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## SELECTED FIXTURES 2022

Regatta	Date	Venue	Contact
Monaco Grand Prix (Grade 1)	2 - 6 March	Monaco	<a href="mailto:regates@ycm.org">regates@ycm.org</a>
Paul & Shark Italian Cup	17 - 20 March	San Remo, Italy	<a href="http://www.yachtclubsanremo.it">www.yachtclubsanremo.it</a>
European Championships	4 - 8 April	San Remo, Italy	<a href="http://www.yachtclubsanremo.it">www.yachtclubsanremo.it</a>
Douarnenez Grand Prix (Grade 1)	4 - 7 May	Douarnenez, France	<a href="http://www.grandprixguyader.com">www.grandprixguyader.com</a>
Derby Dragon	26 - 29 May	La Baule, France	<a href="mailto:info@yclb.net">info@yclb.net</a>
World Championships	12 - 17 June	Kuhlungsborn Germany	<a href="http://www.dragon-kuehlungsborn.de">www.dragon-kuehlungsborn.de</a>
Dragon Open & Classic/Vintage Championships	18 - 19 June	Aldeburgh YC	<a href="mailto:patrick@kinnordy.com">patrick@kinnordy.com</a>
Edinburgh Cup & South West Championships	3 - 8 July	Royal Cornwall YC, Falmouth	<a href="http://www.royalcornwall yachtclub.org/dragon-edinburgh-cup-2022">www.royalcornwall yachtclub.org/dragon-edinburgh-cup-2022</a>
South Coast Championships	TBA	Cowes, Solent	<a href="mailto:solentfleet@yahoo.co.uk">solentfleet@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Cowes Week	30 July - 6 August	Cowes	<a href="mailto:solentfleet@yahoo.co.uk">solentfleet@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Gold Cup	21 - 26 August	Ostend	<a href="http://www.belgiandragons.be">www.belgiandragons.be</a>
East Coast Championships	10 - 11 September	Medway YC	<a href="mailto:medwaydragoncaptain@gmail.com">medwaydragoncaptain@gmail.com</a>
Scottish Championships	17 - 18 September	Royal Forth YC, Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:admin@royalforth.org">admin@royalforth.org</a>
Regattes Royale	19 - 23 September	Cannes	<a href="http://www.yachtclubdecannes.org">www.yachtclubdecannes.org</a>
Port Camargues Grand Prix (Grade 1)	12 - 15 October	Port Camargues, France	<a href="http://www.sngrpc.com">www.sngrpc.com</a>
Puerto Portals Grand Prix & Finals	15 - 20 November	Puerto Portals, Mallorca	<a href="http://www.crpuertoportals.com">www.crpuertoportals.com</a>

## BDA AGM & ANNUAL DINNER

The 2021 British Dragon Association AGM and Dinner will take place on Friday 14th January 2022 at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London. We all missed out last year so please do come and support your Officers and the Association by arranging your dinner table and booking your tickets now. The evening will get underway as usual with pre-meeting drinks at 18.00. The AGM will start at 18.30 prompt and dinner will be called at 20.00. There will be a cash bar for all drinks before, during and after dinner.

After dinner we shall present the Citron Trophy and have some short speeches. There will then be time for relaxed drinks before departure at 23.00. Dress is reefer jacket or lounge suit.

Tickets are £49.50 per person for dinner which is payable in advance and preferably by bank transfer to:

British Dragon Association, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Sort Code: 30-00-08 Account No.: 03090827.

Please reference your payment with your surname followed by AGM. Cheques, made payable to the British Dragon Association, will also be accepted. Cheques should be posted to the Honorary Treasurer, Bruce Boyd. Please reference your payment with your name followed by AGM.

To reserve your tickets and for further information please e-mail the Honorary Secretary, Chris Brittain, at [Britishdragonsec@gmail.com](mailto:Britishdragonsec@gmail.com) with confirmation of the number of tickets you require, the names of your guests, any special dietary requirements and confirmation of the date your bank transfer was made or your cheque was posted.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

*BDA News is designed and produced by CE Marketing – [www.cemarketing.co.uk](http://www.cemarketing.co.uk).*

*Our thanks to the following photographers:*

*Ron Cowan, Fleur Hayles, Cowes Classics Week/ Tim Jeffreys, Roger Mant, Joe O'Leary, Cowes Week/ Paul Wyeth, George Winder and Emma York.*

*Special thanks to Rick Tomlinson for his photo of Bluebottle on the cover of this yearbook – [www.rick-tomlinson.com](http://www.rick-tomlinson.com)*

*Rick Tomlinson*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



What a strange year... January started with no British Dragon Association dinner to fire up peoples' enthusiasm for the upcoming season, a virtual AGM and then lockdowns until late April.

Understandably the early season events were cancelled and Covid restrictions further limited the shoreside activities until mid-year, which perhaps dented some people's drive to get boats out of the barns and ready for the season.

Those that did get boats serviced and crews organised were treated to very good local racing as travelling was curtailed. For the Bertie crew, we started the season with the combined South Coasts and Classic Championship in June. We then took advantage of the great initiative to allow modern Dragons to join in the fun of Cowes Classic week in July. Both events were light wind affairs

which always makes life difficult for the race management but for each event we managed to get a series in, so my thanks must go to the volunteers who give up their time to allow us to go racing.

A traditional fixture in the *Bertie* calendar, Cowes week, was a subdued affair with little of the usual social events taking place and no fireworks but great racing was had by the dragons. What a treat to see *Bluebottle* racing and so competitive, made possible by the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust and David Heritage in following the Duke of Edinburgh's wish that she be fully restored to racing specifications. The dock party showed the other fleets in the marina that fun could be had without formal events.

