



Yeoman Kinsman Newsletter

Association website: www.yeomankinsman.org.uk

Spring 2018



A gentle breeze on a balmy Sunday on the River Bure, 2017

Future of the YK National Association

In the 21st century sailing clubs throughout the country are facing new challenges, to survive they must evolve with the times. The YK fleets are no exception but it's not just individual fleets that need to adapt but also the governing body - the YK Association.

As we start the 2018 sailing season the Association appears to be at a crossroads. In particular, both chairman and secretary will be stepping down this year, leaving a void that needs to be filled. Is this the point at which we need to make some changes or at least take a pragmatic view of the realities of the existing fleets?

Numbers competing on the water have dropped. Older mainstays of the fleets are 'retiring' and the new generation have many other commitments, and very few, if any, want to tow their boats between venues.

Hence the question over the role of the Association. In the YK rulebook it states: 'The object for which the Class Association is formed is to promote the interests and administer the affairs of the Yeoman/Kinsman Class.' One of its key roles is to '...control the measurement rules'. Or as put another way by a previous YK Association chairman: '...some form of class regulation is essential...we must keep the playing field level.'

Most fleet members encounter the Association via its regular correspondence and this newsletter. The other major contact point is the annual YK National Championship. This has become a subject of much debate as, while all agree with the principle of rotating the competition between Norfolk waters and Rutland,

in practice Yeoman sailors do not travel to Rutland and Kinsman do not travel to Norfolk. There is a proposal from Rutland to hold the 50th anniversary championships at Rutland in 2019. It is a very good proposal but only if sufficient boats are prepared to travel. The other option is to accept that a mixed championship is no longer practical and perhaps hold separate Yeoman and Kinsman national championships that will effectively become regional championships.

The next AGM for the YK National Association will be held on Saturday 19th May. This could well be a critical meeting determining the future of our Association with important decisions to be made. We would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend.

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It's all in the Name!



The Role of the Yeoman



Spinnakers to the fore on Wroxham Broad

In the words of Bob Dylan, we cannot escape the fact that 'the times they are a changing', and since the first Yeoman was built (some 50 years ago) the world of sailing has definitely moved on. Thus, it would be fair to say that the yachts entered in the Vendée Globe race have evolved tremendously over this period. Yet although the Yeomans entered in our local races have not changed to anything like the same degree, they share an important feature with their more illustrious counterparts, one that has not changed over the years, results are determined by the skill of the sailor.

Another constant has been the virtues of the Yeoman, which was specifically designed for inland waters, such as the Norfolk Broads. It sails fast but is very forgiving. It is tough in construction which allows it to take the knocks but remains easy, and relatively cheap, to maintain. Finally, it is a very easy boat to sail - although wonderfully challenging to sail really well: as a result it appeals to both the novice and the experienced sailor who wants to push their skills to the limit and demonstrate their expertise. Nowhere was the latter point better demonstrated than in this year's Tri-Icicle competition, when in wild, wet and windy conditions Yeomans were the first four boats home - taking the honours in the overall rankings.

Many sailors start at a young age developing their skills in a dinghy, gradually moving to a keelboat. But what of those who realise the joys of sailing somewhat later in life, and would prefer not to spend as much time in the

cold water as on it? What better choice than a Yeoman? Although it takes time and effort to sail well, it is an ideal yacht to learn in. Admittedly, much learning comes from making mistakes, and one may need to spend a lot a time following a fleet around, coming last in races, but it does mean that from almost the first, novice sailors (of any age) can take part in competitions. That is not meant to imply that a Yeoman is a boat for old people, in fact one of the joys of our Yeoman fleets is that it appeals to all ages - from teens to octogenarians.

At whatever age one starts to sail, we all want to get better and reach a level of competence where we no longer feel doomed to come last. To do this we all need both practical help and moral encouragement. This is where our Yeoman, fleets excel. All clubs provide training and ongoing support to new members. Quite often the club boat of choice is a Yeoman which means that for many novices the Yeoman introduces them to sailing. If we can capitalise on a positive first impression of sailing a sturdy safe boat, we may well have welcome additions to our fleets. We greatly value newcomers and are happy to help them develop.

Which leads to another important element of club sailing - camaraderie. Our friendly supportive members are our greatest asset. Having a strong social element is a key feature of our Yeoman (and indeed our Kinsman) fleets. After all we must never forget that sailing is, and always should be, fun and enjoyable.



Rutland Fleet Prize Giving

On Saturday 24 February the RSC Yeoman/Kinsman Fleet held their mid-winter AGM, prize giving and lunch. Some 23 helms and crews had a very enjoyable social gathering at the Rutland Water Golf Club.

Fleet Captain, John Vickers, was pleased to report that as a result of the open day held last summer the fleet now numbered 10 Kinsman and 1 Yeoman. The introduction of Thursday afternoon racing was a great success and was to be increased to three series of eight races each series in the coming season.

The fleet now offers the opportunity to race on Thursday afternoon, Thursday evening, Saturday and the Sunday 'Round the Lake' series.

