



Spring 2012

No 47

www.byteclass.org.uk

Bits'n'Bytes

UK Byte Class Association

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HANDICAP AGAIN?

In the previous newsletter I wrote about the vexed issue of the PY attributed to the Byte C11 by the RYA. Now that the RYA has provided the 2012 PYs it's time for some more ramblings from me.

Based on results of 660 races the C11 handicap remains at 1140, whereas the Classic Byte handicap has been increased by 20 to 1190 based on 479 races. Though I do remember from my Classic days that it was hard to sail the boat to its allocated PY, I am surprised at a 50 point differential between the Classic and C11. I think the 2012 PYs must reflect the high average standard of our C11 sailors.

I am pleased that a significant number of handicap races have been reported to the RYA.

Other PY changes to boats in our performance league include a reduction of 2 for the Solo to 1150, and an increase of 2 to the Europe to 1145. My experience is that top class Solos and Europes with top helms can rarely be challenged on handicap, whereas the older boats with less competent helms are no problem. There are large variations in these fleets, whereas C11s are all pure one designs and more long-lasting.

I have raced my C11 in 9 general handicap races at Ogston SC this year in a variety of conditions against a wide range of boats. I have enjoyed mixed results, with a good deal of success against Lasers and Toppers, less success against Solos, and no success against the top Phantom helm. Best performance was in light and shifty winds where I was only a few seconds behind the Phantom on corrected time.

EDDIE POPE March 2012

BYTE TRAVELLERS SERIES 2011

The 2011 Byte Travellers series showed a welcome increase in number of entrants from 19 to 21, with both Championship events being better supported and average numbers per open being higher. A very successful training event was also arranged at Farmoor Reservoir, run by Kevin Moore (Hawley Lake SC) a previous Byte National Champion. The Class Committee is optimistic about increasing entries further in 2012, and is working to develop an exciting range of events including training at Rutland Water SC on 21 & 22 April. Other venues will be announced later in the year.

The series started in May, with monthly events through to the end of October. Rick Whitehouse (Combs SC) stamped his authority on the first Open which was shared with British Moths in gusty conditions at West Oxfordshire SC. He was followed home in each race by Mike Radford (West Oxfordshire SC) and Sarah Kirk (Frampton SC) did well to come third. The fleet then moved onto the Inland Championships at Cardiff YC in June with a separate start at the club regatta. Since the barrage was built this has fresh water and therefore despite being on the coast qualifies as “inland”. Rick has won the Inlands many times but this turned out to be a really challenging event. At the end of day one Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) was leading from Rick, but on day two Louis Sanders (Combs SC) the reigning National Champion found his form and just pipped Rick to the Inlands title, relegating Eddie to third.

In July the class had a separate start as part of the Thornbury Regatta in breezy conditions. After two days of hard racing the winner was not decided until the penultimate mark of the final race, when Rick capsized while trying to sail inside Eddie who had been impeded by a boat in the handicap class. Eddie kept upright to sail away for victory. Chris Rees (Warsash SC) came third overall, even managing to beat Rick in one of the races. In August we moved “up north” to beautiful Combs SC, a new venue for a Byte Open which we shared with the Lightnings. Louis decided to sail his Lightning instead (he is National Champion of that class too!) and there was another epic battle between Rick and Eddie. This again hinged on the last race, but this time Rick won.

In September an open was held at Minnis Bay SC, shared with the Phantom fleet. Sadly nearly all the usual travellers had other priorities. Newcomer (to Bytes) Stuart Moore (Hawley Lake SC) claimed his first Open victory, building on some good performances in the earlier events.

By the time the Nationals were held at Warsash SC in October Rick had already done enough to retain the Travellers Trophy. But he has been toiling for more years than he cares to remember to win the National Championships, and has been tweaking his boat for maximum performance. Would this be his year or would Louis again prevail? Or perhaps it would be Eddie’s turn? And how about Kevin, back in a Byte again? It was a fantastic event in force 3 to force 5 shared with the Finn Open, and Rick showed great consistency to take the title by winning 5 out of 6 races. He had to work really hard though, with Jon Fitcher (Weston SC) winning the other race, and Eddie, Kevin and Louis also leading at times. Maggie Fitcher (Weston SC) did really well to take the ladies title.