We then made the trip North to Scotland to join the fleet at the Royal Forth Yacht Club for the postponed 2020 Edinburgh Cup. Cathy Ogden and the team at the RFYC had worked incredibly hard to make the event a great success under the most trying of circumstances and rapidly changing Covid advice from the Scottish government. Again, light winds prevailed but the race

team led by Rob Brown, a former Dragon sailor and Edinburgh Cup winner, managed to deliver a complete series for both the Scottish Championships and the Edinburgh Cup. Tom Vernon and his team showed mastery of the light conditions but were pushed hard by Gavia in *Jerboa*, Graham in *Bluebottle* and Gerry Trentasaux who joined us all the way from France.

Burnham on Crouch seemed to be 'on the way' back to Cowes, so we stopped off to join the East Coast Championship as we missed our usual battles with the RCYC fleet due to a covid related clash of dates for Burnham Week and the Edinburgh Cup. As a first-time visitor to the Crouch, there was clearly only one thing that must be done and that was find the mud, which predictably we did! The welcome and hospitality of the RCYC fleet was first class and reminds me of why we joined the Dragon class, great sailors and great fun off the water.

And so to next season, we are very excited that we are returning to Falmouth and the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club for the

2022 Edinburgh Cup, plans are well advanced and dates in early July will avoid the school holidays but should provide some excellent weather for a West Country trip. I hope many of you will join us and we hope the venue might entice a few more boats out of the barns. Event details are on the website.

Plans are also developing for 2023 with the 75th Edinburgh Cup being planned for Cowes and the prestigious Gold Cup to be held in Torquay. More details of these events will be forthcoming at the AGM and dinner to be held at the Royal Thames on the 14th of January, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

I would like to leave you with a vote of thanks to my BDA committee members, to all those in the clubs who give up their time to plan our events, chase down our sponsors and sit out on the water in all weathers to allow us to do what we love, without them racing cannot take place, so thank you.

**SIMON BARTER**



# ALDEBURGH FLEET REPORT



Hugh Rich sailing his beautiful Adhntine on a sunny day on the Alde.

2021 was a great improvement on 2020. Maybe that wasn't a difficult achievement. However, Aldeburgh Yacht Club managed to lay on a full programme of racing, the Dragon fleet welcomed a rare visitor and is showing clear signs of growing in numbers. All very positive, even if it will be next year before some of this moves from anticipation to fact.

The Dragon racing in 2021 divided into two regattas, the Spring one and the main August one and participation in the regular programme of handicap racing. Both regattas were won by Patrick Gifford in *Basilisk*, who won three of the four races in the Spring Regatta and five of the six in the main regatta. It wasn't quite as easy as this looks. Mike Hayles in *Naiad* won one of the Spring races convincingly and went aground in one of the others when in the lead. In the August Regatta Mike was winning the first race easily until it became apparent that he was having to guess at the course and had in fact guessed wrong! It turned out that there had been much distraction on the boat due to spinnaker problems before the start so they hadn't managed to check the course boards. Patrick took full advantage of the error and led thereafter. The rest of a light wind regatta was dominated by *Basilisk* and her Waldringfield crew of, variously, Martin Spall, Andrew James and Jonathan Penn. Most strikingly, *Basilisk* seemed to have exceptional speed when two-sail reaching, a virtue not usually required on Championship courses, but certainly helpful on the Alde. She only failed to achieve a clean sweep because of retirement when in the lead in a flat calm in the last race due to the need to keep a tide-limited appointment with the crane in order to go to the Edinburgh Cup. Behind her came *Naiad* and *Harkaway*. The latter, helmed by Tim Hannon, continued to display her extraordinary ability to point without losing speed. Very useful on an estuary and impressive in a 74 year old boat.

Our visitor for the Spring Regatta was Ron James with *Feilin's Flirtation*. She drew much attention for her looks, and showed plenty of speed but didn't fully come to terms with the unusual demands of a rather narrow and bending estuary. It was great to have Ron, Julia and Ian there. We certainly thought they enjoyed themselves and we hope that they may be the precursors of more visitors.

Sporadic appearances in the handicap racing were made by *Harkaway*, *Naiad* and *Panther*. *Harkaway* won one of the Wednesday evening series. Both *Basilisk* and *Naiad* travelled to Cowes for the South Coasts and Edinburgh for the Edinburgh Cup and Scottish Championships as reported elsewhere. They were sadly unable to visit their usual fleshpots in France but are still hopeful for next year.

Our fleet is growing. Hugh Rich and his friends have been so taken with sailing *Inditine* that Henry Brevis has bought *Orion* from Rufus Gilday and Andrew Barlow has bought *Vivacious* from Burnham. *Vivacious* has indeed already been taken to the East Coast Championship at Burnham. In addition *Inge* is now being refurbished by Demon Yachts for Peter Donker Curtius and should appear next year. With the hope that *Kestrel* makes it back into the water we might even have a fleet of nine boats. Even if they don't all turn out at the same time this would represent a substantial improvement on the recent past. In order to encourage them and possible visitors AYC has agreed to a Dragon open meeting on 18th to 19th June next year, so that, with our Spring and main regattas we will have three open events, all of which will have a strong Classic and Vintage flavour given the composition of our fleet. We would love to see more visitors and show off the virtues of our estuary. Do come!

**PATRICK GIFFORD**



Having been furloughed for the whole of the 2020 season the Abersoch Dragons and their crews were absolutely delighted to be back on the water again at the start of this season.

On a hot and sunny early summer weekend the boats and the sailors were taut with excitement and anticipation... although part of this may just have been over enthusiasm with rig tensioning!

Sadly, our first weekend of racing was lost to lack of wind...an ominous portent of things to come for the rest of the season.

When the wind eventually blew, racing once again confirmed to us all just how much we had missed the camaraderie and competition on the water and the banter and bonhomie on shore!

A total of seven boats made up the fleet this year, and racing was always close with no one boat dominant.

Podium positions and back marker slots were traded freely amongst the fleet.

Series wins were recorded by several boats including *Tsunami* (Colin Brereton, Andy Wilkins & Chris Mills), *Caramba* (Rob Eldridge, Dave Gore & Kate Allen), *Raissa* (Mike Cope, Graham Price & Susie Delves), *Vixen* (Tim & Carole Saunders and George Davies), and, when they could be prised away from the bar, *Njord* (Julian Adams, David Coxon & Peter Hawkins).