John also informed members that the RSC Fleet had made a proposal to the National Executive of the YK Association to hold the 50th-year Celebration and Nationals on Rutland Water. This was to be put forward to the membership at the AGM in May.

Mrs Pauline Vickers then presented the Fleet prizes before lunch was served.



Derrick Young presenting John Vickers and Iain Stowe with the Biggs Trophy for Belinda's achievements in the 'Round the Lake' series of races



Pauline presenting the Hart 1/2 model to Cruiser Fleet Captain, Derrick Young, for all his support over the years



A blustery day on Rutland Water

Rutland Ramblings



Kinsman on display at Rutland, 2017

The RSC Yeoman/Kinsman Fleet had a very active season in 2017.

In an effort to bolster its membership, the fleet held a 'Try a Keelboat Weekend' over the 19th and 20th of August. We had a static display of five yachts, suitably decorated, on the green immediately outside the clubhouse and an additional five yachts on the water, offering visitors the opportunity to take to the water.

Unfortunately the weather disrupted proceedings on the Saturday, and with 15-20mph winds gusting to 30mph it was felt prudent to re-schedule Saturday's visitors to the following day. This turned out to be a good decision when on Sunday, in ideal sailing conditions, we were able to take ten visitors out onto the water. Our more experienced guests were then able to enjoy a friendly race in the afternoon consisting of a windward/leeward course of two miles each leg,

All our visitors thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and we are pleased to report that we subsequently recruited two new

members now sailing Kinsman K50 *Miss Teak*, that rejoins the RSC Fleet after being in hibernation for nine years!

In order to enhance fleet racing, in September the Rutland Sailability yachts joined the RSC Fleet in an eight-race series of 'Round the Lake' races. These were held each Thursday afternoon, with starts from the Sailability Committee Boat.

We are also delighted to report that Tony Hargrove, K300 Onyx has continued to make a steady progress from his stroke. With true Yorkshire grit he has now returned home and is continuing to do well.

John Vickers

RSC Yeoman/Kinsman Fleet Captain



K38 Belinda, followed by K46 Scorpio Too



K40 Gemima

Yeoman/Kinsman National Championships 2017



All away at the start on Black Horse Broad, 2017

Horning Sailing Club hosted the 2017 YK Nationals. The weekend commenced on the Friday evening with a barbecue for the fleet members, friends and contestants. The serious business began the next afternoon when competition was fierce on Black Horse Broad. Although the day was somewhat dull and cloudy, more importantly,

there was plenty of wind. Paul Barker was not competing this year which suggested the 2016 champions, Bill and Diana Webber were the favourites to retain their crown.

Twelve boats started the first race with competition very intense as the fleet zigzagged back and forth across a demanding course with plenty of beating and short runs and a need to jibe round some marks in windy conditions. Roger Hannant helming with Chris Tuckett crew were familiar with the local conditions and deservedly took the first race in Firefly.

As the weekend progressed different crews excelled and the overall result was still in doubt until Bill and Diana Webber crossed the line in first place in the final race, thus ensuring that they retained their National Champion status. Roger Hannant and Chris Tuckett came second with Kevin and Ellie Edwards third. Toby Fields won the award for highest finisher who did not use a spinnaker.



Bill & Diana Webber win the YK Nationals, June 2017

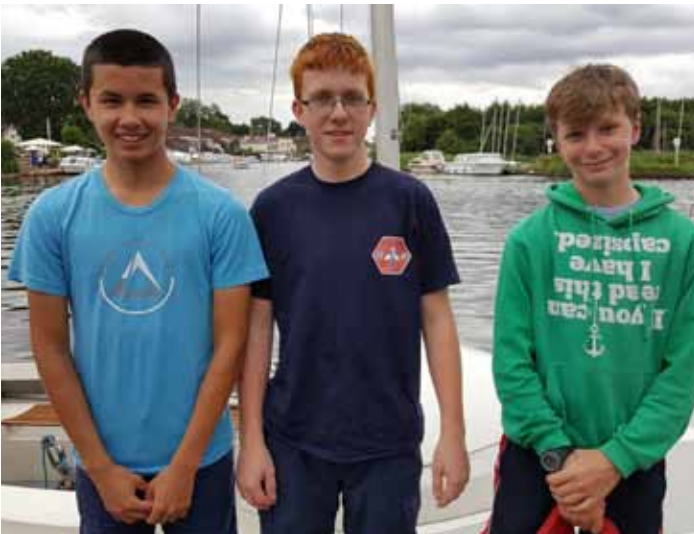


Kevin & Ellie Edwards, Roger Hannant & Chris Tuckett (l to r)

National Competitors



Mark & Mary Hopkins, combined age 150



Will, Thomas and Toby, combined age 41

All those who attended the Nationals, hosted by Horning Sailing Club, had a great time. Many thanks must be given to Toby and all at HSC for their hard work.

A very special mention must be given to Mark and Mary Hopkins, sailing in Diamond Lil, who with their combined ages of 150, not only qualified as the 'oldest boat' but were also sailing in their very first National competition.

