

BRITISH DRAGON ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No: 4

May, 1978.

This newsletter has been produced to coincide with the issue of the 1978 British Dragon Association Handbook in the hope that the latest news from the various Dragon Fleets that has been received will be of interest around the country.

1978 promises to be quite an eventful year for the British Dragon Class. Firstly, as you all know, we have a new Class Secretary - Philip Tolhurst (sails a Dragon named WARLORD - is there anything in a name?). Philip has been quite active in promoting our Class and reports that there will be a Dragon Class Tie available shortly, probably at the Edinburgh Cup together with car stickers with an apt slogan! Secondly, the Edinburgh Cup returns to Cowes and is being organised by the Island Sailing Club, entries are still being accepted at double fees until Monday, 19th June - even at double fees it must still be very good value. Thirdly, the Royal Torbay Yacht Club are hosting the European Dragon Championships from 10th to 16th September, which should see many foreign competitors in our waters. Finally, the B.D.A. Draw - tickets are selling well and the prize list is looking quite interesting and comprises besides the NEW DRAGON SPINNAKER (or cash equivalent) deck shoes, Fisons Horticultural products for the keen green fingered Dragoner, power drill, etc, etc. The proceeds of this venture are to assist in sending 'young and promising' Dragon Helmsmen and Crews to attend important international regattas, so your support will help to ensure the high standards already obtained are equalled and we hope, improved.

AT THE BAR WITH PINT POT!!!!!!!

Runner winches have been a subject of discussion for some time - general comments being we'd like a pair, but the price is a bit high. Well, I've heard of a certain Peter Wilson who has designed and produced a prototype, testing proved satisfactory, production has now commenced with the cost being something a little over £200 per pair. Whilst on the subject of runner winches, Maurice Williams of the Medway Fleet has produced a prototype in stainless steel, tested it throughout last season and is now busy producing it's mate - however, Maurice, I understand is not proposing to compete with Peter Wilson.

There still appears to be a shortage of secondhand Dragons available at a reasonable price for newcomers - many people are interested in joining Dragon Fleets, but are unable to find the right equipment at the right price.

At the B.D.A. Dinner in January at The Royal Thames Yacht Club, Tim Goodbody prescribed a remedy for Peter Lloyd's bad hearing - I wonder if Peter has acted upon the advice?! Perhaps he would like to make a public statement in reply!

Contributors for the next edition of the Newsletter should be sent to Ken Richardson at 10 Ronver Road, London, S.E.12. Any member who has the time and inclination to produce an article of general interest would be most welcome to contact Ken Richardson in order that the appropriate space can be held. In addition, odd snips of 'news', 'amusing incidents' for inclusion under 'The Pint Pot' heading are required - ALL DURING WEEK ENDING 10th NOVEMBER, 1978

Lowestoft Dragon Fleet.

Our A.G.M. was held during the month of December 1977 and produced some changes and new ideas. This is not unusual amongst the Dragons, particularly when they have had a reasonable intake of the malt, in pleasant surroundings and once the stuff is circulating nicely through the blood stream, the suggestions and ideas come thick and fast.

Tom Gill having done his stint as Class Captain had no hesitation in proposing that Colin Bothway should take over, and Colin very graciously accepted this responsible post. Apart from being one of the Club's top helmsman Colin is very good looking, has a charming personality and should have no difficulty in getting out the many pensioners we seem to be burdened with at Lowestoft. Who knows he might be able to talk the younger element to some "Dragoning", better still just smile.

After the longest period for anyone to do the job as Class Secretary, Ken Clabburn has at last managed to pull out and pass this job over to Chris Dicker. Ken was thanked profusely for his efforts and the meeting progressed to discuss the '78 season'. 'INDROS' and 'SKAL III' will be attending the Edinburgh Cup and perhaps 'DRAKE'. Subject to certain conditions we may have a Dragon and crew available for the Gold Cup in Denmark.

Our season starts on the 22nd April and we hope this season to be able to race for all our Trophies, some of them seem to have been permanently held in the Archives of the beer cellar. It's odd what a new committee can achieve, no one thought about the beer cellar as a place where the missing cups could be.

Our Annual Dinner was a howling success in more way than one, what with missing cups and who had won the cups we did find. Colin Bothway and Tim Whelpton re-appeared during the season to win most of the short regattas, and Falk kept up a steady average for the Saturday afternoon Club racing.