Grant Edwards *The Knucker* and Patrick Lomax's *Good Grief* enjoyed eclectic crew mixes this season and although they were there or thereabouts, didn't quite manage a series win.

Rob Eldridge's *Caramba* won the Captains Cup and Colin Brereton's *Tsunami* performed consistently well to take the most series wins.

Congratulations go to Mike Budd who won the Squib Nationals which were held in Abersoch this year. Mike concentrated his efforts and focus during the season on his brown sailed boat called (not surprisingly) *Harry*... and was rewarded with an impressive and dominant victory.

Unfortunately, a number of Dragons were compelled to remain on furlough throughout the whole of the season, but now that this benefit has been withdrawn, we are hoping that they will dip their keels in the water again in 2022 and that the fleet will once again be measured in double figures!

With a further return to normality anticipated for next year, planning is underway to develop our race program. Hopefully this will see the return of the Northern Championships once again to Abersoch and the waters of Tremadog Bay.

**TIM SAUNDERS**

# ABERSOCH FLEET REPORT



*Caramba, winner of the Captain's Cup*

# Bluebottle's Summer

*Bluebottle* lay decaying, under a tarpaulin in Cornwall until in 2014 she was spotted by Bob Downie, CEO of the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust. Inspired by a Mervyn Pearson painting commissioned by Prince Philip of the four Royal yachts he loved - *Britannia*, *Bloodhound*, *Coweslip* and *Bluebottle*, it was clear to Bob that *Bluebottle* needed to be saved and reunited with the other three.

Fast forward to 2021 and after an exquisite restoration by David Heritage "H", together with Julia, we stepped aboard for the sparkling first Saturday of Cowes Week.

Daunted at the prospect of short tacking this most iconic of all Dragons, amongst the rocks, in front of hundreds of spectators, I failed to mask my apprehension but H said the Duke wanted her raced so we should not be worried about getting stuck in. Anyway, he said, "I've got lots of blue paint... and wood" [should things go wrong]. He was both joking and serious in the same breath - I got the message. We sheeted in and made a few adjustments. She felt self-assured, almost as if she had been here before... Our start was conservative but safe.

Relieved to have made it to the top mark without incident, we engaged the leader, Eric Williams. A bit of luck from aloft with an unusual close-quarter split wind put us ahead - someone was looking down on us we thought. Imagine if *Bluebottle* could win her first race in 60 years! We each tried not to think it but by the last leg we were comfortable and at the point she took the winner's gun, Bob's vision was vindicated, and everyone involved was rewarded by this happiest of events. She went on to win overall by some margin then off to Scotland she went, having surpassed all expectation in her early sea-trials.

Beautiful open waters and stiff international competition provided excellent close racing in the Scottish Championship and Edinburgh Cup. Ancient photographs of *Bluebottle* adorn the walls of the Royal Forth YC who welcomed her home. She obliged taking individual race wins and finishing on the podium in both events proving she is not yet done with making history!

There is still much to learn about her, but it appears she is as competitive as she is beautiful. The Duke clearly had an eye for the aesthetic and Bob reminds us that *Britannia* was painted to match *Bluebottle's* colours, not the other way round as many assume.

We were only sorry the Duke was not able to see his beloved Dragon race again but those who knew him said how thrilled he would have been plus we were most honoured to learn that certain senior Royals followed her progress and shared everyone's delight.

Who knows what next for *Bluebottle* but we can all rejoice in the courageous decision to save her, and in the integrity of the Class Rules which enable her to compete on level terms against modern boats some 73 years after she was presented to the Royal Couple.

**GRAHAM BAILEY**



*Building the original Bluebottle at Campers & Nicholson*



*Cowes Week winners, Graham & Julia Bailey and 'H'*





# BURNHAM FLEET REPORT



With Spring 2021 still being lived under UK Government Covid rules the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club pontoon was open but the clubhouse was closed. Nevertheless, four teams launched for the first race of the season on 2 April for a makeshift Easter Regatta. *Avalanche* (Mark, Nigel and a series of 'plus ones') opened the season with a race win from *Dublin Bay* (David, Kate and Dave). A prize giving of sorts was held in the car park where the podium saw *Avalanche* on top ahead of *Still Crazy* (Ian, Rene, Alex) and *Hands Off* (Andy, Tim, Teresa).

The Spring series was a brief affair with an encouraging seven boats but only three races completed. The important thing was, we were racing and trophies could be awarded. *Anarchy* (Chip, Nicola, David) picked up the Saturday series that consisted of one race and *Pageboy XI* (Paul, Clive, Graeme) won the two-race Sunday series.

By the Early May Bank Holiday, the clubhouse was open for business and we could once again enjoy the après sail that is such an important part of racing Dragons in Burnham on Crouch. The racing for the Karl Marx Trophy was frantic, with X-flag starts, groundings, miracle recoveries and lead changes throughout. Some finishes it was difficult to know which of four boats had won. *Avalanche* (Mark, Mandy, Nigel) enjoyed their second trophy win of the season.

Dragons like to travel but it wasn't easy in the first half of 2021, *Hands Off* enjoyed a trip to Medway where despite opening their account with two last place finishes, they won the last four races and the event overall. Whilst *Hands Off* was away, Burnham welcomed *Flotation* (Richard Davies) and Stavros to the fleet. Burnham Fleet members managed to travel without boats, to sail Dragons in Cowes Week and at the Edinburgh Cup.

It was that difficulty in planning travel that convinced the fleet to stay together at home when the Edinburgh Cup was rescheduled and clashed with Burnham Week. The eight-boat fleet again enjoyed some memorable close racing with dogfights from start to finish over courses that were longer than our usual club races. *Beauty and the Beast* (Peter, Katie/ Harriet, Noddy) showed strongly, winning three out of the four trophies on offer. They missed out on the final day trophy that came down to a few seconds between four boats after nearly three hours of racing. *Still Crazy* beat *Anarchy* in a photo finish.