At the other end of the scale (sorry Mark & Mary), Merry Fiddler was being sailed by three young men (Toby Pearce, Will Symonds and Thomas Wildman) with a combined age of 41 – which just shows what a wide appeal a Yeoman has.

Final results for the Nationals were as follows:

- 1 - Swift Y155 - Bill & Diana Webber
- 2 - Firefly Y93 - Roger Hannant & Chris Tuckett
- 3 - Avocet Y144 - Kevin & Ellie Edwards
- 4 - Tanskey Y9 - Toby Fields & Daniel Blackwell

Horning Fleet Report 2017

It's been another solid year for the Horning Yeoman Fleet. Having briefly seen Robert Barham-Brown with Amethyst (Y11) and John and Kay Rawlinson with Lara (Y21) at the end of the 2016 season, it was great to watch their development over the course of the season. The Yeoman fleet as a whole always welcomes new blood as it ensures the future of our racing. There are a few Yeomans with racing pedigree available for sale this year in case anyone you know would like to join one of our fleets.

The year started with some excellent turn-outs, and during May and June we averaged nine Yeomans for our Sunday morning series. These races are always close fought at HSC with Geoff Stubbs (Y171), George Whitefoot (Y67), Gordon Jewell (Y163), Mario Tinge (Y70) and myself (Y9) all taking wins, Geoff winning the series overall. Sunday afternoons saw reduced turn-outs and a more relaxed racing atmosphere which was very pleasant.

We were very pleased to host the Yeoman Nationals in June although numbers were slightly down at 14 entrants, but a great time was had by all at the barbecue on the Friday evening and at the fleet dinner on Saturday. My thanks to Liz and Phil Ollier for running an excellent line on Hoveton Little Broad.

Horning Week was generally a disappointment this year due to excessively high winds in the second half of the week. However, Regatta Weekend saw a healthy entry on both Saturday and Sunday with ideal conditions. Several Yeoman sailors tried their hand at the annual Berry Shield competition for motor craft, this time held on a tight course in a club dory, Toby Pearce (Y140) winning despite (or perhaps because of) his youth. By the Friday afternoon the winds had died down and numbers recovered, several entrants for the Novices in Keelboats race being in Yeomans this year.

The down-river series again saw success for the Yeoman Fleet in mixed-fleet racing. Roger Hannant (Y93) won the overall series whilst Kevin Edwards (Y144) won the Yeo-Yeo Trophy. The Yeoman remains a very good performer in mixed-fleet racing, particularly when there is beating start to allow ourselves to get into the lead early on.

Since the End of Season Regatta which this year attracted 12 Yeoman entries, we have been running a series of winter workshops designed to fill the gap between the training some of our members have received and Sunday racing. We are hoping that this will lead to demand for some more Yeomans and more members for the Association going forward.

Next year is the 80th Anniversary of HSC and also my Commodore year. I'm certainly hoping for better weather in Horning Week and hopefully to see more new Yeomans come through in 2018.

Toby Fields

Yeoman Kinsman Nationals 2018 Friday 18th – Sunday 20th May

Yeoman Kinsman Association National Championships 2018

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th May



To be held at NBYC Wroxham Broad



Friday 18th May
Practice fun race and BBQ

Saturday and Sunday
championship racing

Further details contact:
Michael or Frances Holmes
frances@cringleford.com
01603 455798

Royal Celebration Supper Saturday 19th May

This year's championship will be held on Wroxham Broad hosted by the NBYC Yeoman Fleet. The more astute will have noticed that a certain royal wedding will also be taking place this weekend - which will not be overlooked in our various arrangements. Plans are already underway.

In brief:

Friday 18 May: We will be holding an evening BBQ and to get everyone in the mood will be organising an informal race - with an equally informal trophy.

Saturday 19 May: A morning AGM will be followed by two afternoon races and our evening social (open to all) with a 'Harry & Meghan' theme - flags have been ordered!

Sunday 20 May: We will hold two/three races followed by the prize giving.

Although the Championship attracts the best sailors, it gives an opportunity for racing at all levels. We took part in our first year of sailing, and though we finished well behind the winners, we had a great weekend (most of the time!).

Full details will follow (also see the Association website: www.yeomankinsman.org.uk).

We very much look forward to welcoming both competitors and supporters to NBYC.

Frances & Michael Holmes
NBYC Fleet Captains



The Tri-Icicle, 2017

In 2015 and 2016 the Tri-Icicle was run in relatively light winds, conditions which favoured the Cruisers, their large sails giving a definite advantage. In the week leading up to the 2017 competition forecast conditions, which proved to be accurate, were very different. This was the year that competitors set out in high winds gusting up to 50mph accompanied by wet and stormy weather.

Some of us were relieved that we had an excuse to stay in the warm and enjoy a Sunday lunch. We were not alone and although some 40 entries had signed up only 19 boats, with their hardy crews, made it to the line for the Alan Boswell-sponsored event. Four of these were Yeomans.

The race officer decided to start and finish at the club house and have the turning buoys at Thurne Dyke and short of Upton Dyke so the fleet wasn't too spread out and didn't spend too long in the testing conditions. Equally welcome to both officials and participants was the extra support provided by the 8th Norwich Sea Scouts which boosted the safety boat fleet.