Rick Whitehouse (Combs SC) 5 pts
Eddie Pope (Ogston SC) 8 pts
Mike Radford (West Oxfordshire SC) 15 pts
Stuart Moore (Hawley Lake SC) 17 pts
Chris Rees (Warsash SC) 18 pts
Sarah Kirk (Frampton SC) 21 pts



Byte Travellers Series 2012

Open meeting West Oxfordshire 5th/6th May

Open meeting Cardiff Bay Yacht Club 2nd/3rd June

Open meeting Combs 28th/29th July

Nationals - Brixham SC 18th/19th/20th July

Open meeting Weston SC Sept 15th/16th

Open meeting - Haversham SC (Milton Keynes) 6th/7th October

Inlands Grafham Water SC 17th/18th November

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 seven events.
3. If all seven events are held, three discards shall be allowed. If five or six events are held, one discard shall be allowed. If only four 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 5th/6th 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 3rd May.

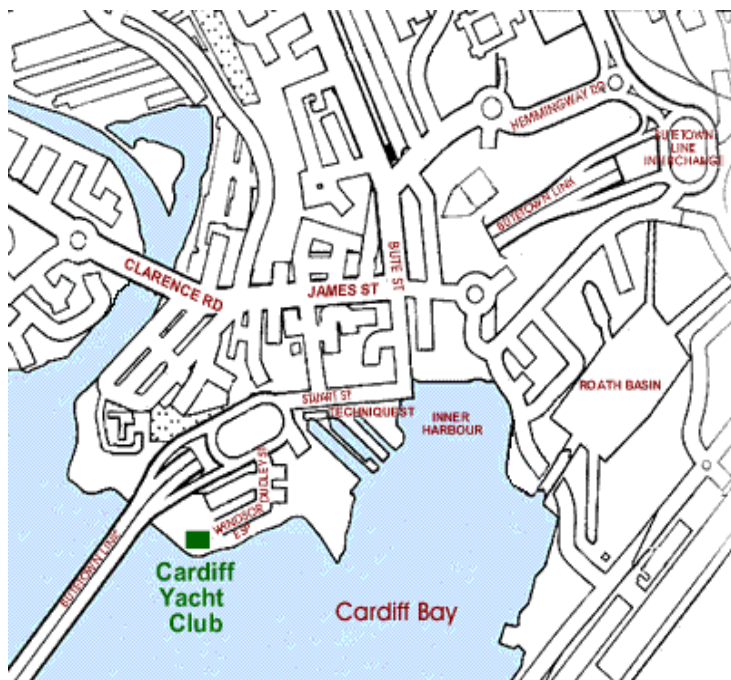
For further information, please contact:

Mike Radford (results@wosc.org.uk) or Martin Gibson (sailingsecretary@wosc.org.uk)

Open meeting 2nd/3rd June Cardiff Yacht Club

www.cardiffyachtclub.org

A very friendly club with excellent hospitality and an ideal venue if you are travelling with a non-sailing partner of 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 Techniquist. Up to the roundabout and left into Dudley Street which you follow round to the clubhouse.

Camping available on site.

Open meeting Combs 28th/29th July

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:

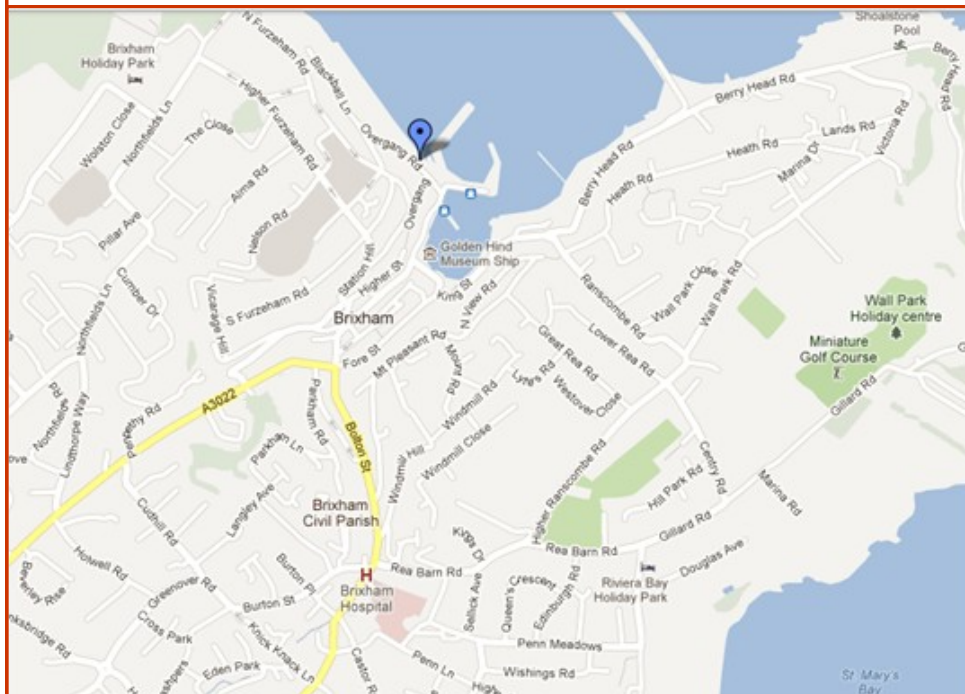
The Roebuck Inn
9 Market Place
Chapel-en-le-Frith
High Peak SK23 0EN
T: 01298 812274
info@roebuck-inn.co.uk

