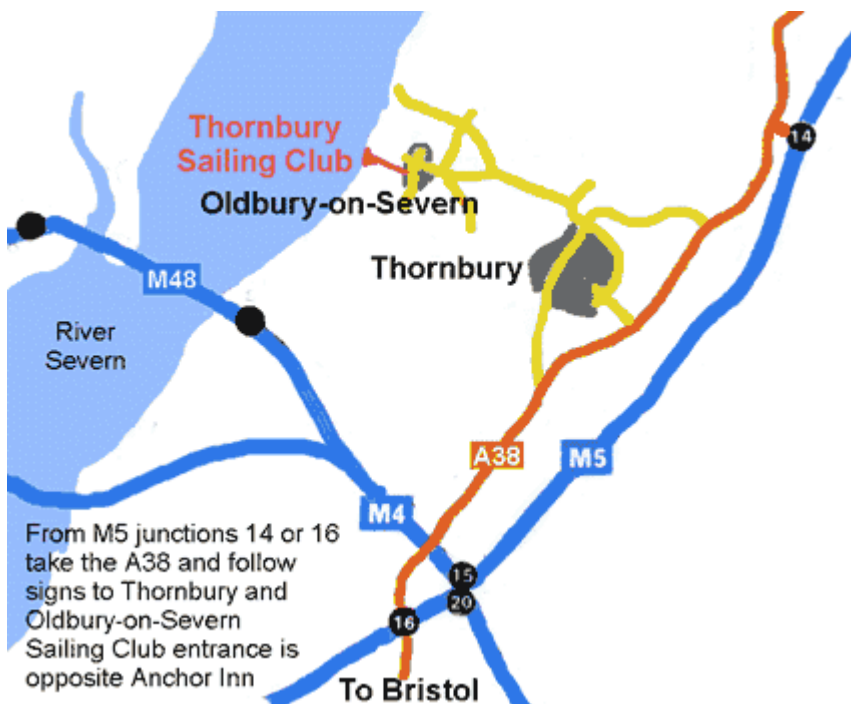
Head for Newport Road, then turn into Fitzalan Place which takes you around the back of the Prison. Turn left down the Central Link dual carriageway and right into Hemmingway Road. Left into Bute Street. Follow Bute Street to the end and the road will take you right and past Techniquet. Up to the roundabout and left into Dudley Street which you follow round to the clubhouse.

Places to stay:

The St David's Hotel	Travelodge	Cardiff Caravan Park
Havannah Street	Atlantic Wharf	Pontcanna Fields
Cardiff	Hemingway Road	Cardiff
CF10 5SD	Cardiff. CF10 4JY	CF11 9XR
029 2045 4045	www.travelodge.co.uk	Tel:029 2039 8362
www.thestdavidshotel.com	0871 984 6424	Fax:029 2039 8362

Open meeting - Thornbury Regatta 9th 10th July

www.thornburysc.org.uk



Thornbury Sailing Club is set in its own extensive grounds on the east bank of the River Sever at Oldbury Pill. The entrance to the private road giving access to the club is opposite the Anchor pub in the village of Oldbury-on-Severn. Pedestrians can follow the half-mile of tarmac road to the Club as it serves as part of the Severn Way footpath, but visitors by car need to make prior arrangements as the access gate is kept locked.

The Pill (a local word for inlet) is approximately two miles north of the old Severn Bridge, where the estuary is some two miles wide. The Severn estuary has the second highest tidal range in

the world and its vast sandbanks dry at low water. This restricts sailing to max 2 hours either side of high water.

Places to stay:

Thornbury Castle Hotel
Castle St
Thornbury, South Gloucestershire
BS35 1HH
01454 281 182
www.thornburycastle.co.uk

Premier Inn
Thornbury Road,
Alveston,
Bristol. BS35 3LL
0870 990 6496
www.premierinn.co.uk

Alveston House Hotel,
Alveston,
Thornbury,
Bristol BS35 2LA
01454 415050
www.alvestonhousehotel.co.uk

Open meeting Combs 6th 7th August

www.combsailingclub.co.uk



Combs Sailing Club is set in the Peak National Park, in the heart of Derbyshire's rolling hills providing a beautiful location for sailing. The reservoir, which feeds the Peak Forest canal, is located in a shallow valley between Tunstead Milton, Combs, Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith.