No one has gone "spinnaker mad" as yet, we are waiting results. The local sailmaker is cutting lumps out of the head and sticking bits on the foot that looks like a shirt tail, but as he says a blindman or a galloping horse would not know the difference.

E. McArthur.

Strangford Lough Dragon Fleet, Killyleagh Yacht Club

This very young fleet continues to flourish despite the sale of two boats to Royal Ulster where there is a growing interest in the Dragon Class. These two boats should be replaced soon if the right boats come on to the market.

The 'Dragons' are regarded with great affection by the locals who have even presented a trophy for an end of season race. This is aptly named "The Critics Cup".

With a splendid new club house all looks as though the future of the class is assured in Strangford Lough.

Killyleagh hosted the Irish Open Dragon Championships last year with great success. The weather supplied all wind strengths from 2 to near gale on the last day which unfortunately resulted in some gear failure.

John Kidney, from Dublin sailing 'PANCHO' established an overwhelming command of the championships with two firsts, two seconds and a third, thus defeating defending champion Conor Doyle in 'ALPHIDA' (Kinsale). Tony O'Gorman, also from Kinsale was third.

The best placed local boat was 'ZOHAK' helmed by Trevor Fitz-John, a promising young sailor, who was tragically killed in a car accident in October. The fleet will miss him very much this season.

The annual triangular match between Strangford, Cork and Dublin will be held under the K.Y.C. burgee this year on 2nd September when the fleet hopes to regain the Fafrin Trophy.

R. Fitz-John.

Waldringfield Dragon Fleet

The Waldringfield Dragon Fleet suffered a reduction in numbers last season, but the enthusiastic remainder turned out regularly for the Saturday points series. The Spring and Summer points were won by Ted Sudell in 'SNAP', who also won the Deben Week series then in the first race in Aldeburgh Week was attacked by a Squib and dismasted, to the amusement of the spectators.

John Buck and Frank Davey in 'VIKING' won the Autumn series.

Jack Heath with 'VENTURE' featured in the prize list for the sweepstakes.

This winter the enthusiasts have been fitting Spinnaker chutes, Barber haulers and Borresen wheels indicating that next summer the prizes should be more easily distributed.

'SNAP' will enter for the Edinburgh Cup at Cowes.

E.H. Sudell.

Torbay Yacht Club

Torbay Yacht Club has been chosen for the European Championships to be held September 10th - 16th which we are very pleased with. Graham Jenkins, our Fleet Treasurer and Captain elect is the organiser and I am sure he will make an excellent showing.

Our Dragon fleet A.G.M. is to be held on May 5th, we must thank and congratulate Ian Nicholle for all his hard work and keenness which he gave to the Torbay fleet during his two year term as Dragon Captain and to his charming wife Mary for all her help and great enthusiasm. 5 Torbay dragons are going to the Edinburgh Cup at Cowes and 'MISTRAL' hopes to have their usual "mackereling" competition with 'MESTENGO'. I understand 'MISTRAL' is two up?!?! Cheat!..

Simon Day is taking 'MAELSTROM' to Dublin and 'EVA' and 'MISTRAL' hope to go over to Copenhagen for the Gold Cup, August 20th to 27th.

Ian Mackenzie hopes to take 'CELERITY' to the World Cup in Australia next January. Good luck Ian, come back with the cup!.

We are now 11 in the fleet, Harry Budd having left the area and I understand he is selling his lovely new dragon 'CHINOOK', we shall miss him; always a cheerful and kindly helmsman. I understand a local helmsman wishes to sell his $\frac{1}{4}$ tonner and buy a dragon so we hope to be a round dozen again, with luck.

We have our usual team race with Deauville for the twelfth year. They come to us this year in early June.

We should like another Team race on our yearly calendar, any Fleet interested?.

Good luck to the Dragoners everywhere now in their 51st year, may they reach their centenary.

John Lewthwaite.

Medway Fleet

Medway Fleet have now virtually all returned to the moorings from their winter lay-up quarters in various parts of the Garden of England. One boat 'WOODOO' is still basking in the delights of the country at blossom time and we understand is likely to be seen shortly sporting some new equipment in the form of metal spars, runner winches and the well known fundamental orifice!.