First boat home was James Dugdale in Lavinia, six minutes ahead of Will Knight, helming Peridot. Third Yeoman home and third overall was Snowflake's commodore Roger Hannant in Firefly closely followed by Andrew Gallant in Tiger Month. Very well done to all teams.

It just goes to prove: when the going gets tough it's best to be in a Yeoman.



Wet but happy, Lavinia is first home



Four hardy Yeomans set out from Horning



Competition was tight throughout the race



Lavinia returns to Horning leading the race



Nothing between third and fourth, returning down the Street

Snowflake Sailing Club - Sarah Knight

Hello from Snowflake's

For many, the end of summer marks the end of the sailing season. However, for a few brave souls, it is merely the beginning of winter racing on The Broads.

Between October and March, Horning Sailing Club is transformed into Snowflakes, a winter sailing club for dinghies and keel boats alike.

The season kicks off mid-October with its flagship event the Tri-icicle (a sort of shortened version of The Three Rivers Race but mercifully without the bridges) starting and finishing at Horning with buoy roundings at Acle and Potter Heigham. The race attracts both dinghies and keelboats including a good number of river cruisers, with trophies being awarded for each class as well as an overall winner.

From then on, sailing takes place every Sunday with the Yeomans being a key component of the fleet. Racing is made up of accumulative points weekends and individual trophies. Given the weather is often unpredictable during the winter months, races are kept to a suitable length and regular breaks for mugs of tea and bacon sandwiches are actively encouraged!

One of the highlights is the Boxing Day Regatta where the sailing and rum punch always draws a crowd!

In addition to the racing programme social events are also high on Snowflake's agenda; from Bingo evenings to Burns' Night supper there's something for everyone. Rounding off with an end-of-season dinner, prize giving and regatta it's the perfect segway into spring.

Superb sailing aside, one of the most attractive qualities about the club is their friendly and welcoming approach. If you'd like to try Yeoman sailing at Snowflakes, please do get in touch. There's always a boat you can jump in and all abilities are welcome, from beginners to experienced racers; if you don't fancy using a spinnaker don't worry, I never do!

We look forward to seeing you at Snowflakes this winter.

Happy Sailing!

Thanks to Paddy Wildman for these wonderful photos



Spinnakers are not always an advantage, November 2017



Undaunted by conditions, Q and Ian in command, Nov 2017



Yes we did get the spinnaker flying - but not high enough!



Just about in control on Black Horse Broad, Oct 2017



James Dugdale passes on some good advice (possibly), Jan 2018

NBYC Yeoman Fleet Annual Report - Frances & Michael Holmes

The Yeoman Fleet has enjoyed a very busy 12 months, both on and off the water.

Yeoman Weekends

All of our Yeoman weekends were well attended and much enjoyed, by both participants and our many non-sailing fleet members.

The first was held in May when 14 boats took to the water. It was particularly good to welcome friends from Horning and to see new fleet members competing in their first open. Despite it being somewhat overcast, the rain held off and the wind blew. After four exhilarating races Bill & Diana Webber were worthy winners of the WL Clabburn Yeoman Trophy. Paul & Janet Baker, came in second, Gary Ross & Steve Dixon third, and Mark & Ellie Ringwood took fourth.

The June event took place on one of the hottest weekends of the year, with temperatures at times reaching 30 degrees. Even in the middle of Wroxham Broad the weather was often more suitable for sunbathing than racing with light flukey winds providing challenges for both competitors and officials. Yet with 10 boats out, the competition was as hot as the sun, and all-in-all we had a great weekend. Three different crews achieved a first place in one of the four races with only Paul & Janet Barker, our deserving overall winners, managing two firsts. Bill & Diana Webber took overall second and Mark & Ellie Ringwood came in third.

The August weekend closely followed Wroxham Week, when it is fair to say that conditions were markedly different. After sailing with gusts of around 30mph during Wroxham Week, it was somewhat strange to be negotiating Wroxham Broad in winds of 5mph, gusting 4mph!. Although (with the exception of Bill & Diana Webber who gave us a master class on how to sail in light winds) we all found ourselves becalmed at times. It's fair to say that Sunday was more frustrating. We moved, then we didn't, then we all piled up around one mark, then for some odd reason one person got away whilst everyone else looked on with amazement, jealousy and /or frustration. Bill and Diana had a great weekend, registering four firsts, whilst Eric Diffey and Jamie were very deserving runners-up. Frances & Michael Holmes came in third for which they received the Crocq Trophy – awarded to the highest placed boat, sailed by the owner, subject to them never winning it before. The cup was first awarded in 1978, and it's fascinating to look back at previous winners. It's great to see the names of so many of the fleet, both past and present, remembered. Many of the boats are very familiar to us, but does anyone remember the somewhat strangely named 'Funky Chicken', the winning boat in 1998?

