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Newsletter of the Grafham Flying Fifteen Fleet

Issue 2 - February, 2018



Tight racing on the downwind leg

Corrigenda

Following a meeting of the Press Council earlier in the week, the editorial staff of 'Fleet Fifteen' were found to have breached guidelines, aimed at improved reporting accuracy to counter the dissemination of fake news. In order to correct possible misunderstanding, we have agreed to publish the following corrections:

- **Payment of Fleet Dues and charges for the Annual Dinner:** please send cheques (payable to Grafham Flying Fifteens) to *John Forsdike*, as requested in the renewal form. Jonathan Knight takes over the duties of Treasurer after the dinner.
- **Grafham Grand Prix:** Tim O'Brien has provided me with clarification about events following his decision to enter the Grafham Open Water Swimming Championships on December 30th. The crew he persuaded to join him for his seasonal dip was Colin Ferra (not, as mistakenly reported) Colin Nutt. And it was Colin who was rescued by the Blaze. As Tim candidly admits, it was decided that his musculature might have proved terminal for the stability of a single-handed dinghy, so he was obliged to await the next passing RIB for assistance in rejoining his runaway steed.

We apologise for any unintended consequences of the unfortunate inaccuracies in our reports.

More of the same?

The lake appears to exert a fatal fascination for many people at this time of the year. My Special Correspondent informs me that no less a personage than Simon Dabson decided to join in the aquatics this morning. Fortunately, he was sailing with daughter Katie who impressed all onlookers by hauling him out with a single dead lift – at the same time inducing such hysterics lower down the fleet that she was party to at least one broach!

Fleet AGM

[Download here draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM](#) held on 28th January, 2018

Arrangements for Sunday Racing

Through the spring and summer, arrangements for Sunday racing will continue substantially unchanged from 2016. Specifically:

- Race 1 will continue to start at 11:00
- The start sequence adopted in the autumn will continue, with 2-minute intervals between fleets: the D-Zeros (Fleet 1) start on numeral 3 and the Fifteens (Fleet 2) on numeral 5.
- During February, three races will be sailed back-to-back.
- From March onwards, we revert to two morning races and two afternoon races starting at 14:00 after a lunch break.
- Afternoon races will follow the three-start format of previous years, except that the fast fleet will start on numeral 3 and the medium fleet (which includes the Fifteens) on numeral 5.

Events Diary

Please note the following dates for your 2018 diary:

Fleet Dinner & Prize Giving: Saturday, March 24th (19:00 for 19:30)

Easter Salver: Sunday, April 1st (4 club races, 3 to count)

Training Day: Friday, June 8th (provisional date)

FF Inlands: Saturday-Sunday, June 9th - 10th

Grafham Fox: Re-sail of postponed 2017 iteration: Sunday, June 17th (First afternoon race)

Ron Howard Trophy Race: Sunday, July 22nd (First afternoon race)

Club Championship (DoE): Sunday, September 16th

Grafham Fox: 2018 iteration: Sunday, October 14th (First afternoon race)

Ovington Inlands: November 3rd - 4th

Race Results

Results from club racing in 2017 (and January, 2018) are now complete and [available on the club web site](#).

Notes from October Training Day

Following the Training Day in October, Nick Taylor and Geoff Floyd kindly put together a record of some of Dave and Mark's hints for improving the performance of a Fifteen. I've [uploaded these to the club web site](#) for the benefit of posterity. You may also [download the videos](#) that Dave & Mark recorded that afternoon.

Jetties

If you've read the AGM Minutes, you'll know that the club plans to replace one of our rolling jetties. Our discussion identified several areas where the design of the 'old' jetties might be improved on. These included:

- More cleats to free up space at the end of the jetties;
- Better fendering, especially around the outer ends of the jetties
- Installation of grab ropes to help crews when mooring / alighting.

We'd like to put these ideas - and any other suggestions from the fleet - to Coxswain Andrew Lawman for consideration before he starts welding. If you have thoughts on this subject, please [mail them to me](#) asap - and certainly before the end of February - and I'll make sure they feed into the design process. Please be as specific as you can - for example, drawings and names of suppliers of equipment would help me to make the case.

Picture Gallery - Club Racing on January 28th

The following pictures (and the one at the top if the Newsletter) were taken (mostly) from the Committee Boat by Tom Carilll. They're available here for personal use but [please check with Tom](#) if you wish to disseminate them more widely!