To summarise our season, I would say that we have made the absolute best of our facilities, had consistently tight racing, and saw the trophies shared amongst boats. We have also greatly enjoyed the company of visitors from Medway, Aldeburgh, Chichester and the Solent for the East Coast Championship we hosted in September. Quite often we enjoy our best races at the end of our season and we race into late November, so if not this year, come and join us in 2022!

**NODDY**





# THE 2021 EDINBURGH CUP



The 2021 Edinburgh Cup was hosted by Granton Harbour's Royal Forth Yacht Club who previously held the Edinburgh Cup in 1997.

After two days of racing in the BDA Scottish Championship there were many Dragons showing potential to take the Edinburgh Cup win. While Tom Vernon's *Badger* added another title securing the Scottish Dragon Championship the Cowes Week winning team onboard *Bluebottle* showed they should not be overlooked.

Reigning Edinburgh Cup Champion Mike Budd's *Harry*, local RFYC sailor Peter Cook's *Meteor* and Gery Trentesaux's La Baule team on *Bade a Part* were all in contention.

Day one of the Edinburgh Cup 2021 greeted the Dragon sailors with a gentle Easterly breeze, sadly not enough to begin racing. A post-lunch increase offered some optimism and soon the fleet was heading to the racing area.

It all started well with a clean start to race one that saw *Jerboa* taking the clear air at the pin end to inch ahead of the fleet. The team of four, led by Gavia Wilkinson-Cox kept to the left of the course from the start as the fleet split going up the first beat.

*Jerboa* maximised opportunities in the light airs and continued her lead of the fleet to take the first race win ahead of *Badger*, *Fei-Lin's Flirtation*, *Basilisk* and *Bluebottle*. On taking the race one win, *Jerboa* skipper Gavia said "it is always good to win the first race."

Day two came with a short delay waiting for wind but as race two got underway it started with an individual recall for *Kestra*. The fleet were on a trip towards Edinburgh as they favoured the right of the course up the first beat against the tide.

*Jerboa* looked very steady and comfortable in the light airs and stuck with *Badger* around the course and going into the gate for the second time. But it was *Badger* that claimed their first bullet of the Edinburgh Cup followed by *Bande a Part*, *Jerboa* and *Bluebottle*. Simon Barter's



*Bertie* finished in fifth place claiming the Corinthian race win.

Tom Vernon's team of Adam Bowers and Oliver Spensley-Corfield on *Badger* sailed well in the conditions, maximising on the

light puffs of wind on the Firth of Forth. They were once again first to the windward mark in race three followed closely by *Bande a Part*, *Bluebottle* and *Harry*.

The 1.3 nautical mile run down provided room for some tactical advantages which Ron James capitalised on as he steered *Fei Lin's Flirtation* to overtake *Harry* before the gate.

Royal Forth Yacht Club sailor Cathy Ogden and her team onboard *Kismet* had a great beat and windward mark rounding and found themselves in sixth place on the run.

By the final windward mark rounding *Bluebottle* had overtaken both *Badger* and *Bande a Part* to come out in the lead followed by *Fei Lin's Flirtation* and *Bertie*. Hot on their heels was *Kismet* who continued to race well using local knowledge and experience to stay ahead, sailing along with *Harry* and *Flotation*. Another race, another winner. Race three went to *Bluebottle*.

With three races completed *Badger* was leading the fleet very closely followed by *Bluebottle*, *Bande a Part* and *Jerboa* and Corinthians *Bertie* and *Harry*.

Race four was not fun for all as it was an unfortunate start for *Bertie*, *Harry*, and *Meteor* who were unable to make the pin end of the start line.

It looked to be a comfortable lead for *Jerboa* as she led through the first lap followed closely by Ron James' *Fei Lin's Flirtation*,

*Bluebottle* and *Badger*. A changing tide delivered a disturbed sea that saw *Bluebottle* edge ahead and extend their lead stretching away on the final downwind leg to take the win.

The final race of the day, race five got through two general recalls before the black flag was issued. Mike Budd's *Harry* achieved a clean start and led to

the windward mark. It was all remarkably close behind with *Jerboa*, *Bluebottle*, *Bande a Part* and *Fei Lin's Flirtation* all rounding as a pack.

The longer windward leg to the finish delivered an exciting close to the day's racing as *Jerboa* took her second win of the event, *Badger* second and *Bluebottle* third.

Going into the final day and last race, it really was all to play for with just one point separating the top three boats overall.

A gentle Easterly wind was present for the start of race six that saw *Harry* get away well while unfortunately Mike Hayle's *Naiad*, *Red Kestra* and *Fei Lin's Flirtation* did not make the line.

As the fleet split in two up the beat Patrick Gifford's *Basilisk* took the lead followed by Royal Forth Yacht Club local sailors *Wiz Too*, Richard Davies' *Flotation* and *Badger*.

It was a tough race that saw many shifts and changes to the soft breeze. Patrick Gifford, Geoff Butcher and Philip Catmur onboard *Basilisk* sailed an excellent race exploiting the weather changes and the favoured beats to take line honours in race six.

A superb win for *Basilisk* secured them the Corinthian title, helm Patrick Gifford said "We felt we were at the back end of the boats that were going fast all week. So, it was nice to be up there and beat them. It has been a good event; it is a great open space to race in."

*Badger's* second place in race six, keeping *Jerboa* and *Bluebottle* behind was enough to secure the overall Edinburgh Cup win! Crew Oliver Spensley-Corfield commented at the prize giving "I am very pleased it is a relief after a tough week. But we managed to hold our nerve and keep it together."