Our final weekend, held in September, was shared with the 2.4mR fleet who also joined us for a very enjoyable supper. On the water winds were variable. On Saturday they were light and variable but conditions picked up on Sunday when we had sun and pleasant winds. The weekend was won by Bill & Diana Webber followed by Mark & Ellie Ringwood.



Bill & Diana Webber in familiar position - in the lead

Wroxham Week

As always, Wroxham Week was well supported by the Yeoman Fleet. Despite, or maybe because of, the very windy conditions it was both a highly enjoyable and exhilarating week.

The morning series was closely contested by Bill & Diana Webber and Paul & Janet Barker. By the time we reached the sixth and final race of the series either couple could have won. But in another exciting tussle the Webbers just made it to the line first. After discards they both had three firsts and two seconds, and so the Webbers won the trophy by virtue of being ahead in the final race of the series. Congratulations to both couples for a brilliant week's sailing. Meanwhile, after an excellent week Mark & Ellie Ringwood took third place overall.

The wind continued to play havoc most afternoons, with gusts of 30mph regularly recorded. Nevertheless, the series of races was again fiercely contested. Overall victors were Gary Ross & Steve Dixon. The Barkers again came in second followed by Michael & Frances Holmes.

The Sunday competition for the Silver Jubilee Cup was won by the Barkers. On Thursday Janet swapped places with Paul and won the Ladies' race.

And so, at the end of the week we had three sets of champions: all thoroughly deserved their trophies. But more than that, those who of us who ventured out, had a great week. There were races within races at all levels, illustrating that it doesn't matter whether you are a newcomer to the sport or a seasoned sailor, you can still have great fun sailing a Yeoman

Off the water, the excellent social events held throughout the week – everything from a Bond Night to a formal dinner - were well supported by the fleet.

We held our traditional Yeoman picnic on the Thursday. Although we had a wet-weather contingency plan– we needn't have worried. The sun shone, food was plentiful and we all had a great time. It was lovely to see so many at this annual event, which also gave us the opportunity to wish many happy returns to fleet members Eric Diffey, Mary Hopkins and Graham Walker, who all celebrated their birthdays during the week.

NBYC Yeoman Fleet (continued)



NBYC Yeoman Fleet picnic at Ranworth Broad, 2017

Miscellaneous Events: 2017 Season

We started the 2017 sailing year with a pre-season social and training event, when Bill & Diana Webber gave a presentation on 'An Introduction Sailing'. This was so well received that a few weeks later we had a follow up event, when the Webbers shared tips on 'Getting Around the Course Quickly', followed by a practical sailing session.

In June, Ian & Lin Malton organised a 'sail and picnic', which was a great success. Seven boats made their way through very strange winds from Wroxham to Salhouse Broad. Special commendations to John and Kay Rawlinson who first sailed all the way from Horning in good time to join the rest of the fleet on the trip down river to Salhouse. The weather was kind and ample moorings were available on Salhouse Broad for us all. A short climb up the hill gave us a wonderful panoramic view across the Broad – a perfect spot for the picnic. Although it was changeover day in the Wroxham boatyards the trip back was successfully negotiated by all the boats only to find Wroxham Broad somewhat windswept but eventually the intrepid fleet all successfully moored safely.

In October seven Yeoman competed in the club's end of season regatta. After a year dominated by heavy winds it was lovely to be on the water in almost perfect sailing weather. It was particularly great to see Sally Dugdale back



NBYC Yeoman Fleet (plus dogs) ready for the off, 2018

at the helm of Lavinia, crewed by her daughter Carol, and we very much look forward to seeing them back on the water this season. The weekend was won by Bill & Diana Webber, a fitting end to an excellent year for them.

Autumn 2017 / Winter 2018

As normal, the fleet continued to be active during the 'off-season'. In October we got together for a social evening combined with a planning meeting then in January we had a big turnout for our annual winter walk and lunch.

The weather on the days leading up to the walk had been cold wet and murky but nevertheless over 30 members (and 2 dogs) turned up at Gilly Foulds' new pub at Tunstead, the Horse and Groom. Most set out on either a short or long walk organised by Les and Linda Clarke. The going was flat with plenty of mud but the somewhat bleak Norfolk winter scenery was enhanced by passing trains and fast flowing streams high up their banks after a wet week - not to mention lots of chattering. On returning to the pub the first task was to present John and Kay Rawlinson with the Topaz plate for the most improved helm and crew in 2017. The couple have shown that hard work and taking part in races really does pay off. We then all enjoyed an excellent lunch with lots of the usual good-natured banter and the odd glass (or two).



Yeoman Picnic, Wroxham Week, 2017

Coldham Hall Report: Ramuz Trophy - Janet Gilmour



The final of the Ramuz Trophy

The 2017 NSBA InterClub Championship for the Ramuz Trophy was hosted by Coldham Hall Sailing Club (CHSC) and sailed in Yeomans, provided by club members, on the River Yare. Many of the area's top sailors, representing 12 local clubs, took part in the event which consisted of four back-to-back heats with the top six clubs going on to sail in the final. The weather was warm and sunny with a moderate south-westerly wind for most of the day – ideal for sailors and spectators. Two laps of the course were sailed in all four heats.