With a friendly atmosphere we attract a wide range of sailors who enjoy sailing throughout the year on this unrestricted sailing venue, available 24/7 to all club

members. Located just off the A6 we are within an hour of both the M1 and the M6

Places to stay

The Roebuck Inn
9 Market Place
Chapel-en-le-Frith
High Peak SK23 0EN
T: 01298 812274
info@roebuck-inn.co.uk

The Old Hall Inn,
Whitehough, Chinley,
High Peak. SK23 6EJ
Tel: 01663 750529
Email: info@old-hall-inn.co.uk
Website: www.old-hall-inn.co.uk

Forest Lodge,
58 Manchester Road,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak. SK23 9TH
Tel: 01298 812854
Email: noreen@forestlodge.org.uk
Website: www.forestlodge.org.uk

High Croft Guest House,
Manchester Road,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak. SK23 9UH
Tel: 01298 814843
Email: elain@highcroft-guesthouse.co.uk
Website: www.highcroft-guesthouse.co.uk

Open meeting - Minnis Bay Club Regatta 24th 25th September

www.minnisbaysailingclub.co.uk

Minnis Bay, as an area, is one of Kent's best kept secrets - the first time visitor cannot fail to be impressed by the quality of the beach and its surroundings.



Getting to us could not be simpler.

At the end of the A28 at the roundabout in "Birchington Square", turn left and drive through the village centre (several speed bumps!) Once clear of the speed bumps about 200mtrs further you will meet a set of traffic lights where the road goes under the railway, continue through and another 400mtrs on this road will take you to the sea front.

Turn left and drive the full length of the sea front (300mtrs) - The Sailing Club can be seen on the left at the very end.

We have entrances through the public car park and via the private Hengist Road.

Rigged boats must not use the public car park entrance because of overhead cables.

Places to stay

Premier Inn
Station Rd
Margate, CT9 5AF
0870 197 7182
www.premierinn.co.uk

The Kings Head Sarre
Canterbury Road,
Sarre,
Birchington,
Kent CT7 0JY
<http://www.kingsheadsarre.co.uk/>

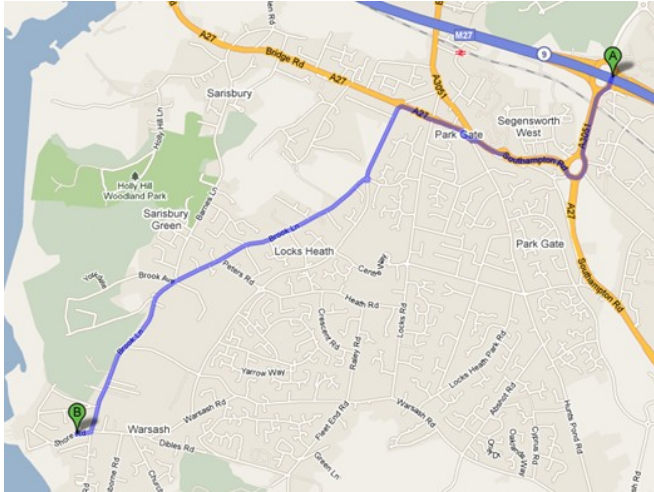
The Crown Inn - (Bed and Breakfast Hotel)
Ramsgate Rd
Sarre
Kent CT7 0LF
<http://www.crownbirchington.co.uk/>

Two Chimneys Caravan Park,
Shottendane Road,
Birchington,
Kent, CT7 0HD
01843 841068
www.twochimneys.co.uk

Nationals - Warsash 29th 30th October

www.warsashsc.org.uk

Located at the entrance of the Hamble River, at the heart of UK sailing with easy access to the Solent. It has two sites each with a clubhouse. The Shore House clubhouse has fabulous views of the water-borne activities and it is supported by a full social and educational programme. The Lobster Quay Clubhouse, new in 2006 provides showers, changing and training facilities.