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

National Championships Brixham YC Aug 18th/19th 20th

www.brixhamyachtclub.com



Founded in 1937, The Brixham Yacht Club is recognised as one of the premier clubs on the South coast of England, as it continues to grow in both membership and stature.

The clubroom, formerly a sail-loft, together with the Jubilee Room Restaurant, provide panoramic views of the busy, but quaint, working harbour of Brixham and the beautiful waters and coastlines of Torbay and Lyme Bay.

Being adjacent to the harbour, The Brixham Yacht Club is accessible at all times and provides launching facilities at all states of the tide.

The Club offers an excellent venue

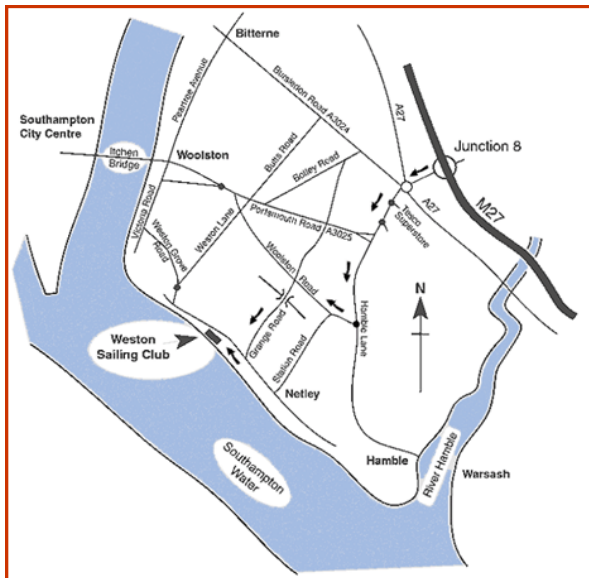
for social and competitive sailing and continues to host Open Weekend, National, European and World Championship events.

Timetable:

Day & Date (Warning signals times)		
Sat 18th August	Registration	0900—1200
	Briefing	1200
	Race 1	1345
	Race 2	ASAP after Race 1
Sun 19th August	Race 3	1100
	Race 4	ASAP after Race 3
	Race 5	ASAP after Race 4
Mon 20th August	Race 6	1100
	Race 7	ASAP after Race 6
	Race 8	ASAP after Race 7

Open meeting Weston SC 15th/16th September

www.weston.org.uk



Exit M27 at J8 and follow the 1st (from westbound) or 3rd (from eastbound) exit towards Southampton/Hamble

At the Tesco's round-about take the 2nd exit towards Hamble-Le-Rice. Follow the A3397 towards Hamble

At the 3rd round-about take the 2nd exit.

Take the 3rd RIGHT into "Ingleside"

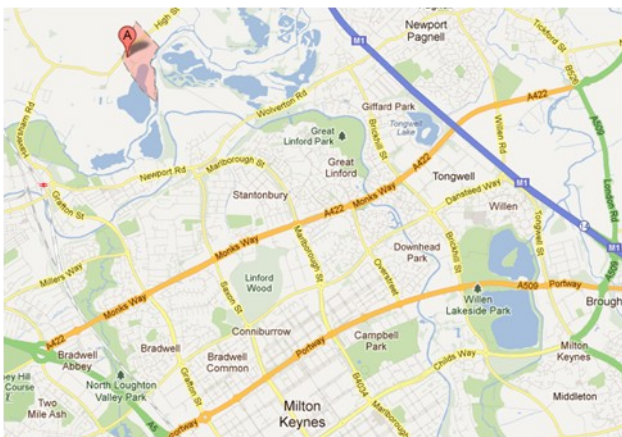
Take the 6th LEFT into "GRANGE ROAD"

At the end of the road TURN RIGHT onto "ABBAY HILL"

Weston is 0.3 of a mile on your left.