In the first heat Horning SC, represented by George and Linda Whitefoot, were placed first. They were followed over the line by NBYC sailors Paul and Janet Barker, whilst Richard Sullivan and Sue Barker, from Waveney & Oulton Broad YC (WOBYC), came in third. In the second heat Trevor Whittaker and Chris Skedge, representing Buckenham SC, led for most of the race, but missed the last mark of the course and fell to sixth after going back to complete the correct course. This allowed home-club sailors, David Hickman and Debbi Jaffey, to come home first, followed by Hickling Broad SC's (HBSC) Richard Whitefoot and Paul Jarvey. Whilst Ian Hansen and Chris Toothill, representing Rollesby Broad SC, finished in third position. There was a nail-biting finish in the third heat, with just seconds separating the first three boats; first was Paul Tegerdine and David Yapp representing Norwich Frostbite SC, followed by WOBYC then CHSC. The fourth heat was won by NBYC, followed by HBSC whilst Waveney Sailability sailors Ian Hansen and John Townsend finished third.

The six clubs with best results from the four heats went on to sail in the final three lap race. After the first lap it looked a bit like a procession but in the final stages of the race the lead changed several times and there was a very exciting finish. Paul Tegerdine, with over sixty years experience, crewed by David Yapp (representing Frostbites) took the honours. Richard Whitefoot and Paul Jarvey from HBSC

were a close second followed by Paul and Janet Barker from NBYC.

The magnificent Ramuz Trophy was presented to Paul and David by Coldham Hall elder statesman Maurice Ward, along with commemorative glasses for all finalists.

The Ramuz Trophy was first presented in 1950 and Frostbites have now won it 13 times, which is more than any other club. The Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club and WOBYC have lifted it 11 times each and NBYC on 10 occasions.

NSBA Chairman Brian Wilkins thanked the host club for organising such a good event with great refreshments, and the members for lending their boats and all competitors for participating. All are grateful to Alan Boswell Insurance Group for covering the event.



Paul Tegerdine receives Ramuz Trophy from Maurice Ward

Leading from the Back - John & Kay Rawlinson



There is nothing so shapely as the rear end of a Yeoman - and we should know having followed many of them around the marks over the past season!

We had mixed results - well we mixed up last place with a few next-to-lasts - and all in all had a thoroughly good time! As we approach the second anniversary in June of first stepping in to a keel boat, Frances and Michael asked us to write about how we've got on as first time 'racers'.

There is no denying that the first time you even think about getting in a boat to have a go the butterflies start desperately beating inside and you look for any excuse to bail out! There is a saying often bandied about in various sports that 'racing improves the breed' and this is also very true of sailing - get through the first few races and the ability to helm and crew a boat improves very fast indeed. At least that's what we're told...!

The most daunting part of the race can for most new racers be the start - it certainly was for us - but the sound advice to stay close to the back of the pack and get a feel for what the more experienced participants do, and then pick one to follow gets you across the line and away. Kay and I are quite different in that I can be rather too combative and rely on her to be the calming voice telling me to 'be careful and remember who has rights'.

Our first races often found us in situations where we didn't know what we should do or who had the 'rights' - resulting in very many apologies being given out to those we had hindered. These were I hope all accepted gracefully, and we tried to make a point of seeking them out afterwards and clarifying what we should have done. You certainly learn a lot that way!

Since starting sailing in 2016 we have found that the vast majority of Yeoman sailors - and those from other fleets as well - have been only too pleased to offer help and advice as to how to improve. After all, if there was no new competition coming up through the ranks they would have no one to race against! It's a little like Formula 1 - there are battles at the front between the leading teams, midfield tussles, with the smaller, newer teams vying not to be last - fun and excitement throughout the field with everyone trying hard to be just that little bit better! If you haven't

John & Kay lead the fleet along the Street at Horning, 2018

tried racing yet, please do so - you will enjoy it I promise! At NBYC Wednesday evening's informal racing offers a great way to dip your toes in the water (figuratively speaking of course!) and is highly recommended.

The Yeoman Nationals are being held at NBYC this year. Sounds very grand and somewhat daunting for new racers. It isn't! It's just a gathering of boats from Yeoman fleets that hopefully brings together a larger than usual number of competitors - good fun and very sociable. We were persuaded to join in last year, and true to form were followed on the last race by the safety boat - as we rounded the marks they were pulling them up...

We'll just finish with an apology to all we may have 'cut up' out on the course last year, and a great big 'Thank You' for all the help and patience shown to us.

A final thought - the intricacies of the course, flags etc. are aspects that need mastering - help is of course available - and that reminds us of the final race at Horning Week last year. We were running at the back, but gaining steadily on our late friend Kevin - we'd just overtaken him and could have been next to last. We turned for another lap - and he carried straight on and took the bell! The course had been shortened and he'd noticed but we hadn't! We've still got much to learn...



