



Spring 2011

# Bits'n'Bytes

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 capsize 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 Futcher (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](http://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](http://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)

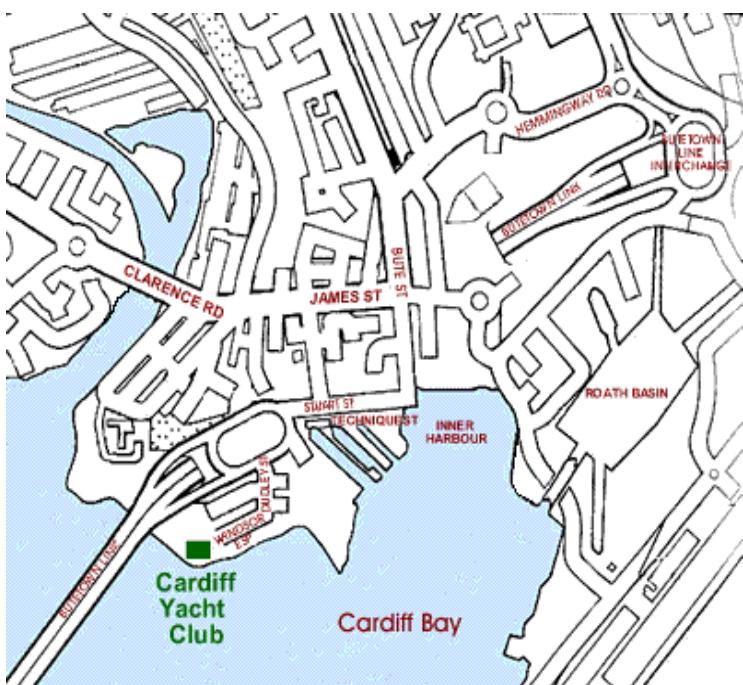
#### Places to stay

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](http://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](http://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 Techniquest. Up to the roundabout and left into Dudley Street which you follow round to the clubhouse.

#### Places to stay:

The St David's Hotel  
Havannah Street  
Cardiff  
CF10 5SD  
029 2045 4045  
[www.thestdavidshotel.com](http://www.thestdavidshotel.com)

Travelodge  
Atlantic Wharf  
Hemingway Road  
Cardiff. CF10 4JY  
[www.travelodge.co.uk](http://www.travelodge.co.uk)  
0871 984 6424

Cardiff Caravan Park  
Pontcanna Fields  
Cardiff  
CF11 9XR  
Tel:029 2039 8362  
Fax:029 2039 8362

# Open meeting - Thornbury Regatta 9th 10th July

[www.thornburysc.org.uk](http://www.thornburysc.org.uk)



# Open meeting Combs 6th 7th August

[www.combssailingclub.co.uk](http://www.combssailingclub.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

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

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

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.hightcroft-guesthouse.co.uk

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

[www.minnisbaysailingclub.co.uk](http://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](http://www.premierinn.co.uk)

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

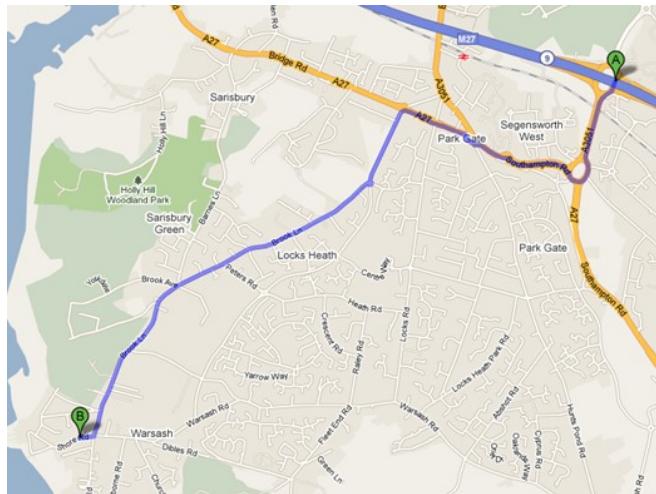
The Crown Inn - (Bed and Breakfast Hotel)

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](http://www.twochimneys.co.uk)

# Nationals - Warsash 29th 30th October

[www.warsashsc.org.uk](http://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](http://www.premierinn.co.uk)

Holiday Inn  
2-8 Cartwright Drive,  
Fareham.  
PO15 5RJ  
[www.holidayinn.co.uk](http://www.holidayinn.co.uk)

Bugle Hotel  
High Street,  
Titchfield, Fareham.  
PO14 4AF  
01329 841888  
[www.thebuglehotel.co.uk](http://www.thebuglehotel.co.uk)

Solent Breezes Holiday Park  
Hook Lane,  
Warsash, Nr Fareham,  
Hampshire, SO31 9HG,  
0845 815 9775  
[www.parkholidaysuk.co.uk](http://www.parkholidaysuk.co.uk)

Dibbles Park  
Dibbles Road, Warsash, Southampton.  
SO31 9SA.  
Tel: 01489 575232  
[www.dibblespark.co.uk](http://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](mailto:edwinpope@btinternet.com)

Fixtures Secretary:  
Sarah Kirk  
[sarahagregson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarahagregson@hotmail.co.uk)



Vice Chairman/ Class Secretary:  
Maggie Futcher  
02087435310  
[maggie.futcher@aol.com](mailto:maggie.futcher@aol.com)

Treasurer:  
Hilary Ross



Web Designer:  
Chris Rees  
[chrisrees1@gmail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**.
  - ◆ 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**  
Unit 4, Shamrock Quay  
Southampton, SO14 5QL  
Tel 023 8063 6677