During the winter 'AQUILLA' was purchased by our friend from the Burnham Fleet of 'VANA' fame - from the early race results it would seem that Bob Melville has things under control on the Crouch in his new yacht!.

We have three boats attending the Edinburgh Cup, namely ISIS, WIZARD and MESTENGO. So far we have only seen one new spinnaker amongst our fleet, but with the rule change some of the earlier spinnakers must now measure!.

Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club

The 1978 season at Cultra will see a very definite change for the better with new owners putting two extra Dragons out for the points racing.

We also welcome the formation of the new Dragon Class at Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Bangor.

This new class will be a great boost to Dragon sailing in the Lough and apart from the added interest at the regattas during the summer will bring back the possibility of holding the Duke of Edinburgh Cup, the Irish Championship and the Inter Club Team races in Belfast Lough.

Forth Dragon Fleet

It must surely be another first for the Forth, the outgoing President of a Dragon Crews Union welcoming his success publicly with a kiss. Nothing funny has happened to Jim Robb and it's just that the Scottish Dragon Crews Union now have a Lady President, and right well did Miss Lesley Arthur perform her duties at her inaugural dinner in March. She wielded her gavel as to the manner born - smashing an extremely solid looking glass ashtray at a stroke - and orchestrating the proceedings with skill, wit, and-where necessary- venom. Sadly there were no visitors from South of Scotland, the hope is that they are saving their strength for an assault on the Edinburgh and Gold Cups at Granton next summer, but the Clyde was well represented in the persons of Hugh Napier, George Service, Steve MacKinnon jnr and Neil Drummond.

Past President, Neil Ross eloquently proposed the toast to the Union, George Service praised his host and told us what he thought of the recent merger of his own club with another, and Ken Dougal established a new record for visits to the heads before the official comfort break.

Sundry others contributed to the mirth, though Kenneth the Rhymer was silent - the word was that Mrs. G. had confiscated his book of limericks -.

By the time this appears the racing will be under way again and there is much to be resolved. Will H. MacKenzie be as fast with his new "KIS" (ex "CAPRICE" bought from Messrs Napier and Miller of I.O.D. Fame) as he was with the old (staying at Granton but now sold to Bob Handley)? President Lesley can't tell us yet - though she perhaps fears so - she's just flown off to Bermuda with the aforementioned Napier and Miller to help them win the I.O.D. Class of the International Race Week.

Will Club Commodore, Roger Miller - renewing his yacht after a long lay off in a stately Gallion 28, find his Edinburgh Cup winning touch again. Will ex-Commodore Gumley re-establish his old dominance, aided perhaps by his (sleeping) partners, Robin and Lindsay Burley?. Robin by the way being the new Forth Dragon Fleet Secretary - he was rash enough to miss the annual meeting. Or will the Thomson brothers, the Gabbie/Hart duo or the Huie/Dougall team cause a stir this year?.

And will Gilmour Manuel appear?.

Answers next time.

- Again written by the Granton ghost -

This time p.p. R. Burley

BOATS FOR SALE

D/K 351 Sandoola Abeking & Rasmussen 1961. Sparlight mast and spars. Borrensen roller reefing and chute. 3 Mainsails, 4 Genoa's, 2 Spinnakers carefully used, all by leading makers. Lifting sling cradle and trailer.
All well maintained. One owner. £2,600
R.H. Stevenson, 97, Newmarket Road, Norwich. Telephone 53066.

IR 16 GRP Borrensen built (built below minimum weight 14kg correctors) Incapsulated Iron Keel. Every possible refinement e.g. wide spinnaker-chute, twin spinnaker booms, ball bearing Barber Haulers, six to one leverage on all running rigging.
Two suits of sails - North and Elverstrom - three spinnakers (one radial)
Present valuation £6,600

The Dragon is being sold together with its custom built German trailer which has hydraulic brakes on all four wheels, sealed bearings and rubber suspension for water immersion. Hand screw clamps for securing the Dragon (no lashings necessary).

Expandable rear lights for towing and a lockable tool case.

Selling price £450.00

Total cost for Dragon and trailer £7,050.00

Dr. Noel O'Hare, L.D.S., R.C.S.I.,
19 Summerhill,
Gasthule,
Dun Laoghaire.