John & Kay close down on Lavinia, 2018

Yeoman/Kinsman: Boat Preparation - Eric Diffy



Eric Diffy

At this time last year I was invited to write an article about measurement certificates which included coloured band marks on Yeoman/Kinsman masts and booms. I gave all the relevant measurements as stated in the Y/K Association's handbook. The significance of these bands is that they indicate the extent to which the mainsail may be positioned. Sailmakers should be aware of these positions when constructing a mainsail as the sail should fit comfortably within these band positions. All new sails should be measured by a designated measurer to ensure that a sail conforms to a specified list of measurements.

When setting up a sail bearing in mind prevailing wind conditions, the head and foot of the luff and the clew of the foot should not extend beyond the relevant coloured band positions. It is therefore worthwhile checking the accuracy of all coloured band positions, particularly of the mast head when the mast is lowered, and the boom position when the boat is rigged. Do not presume that the bands that have been in evidence from past seasons are necessarily in the correct position. Errors may have been made. Also make sure, when making your own measurements that a reliable extending ruler is used, otherwise inaccurate readings are likely to be made.

If you have not yet acquired a Boat Measurement Certificate it would be in your best interest to do so, certainly before the National Championship. The most appropriate time is as you launch your boat when the keel, mast and boom band marks can be easily inspected. Just speak to your designated fleet approved measurer who will be pleased to assist.

Another consideration that you may wish to give at the beginning of the season is how well equipped is your boat? In the past, the Association rulebook specified the provision of a list of equipment. This list included a paddle, bucket/bailer and lifejackets per person on the boat. In retrospect, in my opinion, it was a mistake to remove these items. A boat hook is another useful item that I carry.

An incident on Wroxham Broad, when a crew member fell overboard when trying to recover a spinnaker resulted in great difficulty being experienced in recovering the individual even with two people on board, as they had no handhold. Wearing a lifejacket would have enabled a speedier recovery, as well as giving greater protection to the person in the water.

We should all consider wearing a lifejacket when sailing. At Wroxham broad a red flag is flown from the bridge accompanied by a red triangular sign board, to indicate that lifejackets must be worn. The flag is generally displayed once the wind strength reaches force 5 (17-21 knots).

Happy Sailing in 2018.

Editors' Note:

We would never leave our pen without a paddle - how would we ever get back?

Much the same applies to the boat hook - how do you stop yourself overshooting without something to hang on to?

A Yeoman will take in water if there are waves or if you heel to much in strong winds. It may never sink but who wants wet knickers - take a bailer.

On a really serious note, we always wear a life jacket, even when there is no wind to speak of. Things happen on the water like swinging booms and neglected ropes that trip. Its like wearing a seat belt in a car or a crash hat on a motorbike. Hopefully you will never need it but why take that risk when wearing one could save your life.

Editors' Musing

We are frequently surprised when chatting to Yeoman sailors to find that many instantly recall past adventures, such as sailing around Cape Horn, or rounding Caithness in a force eight gale which is blowing them unto the rocks. Our experience is limited to white horses on Wroxham Broad - we decided not to go out.

Hence when we received an email from a Cornish sailor asking our advice as to the suitability of a Yeoman sailing offshore into the Atlantic we were pretty sure we knew the answer, but thought we'd better ask the expert, boatbuilder Phil Betts. 'Providing the waves are less than about half a metre,' he responded, 'you are probably OK. More than that and the boat will fill up with water much quicker than you can bale it out.'

It all made sense and we were able to pass on 'our' expert advice. The Cornish sailor was most appreciative and decided to look for a Squid.

Sailing with Confidence in Strong Winds



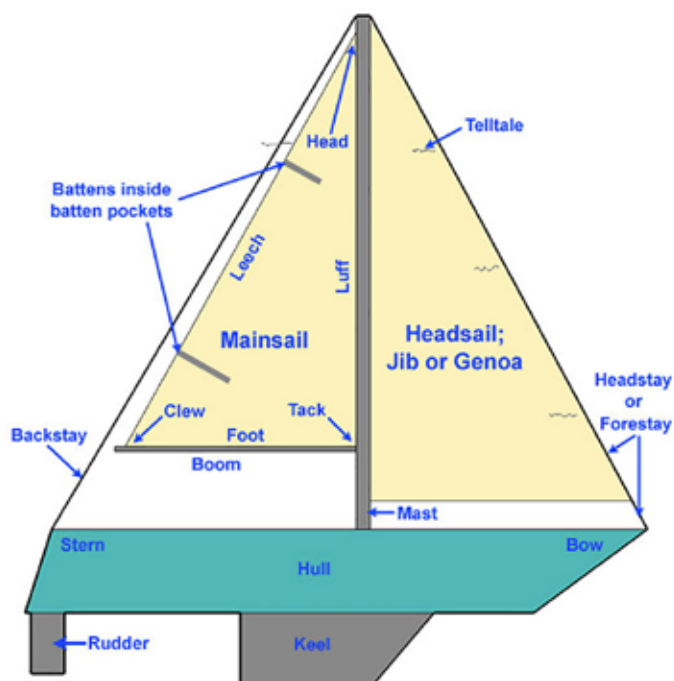
Yeomans trimmed, balanced and completely under control (!) in heavy winds, rounding the mark at Horning, Dec 2018

Our aim for 2018 as in previous years is to encourage new sailors to take to the water regularly and to build sufficient confidence to enjoy the many challenges and delights of club racing.