Directions:

Exit the M27 Motorway at junction 8

Exit the roundabout onto Southampton Rd/A3051 heading to A27

At Segensworth Roundabout, take the 4th exit onto Southampton Rd/A27

At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Brook Ln

At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Shore Rd

Places to stay

Premier Inn
Southampton Road,
Park Gate,
Southampton. SO31 6AF
www.premierinn.co.uk

Holiday Inn
2-8 Cartwright Drive,
Fareham.
PO15 5RJ
www.holidayinn.co.uk

Bugle Hotel
High Street,
Titchfield, Fareham.
PO14 4AF
01329 841888
www.thebuglehotel.co.uk

Solent Breezes Holiday Park
Hook Lane,
Warsash, Nr Fareham,
Hampshire, SO31 9HG,
0845 815 9775
www.parkholidaysuk.co.uk

Dibbles Park
Dibles Road, Warsash, Southamp-
ton.
SO31 9SA.
Tel: 01489 575232
www.dibblespark.co.uk

A note on PY Numbers

The RYA have recently published the new PYs for dinghies to use in the 2011 sailing season. The Byte C11 handicap remains at 1140 (disappointing!), whereas the Byte Classic handicap has moved up 5 points to 1170. Whether a 30 point differential is appropriate remains to be seen, but presumably the RYA decisions are based on club sailing returns. It is also interesting to note that the Europe handicap has moved up 3 points to 1143, the Comet handicap has moved up 2 points to 1179, and the Solo handicap has moved down 2 points to 1153. The handicaps are based on the full range of conditions at both inland and coastal clubs. Further analysis of club results can apparently be provided looking at areas etc.

Some clubs have been "brave" and introduced local handicaps to reflect advantages enjoyed by certain dinghies in the prevailing conditions. If you feel that you are being disadvantaged at your club then it is perfectly reasonable to ask the sailing committee to consider changing your handicap. It would be good to hear about some success stories here. Another option is the use of personal handicaps which reflect expertise.

Your Committee



Chairman:
Eddie Pope
01442826320
edwinpope@btinternet.com

Fixtures Secretary:
Sarah Kirk
sarahagregson@hotmail.co.uk



Vice Chairman/ Class Secretary:
Maggie Futcher
02087435310
maggie.futcher@aol.com

Treasurer:
Hilary Ross



Web Designer:
Chris Rees
chrisrees1@gmail.com

Junior Representative:
Rachel Marden

Obituary

Byte 406.

Rick Whitehouse bought Byte number 406, new, in 1991. It had a long and successful career, with the original “classic” rig for many years, but Rick was an “early adopter” of the new CII rig and 406 continued to perform at the front of the fleet, winning four Inland National Championships and topping off this winning streak with the World Masters in 2008. Unfortunately this hard working hull began to feel the effects of age and overuse (a bit like its owner) and in 2009 at the National Championships in Mumbles, the hull moulding for the mast foot failed, allowing excessive mast movement and also water into the hull during the racing, on which Rick cruelly blamed his failure to win. Repairing the mast foot was not enough for Rick, and he spurned his erstwhile favourite, buying a new boat and selling 406 to John Saunders, little realising that John would lend it to his son, Louis (erstwhile Lightning Inland and soon to be National Champion). Louis proceeded to sail against Rick in the Inlands at Northampton, but over-enthusiastic roll-tacking combined with leaking side deck hatches (fitted by Rick to allow repairs to the cleat holders) put paid to his ambitions on that occasion. Undeterred, Louis took 406 to the Nationals at Portsmouth and after 3 days of close racing, forced Rick into 2nd place, adding another trophy to 406’s career.

It is now with great regret that I must inform you, gentle readers, of the untimely demise of 406. On a cold November night (I’m guessing) person or persons unknown built a fire at the Combs sailing club lake shore, fuelling it with the nearest available flammable material, which was, you’ve guessed it, 406. Hull, mast, boom – all were consumed, leaving only a blackened patch, some glass fibre matting and bizarrely, fragments of a Belfast sink...??. A funeral pyre if you like, though the culprits have burned their boats if we ever get our hands on them....

So - glassfibre doesn’t burn, but styrene resin, carbon fibre and aluminium do. Boats are not secure in boat parks – lock them down. Even then, fires can be set anywhere. The only sure protections from this last mindless behaviour are, I guess adequate insurance or taking your boat home every week.

Goodbye 406, you will be missed.

Rick

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**.
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- ◆ Legal Expenses upto £50,000 available for just £7.50 per year

For full details and prospectus contact

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Tel 023 8063 6677