**EMMA YORK**

Edinburgh Cup Winners 2021 *Badger* GBR810



## OVERALL TROPHY WINNERS

### FIRST BOAT OVER 25 YEARS

The AAM Quaich

*BLUEBOTTLE*

Graham Bailey, Julia Bailey, David Heritage

### 1ST CORINTHIAN LADY HELM Seagull Trophy

Gavia Wilkinson-Cox

### HIGHEST PLACE BOAT WITHOUT A TOP 5 FINISH

Jordan Bell

*NAIAD*

Michael Hayles, Nick Hartshorn, Hanna Hartshorn

### 1ST OVERALL 1ST CORINTHIAN

Corinthian Cup

*BASILISK*

Patrick Gifford, Geoff Butcher, Philip Catmur

### 3RD OVERALL EDINBURGH CUP

*BLUEBOTTLE*

Graham Bailey, Julia Bailey, David Heritage

### 2ND OVERALL EDINBURGH CUP

John Day Memorial Plate

*JERBOA*

Gavia Wilkinson-Cox, Mark Hart, Jake Hardman, Kate Angier

### 1ST OVERALL EDINBURGH CUP

*BADGER*

Tom Vernon, Adam Bowers, Oliver Spensley-Corfield



# SCOTTISH FLEET REPORT



What an exciting and challenging season for our Forth Fleet with our biggest event to host in over 20 years and with so much to do to be ready to welcome our visitors. We had big plans that had all been delayed and no access to our clubhouse to start renovation work until May. There was a kitchen to completely replace, furniture to organise to be COVID compliant, a bar to upgrade and much tidying to be done.

Our sailing season started mid-May with a newcomer joining the fleet. *Stargazer* GBR 509 newly owned by Mariangela Bonvita and her partner Colin Snodgrass on helm started a steep learning curve in the run up to the big events planned in August.

The home fleet, especially the *Wizz Too* and *Kismet* crews, were kept extra busy on non-race days with the club renovations, patio improvement project, committee boat maintenance, dredging and preparation for our first Edinburgh Cup in 24 years.

We were delighted to have *Fei-Lins Flirtation*, Ron James and Julia Walsh, bring their beautiful Dragon to Granton to join in racing from June. We put on a special racing event in mid-August to launch *Bluebottle*, with her crew of Graham and Julia Bailey and David Heritage, on the Forth for the first time in over 60 years. The weather

blew off our Saturday plans, but we managed a short series of races on the Sunday morning with the overall winner being *Bluebottle*, maintaining her form from Cowes.

There will be a separate report around the Edinburgh Cup, but the warm-up event of the Scottish Dragon Championship started on Sunday 29th August. Three races had been planned but light winds delayed the start time with the sixteen crews enjoying some sunshine ashore. The Easterly Sea breeze filled in and 2 races were held late in the afternoon.

Race 1 went the way of *Bluebottle* with *Bertie*, Simon Barter second and Ron James with *Fei-Lins Flirtation* third. Race 2 had *Badger* lead the way, a sign of things to come but with a very consistent *Bluebottle* in second with *Bertie* in third.

Monday 30th August had consistently Easterly winds and we were able to start on time with 3 races planned. Mike Budd in *Harry* won Race 3 but with *Bluebottle* and *Badger* taking second and third respectively. *Badger* and *Bluebottle* were fighting it out for the series and traded places during Race 4 with *Badger* coming out on top. There was home delight as the very beautiful classic *Meteor*, Peter Cooke, took a well-deserved third place. Race 5 again was a *Bluebottle* and *Badger* show with the latter taking the win again to complete an impressive series. Our international visitor from France *Bande à Part*, Gery Trentesaux, improved on his other close results to gain third place.

The Scottish Dragon Champion crew was Tom Vernon, Adam Bowers, Oliver Spensley-Corfield in *Badger*. Second place went to *Bluebottle*, Graham and Julia Bailey, David Heritage who also won

the First Classic Quaich, one of the new trophies for the event gifted by the Forth Fleet. Third place and winner of the Corinthian Quaich was *Harry*, Mike Budd, Mark Greaves and Chris Brittain.

The new award for the First Vintage Dragon was won by *Basilisk*, Patrick Gifford, Geoff Butcher and Philip Catmur.

The evening entertainment included our pipers some of whom are club members.

The upgraded clubhouse was put to good use with an ambitious and delicious Scottish championship dinner.

Thanks again to all the fantastic volunteers of the Royal Forth Yacht Club who helped the club prepare, organise, and execute a fantastic event which was hugely enjoyable for all those who got involved. Special thanks to Richard Leask for making both *Kestra* dragons available to be sailed in the event.

The full racing programme of Evening and Saturday points racing, Cup races as well as Opening and Closing Regattas were all supported with Dragons racing competitively in handicap fleets for the season.

We have, at the time of writing, just completed our Autumn series of Saturday races throughout October with *Kismet*, Cathy Ogden and Sheena Kerr winning that final series of the season and taking the Season Champion title.

We hope we get the chance to welcome you to sail with us on the Forth in 2022 and invite you all to join us for the Scottish Dragon Championships as part of the RFYC One Design Regatta on 17th - 18th September 2022.

**CATHY OGDEN**





# EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Covid-19 pandemic threw out the BDA plans and schedules when it arrived in Spring 2020 with all events cancelled. After it became clear that a proposal to race out of Ramsgate was not viable, the Burnham Fleet were tasked with hosting an East Coast Championship in 2021. When the race weekend came around the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club played host to six home and five visiting teams; two from the Medway, one each from Aldeburgh, Chichester and Cowes. Visitors having to find a route into Burnham that avoided roads blocked by traffic queueing at Fuel Stations.

The East Coast Championship comprises six races, a trophy for each, with three completed races to constitute a series. On Saturday 25th September, true to forecast, there was no wind. The teams were first welcomed by PRO and RCYC Admiral Edwin Buckley at a briefing and immediately informed of a short postponement. Despite venturing downriver racing was not possible.

With a high tide and the clubhouse balcony full, business at the bar was brisk as teams caught up with each other in Autumn sunshine. Later that evening the crews reassembled in the Endeavour Room for dinner. Plans to award the first three race trophies were torn up and we enjoyed a very tasty dinner courtesy of the RCYC Chef and House Team. Dinner turned into drinks, drinks into banter and

eventually into a few fuzzy heads for day two.