At NBYC National Yeoman Champion Bill Webber is helping members increase their confidence on the water. Listed below are his top tips for sailing in high winds:

1. Develop skills by going out in incrementally stronger winds.
2. Flatten the mainsail by using the clew outhaul and using lots of kicker tension.
3. Open the mainsail leach by using backstay and cunningham tension.
4. Sailing up wind, it is important to be able to bear away effectively any time by not having excessive heel.
5. Sailing up wind, it is important to be able to bear away effectively any time by releasing the mainsheet as you turn.
6. A badly adjusted main sheet jammer prevents this and is therefore dangerous.
7. Sailing up wind, it is important to minimise heel by feathering into the wind.
8. Sailing up wind, it is important to minimise heel by spilling wind in gusts.
9. Sailing down wind move your weight back in the boat.
10. Develop safe gybing technique as taught by the RYA.

Speaking from experience we understand how difficult it is to understand some of the basics of sailing, often simply because of the vocabulary used. For this reason we display below a diagram intended to help without, we hope, offending the more knowledgeable amongst the fleet.



Kevin Dixon's Last Sail



Kevin with his son, Nathan

We are very sad to report that Kevin Dixon passed away in January.

Kevin was a member of Snowflake, NBYC and Horning Sailing Clubs and will be sadly missed.

With great determination, Kevin was able to go for one last sail with his family on Black Horse Broad on Sunday 14 January. He was joined by many Yeomans, who sailed with him to show support and respect for a much-liked individual.

Our thoughts and commiserations go out to his wife Karen and children Nathan and Amelia.



Kevin with family on Black Horse Broad



Some of the Yeoman fleet who joined Kevin on Black Horse Broad, 2018

Sally Dugdale



Sally takes her place with other RYA award winners, 2017

On 24 November 2017 Sally Dugdale received a community award from the Princess Royal on behalf of the RYA for her outstanding contribution to sailing.

We are all very proud of Sally Dugdale who was recognised for her work with the International Topper Class Association (ITCA GBR) as a parent, committee member and chairman.

She was particularly praised for her work with Topper sailors in the eastern region. It was noted that as a result of her encouragement many have developed a passion for sailing which has seen them progress in many areas, including coaching, together with junior, youth, podium, and university sailing.

Sally herself has given much time to coaching both regionally and nationally. During her time as vice chair

she took a lead role in major event organisation, and as chairman she has ensured that the class represents the entire membership, not just elite racers, and that the motto, 'the friendly class', is strictly adhered to. Sally was finally commended as being: 'Considered and measured in her approach, with the courage to persevere...a tough and committed character who just gets on with it.' A description that all who know Sally would firmly agree with.

Like mother like daughter

Sally follows in the footsteps of her well-known mother Molly Howes. Some years ago Molly was also a proud recipient of this award in recognition for all the work she has done for sailing within Broads Authority waters.



Sally receives her award from the Princess Royal



Molly Howes received her award from Princess Anne

Yeoman Kinsman Association - Secretary's Report

Changes at the YK Association

As I watch a few hardy Yeoman sailors making their way out on a crisp winter's day at Snowflake SC, thoughts turn to the season ahead. Spring will soon be here and with it comes this year's National Championships, to be held at NBYC (Wroxham) on 18th-20th May. Michael and Frances and their team have put a lot of thought and effort into organising this event and the accompanying socials, and I hope we see a lot of boats on the water - so get it in your diary now before it fills up.

This year's AGM, to be held on Saturday 19th May at 11am, will unfortunately be my last as Secretary of the YK Association due to increased demands on my time from work and HSC. I would like to thank you all for your support over the past six years and hope to find a successor soon. If you are interested in the role and feel able to take this on, please get in touch by email (yksec@hotmail.co.uk) or you can find me at HSC on most Sundays to discuss what's involved.

We are also looking for more members to join the Association's ruling Committee. This Committee decides the future direction of the fleet, including permitted developments, rule changes and Nationals locations. Again, if you are interested in attending Committee meetings (currently held twice annually in November and February at Wisbech), please contact me.

With best regards for the season ahead, and hopefully see you at the Nationals.

Toby Fields

Thanks to Toby & Carl

As we say farewell from the executive to both Carl (Chairman) and Toby (Secretary) it is fitting to thank them for their work. Both have given stalwart service over many years and have successfully steered the Association through calm and choppy waters providing expert advice across many subjects, including necessary technical updates and administrative changes.

We wish them well and look forward to seeing them at our many Yeoman Kinsman events, both on and off the water.

We look forward to receiving your photographs, comments and articles for our next edition. As usual a few good sailing yarns will be most welcome.

Michael & Frances Holmes
5 Cringleford Chase, Norwich, NR4 7RS
email: frances@cringleford.com
phone: 01603 455798



Toby Fields, Secretary of YK Association



Carl Brady, Chairman of YK Association