Open meeting Haversham SC 6th/7th October

www.havershamsc.co.uk

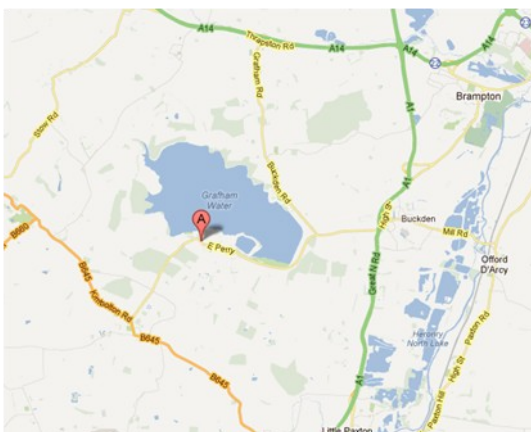


Open 365 days a year, a friendly family club, run by its members for its members. Located at Haversham Lake just north of Milton Keynes, we organise many sailing and social events throughout the year and have a Buccaneers Club for the under 16s. We have great facilities and are Royal Yachting Association affiliated. Whether a novice or an experienced sailor, you'll get the same warm welcome

Haversham Sailing Club is located in Haversham Village which is about 1 mile north of Milton Keynes. Access is from an entrance in Haversham Village about 20 metres south of the public phone box.

Inland Championships Grafham Water SC 17th/18th November

www.grafham.org



Grafham Water Sailing Club is easily accessible being just off the A1 near Huntingdon. A good, central location for groups and individuals. At 3 miles long and 1.5 miles across at its widest, the 1600 acres of open water provide plenty of space for sailors of all abilities from beginners through to the very experienced.

Camping is available on site.

Your Committee		
Chairman: Eddie Pope 01442826320 edwinpope@btinternet.com	Vice Chairman/ Class Secretary: Maggie Futchter 02087435310 maggie.futchter@aol.com	Web Designer: Chris Rees chrisrees1@gmail.com
Fixtures Secretary: Sarah Kirk sarahagregson@hotmail.co.uk	Treasurer: Hilary Ross	Junior Representative: Rachel Marden

What boat can you sail when you are not big enough for a Laser Radial but want to move on from a Topper or an Optimist?

The **Byte CII** with its state of the art, self de-powering mast and sail, is a single handed dinghy in true skiff style. It is excellent for anyone under 11 stone and is favoured by lightweight sailors. The Byte CII was selected for the Youth Olympics although GB did not enter a sailor for the Byte class as the boat is not part of the UK very successful youth development scheme run by the RYA.

In 1994, sailing the Original or Classic Byte, Kevin Moore won the National Championship at Castle Cove SC. Now his son, Stuart Moore aged 17, has got a Byte CII. He was in the Topper Junior Development Squad in 2008/9, currently in Topper National Youth Squad and came 44th in the Topper Gold Fleet in North Berwick in 2011. As a successful Topper sailor I asked Stu what he thinks of the Byte CII.

“I loved it right from the first time I sailed it. I was about 14 or 15 and got my own boat when I was 16. Its great fun to sail as it’s more sensitive and more powerful than a Topper. It’s completely different from the Topper in every way and is more like a 29er”.

Stuart has sailed his Byte mainly at Hawley Lake Sail Training Center in Surrey but in 2011 he travelled to 4 of the 7 Byte Opens including the Inlands and National Championship. He came 5th at West Oxford SC in May, he won the Open at Minis Bay SC in September. He came 5th at the Inlands Championship at Cardiff Bay SC in June and 5th at the Nationals at Warsash in October. His aim for 2012 is to come in the top 3 at the Nationals.

Other Topper Squad sailors have won the Byte nationals in the past, notably Hannah Blore and Oliver Tweddle. Both these sailors won with the Classic rig, maybe Stu will be the first from the Topper squad to win the Byte Nationals! Good Luck Stu!

If you would like to know more about the CII rig and how it sails, follow the link on our website to the International Byte website for an excellent video with Ian Bruce, the Byte designer.

If you would like to try a Byte CII contact the class secretary, full details on the website, and you will be put in touch with a CII Byte owner as close to your home as possible.

We have a 2 day training event at Rutland Water in April, you could come along to that. See web site for further details.

A new Byte CII costs around £4000 However, you can buy a good second hand Classic boat for well under £1,000 and a new rig cost £1,500 (there are currently 2 used rigs from the Byte Youth World championship available from Ovington Boats at £1000. Contact Nathan Batchelor, at Ovington, follow the link on our website, for further details.)

Maggie Futchter, secretary Byte UK Class Association, maggiefutchter@aol.com
www.byteclass.org.uk

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
Notebeme House, 84 High Street
Southampton, SO14 2NT
Tel 023 8063 6677