Race Team *Phoebe* signalled a warning signal as scheduled at 1055 and a course had been set for a light Southerly wind with a start line on the North shore of the Crouch and a windward mark half way up the Roach, flood tide streaming across the course. The



fleet were off at the first attempt and *Hands Off* (Andy Moss, Tim and Teresa Wilkes) were best away from the line at the committee boat with *Avalanche* (Mark and Mandy Wade, Nigel Cole) and *Beauty and the Beast* in hot pursuit. *Beauty* was soon into the lead followed closely by *Avalanche* while *Hands Off* held on to third place.

In race two Clive Page's *Pageboy XI* took up the lead with guest helm Jono Brown and regular middle man Graeme Page. Jono has been sailing Squibs more recently with the family Dragon *Storm* in storage. More used to sailing a Dragon four up' he was impressed with the work of a well drilled crew of two. BDA Chairman Simon Barter and his crew of James Barter and Donald Wilkes in *Bertie* were sailing in Burnham for the first

time and marked race two with a grounding on the Foulness shore – a place where every Burnham boat has been aground before. *Pageboy XI* went on to win quite comfortably from *Beauty* then *Avalanche*. Fourth place went to *Fit Chick* (Chris Grosscurth, Emma York, Simon Townsend) racing out of Chichester Yacht Club.

A slight adjustment of the course and we were set off for race three. *Bertie* showed little hesitation in heading from the line, straight back to the Foulness shore where they took up the race lead ahead of *Pageboy XI*, both tacking onto port to cross the fleet and lead into the top mark. They remained locked in battle and on the last downwind *Pageboy XI* held *Bertie* high and up current leading into the final leeward gate. The two boats soaked down and *Bertie* rounded up into the current to take the starboard mark while *Pageboy XI* rounded downstream and accelerated into the lead for the short beat to the finish and a second consecutive race win. *Avalanche* made the podium again in third, *Beauty* took fourth.

The series in the bag, the fleet were rallied for a fourth race and sensing their last chance to make an impact the fleet was keen at the start and flag X-ray was displayed. Despite multiple boats restarting the flag stayed up – *Dublin Bay* (David Warner,

Geoff Butcher, Dave Clarkson) later scored OCS. The left side of the beat was favoured again and this time *Avalanche* lead *Pageboy XI* and *Bertie* to the top mark. *Beauty* and *Fit Chick* were locked in a battle for fourth with the latter prevailing. *Pageboy XI* settled for second behind *Avalanche* at the finish line knowing that a score of



1, 1, 2 would beat the 2, 3, 1 of *Avalanche* overall. *Beauty* finished with 1, 2, 4 for third and *Bertie* 6, 2, 3 fourth.

Other teams not yet mentioned include *Still Crazy* (Ian Gray, Rene Nel, Alex Burnett) with a series of fifth places, *Suti* (Toby Atack, Trevor Cox and Ivor Allcock) in eighth overall ahead of Medway rival *Gandalf* (Edwin Hannant, James Hannant, Kerry Worsfold). Finally, *Vivacious* out of Aldeburgh (although she was purchased in Burnham shortly before the Championship and hadn't made it to Aldeburgh yet) with Andrew Barlow, Hugh Rich and Heath Puxley who enjoyed some battles around the racecourse in the tricky conditions.

NODDY





# MEDWAY FLEET REPORT



Great to be back on the water and to remind us all of what a privilege it is to be able to sail on a Dragon. Chris Brealy completed his term of Dragon Captain, our thanks go out to him, and I took over in January. Edwin Hannant kindly agreed to be my vice ensuring a smooth succession for the next few years. Our new member Neave and Johannes on *Frescia* and John McElroy on *Molly* are most welcome ensuring our sustained numbers looking forward to our 75th Year of the Medway Dragon Fleet in 2024.

Our first event of the year was the Medway Regatta with three days of near perfect sailing weather which led to very close racing between all the competitors. All the trophies were won on count back. GBR823 *Taniwha* helmed by Howard Paterson with Bill Baker & Paul Carter crewing won the *Kittiwake* Trophy and the overall winner was GBR760 *Hands Off* helmed by Andy Moss from Burnham with Tim & Teresa Wilkes crewing.

Rather than just race on a Saturday we decided to put on some training with the help of Ian Gray and Bruce Boyd in his rib. This was aimed particularly at the newer boats, but all were welcome, and we had two days of excellent weather tunning the boats and practicing the starts, something I hope to repeat next year.

The Saturday racing started this year with fine weather but as the year progressed, we lost more days in one year to lack of wind or too much wind than I can previously recall, with five races to date cancelled. This didn't detract from the racing which did take place as I have been setting courses most weeks to suit the Dragons with aims to allow for as many windward-leeward legs as possible, and with overtaking opportunities. This has proved to be very popular with the fleet (much to the annoyance of the club as they think the 90 races on the course card would be sufficient), and with WhatsApp group to share the special course with the boats, it's something I am keen to continue.

We have been regularly having three or four boats out during the season which has been increasing to six or seven towards the end which bodes well for next year and we already have a new boat joining us. The standout boat during the whole season has been

GBR560 *Whistle* owned by Wendy Howland (a Medway Dragon Fleet owner for a very long time) and Quinton Strauss winning most weeks and probably needing a wheelbarrow to take home all their prizes. Unfortunately, a cruiser took out one of the Dragons for several weeks damaging its mast which is has now been replaced.

Social events have been difficult to organize with restrictions still in place, but we managed to have an end of series event with the Champagne provided by the winners (namely *Whistle*) and our Dragon Picnic took place down river in late summer with the return to the club of our retired Dragon Fleet members, who hadn't been to the club for nearly two years. Three cruisers took us for what was a superb day out, some of us testing out our balancing skills on a stand-up paddle board, in which turning seemed to be the difficult part whilst the tide was taking you away. We have a new trainer at the club, Bryony who was invited out for the day and she fitted in well, helming on the way back whilst drinking a glass of champagne!

The focus will soon be on next year with boats traveling to the Burnham Easter Regatta, the Edinburgh Cup at Falmouth, and the Gold Cup at Ostend. The Medway YC will hold its Regatta near the end of May also the Medway Fleet will host the East Coast Dragon Championship on the 10th -11th September 2022 to which you are all very welcome.

**TREVOR COX**



Medway Dragon Champion 2021, Whistle.

# SOUTHWEST FLEET REPORT



During the compromised two seasons of Covid, our boat Snap has not been afloat, and Howard Paterson has not travelled with his boat. We will now concentrate on extending the local 'fleet' with the knowledge that Falmouth will be hosting the Edinburgh Cup in 2022.

However, there has been great activity over 2021 by Ivan Angell and Reece Jacobs, the local sailor and boatbuilder, in completing the restoration of *Buccaneer* and now afloat. *Snap* is safely in a barn and is having the usual detail work carried out to maintain the hull. We hope to launch in the spring and give ourselves time to get the rig working properly prior to racing. Therefore, we should have 2 fully restored 1950's boats in both Falmouth Week and the Edinburgh Cup, together with Howard Paterson's fast 6-year-old boat now named *Taniwha* (previously *Integrity*) also confirmed for both events.

It was interesting to see *Bluebottle* fully restored and racing again. We have established that *Snap*, then named *Salar*, and based at Lowestoft was racing in the principal competitions during the late 50's, and so it is likely they were competing together. *Buccaneer* is also a contemporary, and we can carry out some further research and try to establish any links, and any knowledge from other BDA members would be valuable. We look forward to welcoming *Bluebottle* back to Falmouth for next year's events.

Falmouth Week always takes place in the second week in August, and as for the Edinburgh Cup, we have those 3 local boats confirmed for that event. If just 3 or more visiting Edinburgh Cup boats decide to stay on, we can sail as a Dragon Class. However, we have enjoyed fantastic sailing since 2013 during that week, as part of a menagerie fleet with allotted handicaps. It is interesting to compete in the mix. Squibs with ex-Olympic helms, new Rustler 24's, classic I.O.D.'s and cruising yachts. The week is organised by

PoFSA, and there is a great atmosphere, with a party in a different club each evening. RCYC, Falmouth Town, Mylor Y.C., Flushing S.C., St. Mawes S.C., Restronguet S.C. (Ben Ainslie's Club!), and Helford S.C.

If a family travel for the Cup, it might be attractive to stay on for a month and experience everything the county has to offer. Sub-tropical gardens, mining heritage sites, coastal scenery, wide sandy beaches and surfing on the north coast.

So, less than six boats we can still enjoy a great week, but with six or more we can sail as a class, which should be our objective for Falmouth Week.

We are looking forward to a great season in 2022 and to welcoming many Dragons to Falmouth, which is where they belong!

*'After several years in storage we have Buccaneer back in sailing order and on her moorings in Mylor near Falmouth. We are looking forward to a full season next year.'*

*In our opinion the Fal estuary and bay provide some of the best sailing conditions in the UK, particularly for the Dragon class.'*

Ivan Angell 2021 *Buccaneer*

*'I have been closely involved with the development of Snap, and as a boatbuilder have now restored Buccaneer back into sailing condition. Dragons are lovely boats to work on and to sail, and as Ivan Angell is also based at Mylor, we now have 2 Classic Dragons to enjoy! I look forward to a continued involvement with these boats next year, both in Falmouth Week and the Edinburgh Cup. These events will be a great sailing experience, and we look forward to welcoming many visiting boats.'*

Reece Jacobs 2021 *Buccaneer/ Snap*

The BDA would like to thank photographer Rick Tomlinson for the use of his photo of *Bluebottle* which appears on our front cover.

Many of you will be aware of Rick's A2 **Portfolio Calendar** which features **Christianna** for the month of May in the Calendar.

The Portfolio Calendar now in its 34th year and, as always, features 12 spectacular images from recent assignments. Action and art has always been the calendar's theme and this years pictures include action from the Fast 40+ fleet, Cowes Week, Moth Worlds, RC44's and Sail GP, plus great shots of *Hugo Boss*, *Maserati*, and the latest Club Swan 125 *Skorpis*. Price £19.95 +p&p

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# 2021 Classic and Vintage Review



Troika sailing at Cascais in 2019

2021 has been the year in which a Classic Dragon was probably the most consistently successful boat in the class in Europe. Peter Heerema in *Troika* won the Gold Cup, the Swedish and Dutch Championships and the Linkers regatta in Deauville. *Troika* is a 1961 Pedersen and Thuesen boat (built as GBR348) which originally belonged to Timothy Colman at Lowestoft, where she was known for many years as *Salar II*, *Goose* and *Troika*. It is a tribute to boatbuilding that the notably hard pounding of Lowestoft's square waves doesn't seem to have affected her, though it may have meant rather more renovation. At any rate she is clear evidence that the one design character of the class has been really well maintained over the years.

The British fleet saw a similar story with the reappearance of *Bluebottle* on the scene. She now belongs to the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust in Leith and has been comprehensively renovated by David Heritage. The Trust is keen that she should be raced and so, with Graham Bailey as helmsman and Julia Bailey and David Heritage as crew she has won Cowes Week and placed second in the Scottish Championship and third in the Edinburgh Cup. It was pleasing to see that a boat that started the renovation process in worse condition than most, is about fifteen years older than most of the other competitive Classic Dragons and from a less fashionable builder in Camper and Nicholson can be fully competitive. I understand that she will continue to be raced and that the Trust is considering how best to achieve that.

The Classic and Vintage Championships took place in June at Cowes, within the South Coast Championship. Sadly they turned out to be disappointing events. *Basilisk* was the only Vintage competitor and *Aurora* the only Classic that made it to the racecourse. Tarka got to the Yachthaven but was leaking so badly through the topsides that it was thought unsafe to race her.

At a more mundane level the Classic scene remains one characterised by relatively few appearances but quite a lot of activity behind the scenes. The Aldeburgh and Forth fleets have several Classics which have competed through the season with *Harkaway* (Tim Hannon), *Meteor* (Peter Cooke) and *Wizz Too* (Helen Horsfall) all enjoying success. There has been less activity

in the Solent, possibly because Tim Street hasn't been able to give his encouragement to other potential participants. Falmouth promises a revival with *Snap* (Alan Dale) and *Buccaneer* (Ivan Angell) but it has really been postponed to 2022. In Aldeburgh we hope to see *Inge* (Peter Donker-Curtius), *Kestrel* (Matt Lingley) and *Orion* (Henry Brewis) in the water next year.

The Vintage section remains a puzzle. Where are the boats? Of those that have competed *Basilisk* (Patrick Gifford), *Whistle* (Quentin Strauss) and *Kismet* (Cathy Ogden) have enjoyed the greatest success in Aldeburgh, the Medway and the Forth respectively. It remains the case that there are Classic and Vintage boats available for sale and that they can offer good value, especially at the club level. They can indeed provide the basis for a fleet revival provided that an arms race doesn't develop or that an effective intra-class handicap system is used as well as 'first past the post'.

Looking forward to 2022 the Classic and Vintage Championship will be in Aldeburgh on 18th to 19th June within a Dragon Open meeting. There are, of course, also a number of regattas below the top flight which can provide good racing for both Classic and Vintage boats, even if they are not exclusive to them. In addition, Classic enthusiasts should note the 5th International Classic Dragon Championship in Flensburg on 6th to 11th August. Do get boats out of their sheds and into the water!

Finally, a reminder, there is a scale of fees for Classic Dragons. Currently some Classic owners and boats are paying the wrong amounts, sometimes too little (or even not at all), occasionally too much. Please check your direct debits (or possibly create one!) to make sure you are paying the right amount. As a reminder, the fees are £35 for individual personal membership (paid by DD), £95 for a boat participating in the full range of events, £50 for a Classic competing only in Classic events and Club events (below regional championship level) and £20 for a Classic that is currently laid up. All fees are best paid by Direct Debit. We are trying to provide a slightly bespoke service for Classic owners and if there is anything that we can help with, please let me know and I will try to help.

**PATRICK GIFFORD**

# SOLENT FLEET REPORT



Unfortunately, there was no sailing in 2020, and you all know why so I won't use the 'C' word, which meant that hopes were high for some good racing in 2021 especially as European travel was initially very limited. There were three new boats joining the fleet for 2021, although two of them were delayed by the domestic demand for yard services to maintain them. *Attica* joined the fleet for the last race of the season, and we hope to see *Tchuss* early next year. *Christianna* kicked off their first season with the South Coasts in June. Sadly *Aimee* was still in Vilamora where she had been left when all the lockdowns started but *Jerboa* had been repatriated and was a regular participant in the racing calendar. We also welcomed *Electra Super Glide in White* who stayed with us until France opened and then joined the European racing circuit. The fleet elected to participate in the *Round the Cans* racing for 2021 but decided not to participate in the Windward/Leeward series.

Racing commenced on the first weekend in May and *Jerboa* made their intentions clear with 6 concurrent wins, which meant that they were the first Trophy Winners claiming the WD Citroen Plate; *Bertie* was second and *Furious* claimed third.

The South Coast Championships were hosted by the Royal London Yacht Club, in conjunction with the BDA Classic & Vintage Championships. We were lucky to have Gill Smith as PRO as Gill knows how to give us good Dragon racing in the Solent. The racing was quite intense with three windward/leeward races a day over three days (11th – 13th June). *Christianna* joined the fleet for the first time and made their intentions clear by winning the first race, with *Badger* winning the next two. No boat totally dominated as on day two *Ecstatic*, *Badger*, and *Christianna* each winning a race and on day three *Bertie* decided to Gate crash the party by winning the last race. Eventually *Badger* won the event through greater consistency with *Christianna* pipping *Ecstatic* on Count back. The event was held in light winds with day three taking place in Osborne Bay, rather than the Bramble bank, which was very interesting racing during the tide transition. *Aurora* won the Classics event and *Basilisk* won the Vintage Championship.

The Summer Series was won by *Furious* with *Bertie* in second and *Glaurung* in third.

The next major event was Cowes Classics Week which was a great week racing with two Windward/Leeward races per day. We had to share a committee boat and race area with the Squibs, Flying Fifteens and Swallows, but it worked very well. The organisers (the RLYC) had planned an ambitious social program but unfortunately the event, which ran from the 5th to the 9th July, was before all Covid restrictions were lifted and so many socials were cancelled. We experienced an unusual storm for July and the racing was lost on the Tuesday, otherwise this was a fun event and I hope we can muster a fleet for 2022. The event was won by *Bertie* with *Jerboa* second and *Dreki* third.

Cowes Week followed soon after and was a very low-key affair with no visitors and a reduced turnout from the local fleet, and most social events avoiding indoor locations. The Baileys were racing the newly restored *Bluebottle* who looked beautiful and was also very fast. Unfortunately, there were only seven entrants, but the racing was as close and intriguing as ever. *Bluebottle* won the week with *Ecstatic* in second and *Jerboa* in third.

The next event in the calendar was the Hamble Classics Regatta where modern Dragons were invited for the first time. This again was a Windward/Leeward event over the weekend 11th/12th September. Sadly, the Sunday was lost due to lack of wind, but the race committee managed to fit in three races on the Saturday. The racing was very close, and the event was won by *Furious*, followed by *Jerboa* and *Fanfare* in third; *Aurora* won the classics trophy.

With continuing light winds the club racing continued until the end of September, but many races were lost due to the light winds. The Late Trophy was won by *Furious* with *Glaurung* in second and *Jerboa* Third. The Class Champion for 2021 was *Jerboa* with nine points, second was *Furious* with ten points and third was *Bertie* with twenty points.

**OWEN PAY**



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# DRAGON NEWS

