



Newsletter of the Grafham Flying Fifteen Fleet February 2022

This is a short mid-Winter Newsletter with information about some upcoming events, crew availability and an opportunity to take on a wooden Fifteen.

AGM - 16 February

A reminder that the Fleet AGM will be held via Zoom on 16th February at 19:30 - check emails for the Zoom link and documents. There will be opportunities for discussion around matters affecting the fleet as well as the standard AGM activities, so please do join if you can.

2021 Prize Giving and Easter Salver - 17 April

The 2021 Prize Giving will be held on Easter Sunday, 17th April, after the Easter Salver race, with tea and cakes in the top bar.

Ovington Inlands - 19/20 March

As a heads up for this event, the entry will open on 22nd February and there will be two tracks so the Flying Fifteens/OKs/Phantoms will sail trapezoid or W/L and not be on the Club track. This means that any 15's not entering the event but racing on Sunday will need to sail the normal club course and will not be able to join in for one day without formally entering the event.

NORs and full details to follow in due course.

Crew Available

We have a couple of experienced sailors as potential new members at Grafham who are interested in crewing/helming on Flying Fifteens. If you're short of a crew let me know and I'll put you in contact.

Classic Fifteen available

Below is an extract from an email from Graham Lamond. If you are interested in 647 or know somebody who is, please let me know and I'll put you on contact with Graham.

A quick bit of background about me. I have been sailing Fifteens since the early 90s and currently have two classics, 617 & 1155, both wooden boats by Chippendale. The other is 3428, an Ovington MkIX with a wooden deck by Arnott Dobson (I like my wood!). I also have two wooden Albacores which I sail at my home club, Ripon SC, as they don't allow anything over 15'.

Together with a fellow Fiftener, Jordan Aspin, we arranged via Tim O'Brien to hold the first Classic and Silver meeting at Grafham last year. Jordan went, but my daughter visited us the previous weekend and then notified us on the Monday that she had tested positive for Covid, so we had no choice but to isolate and miss the event. I wasn't best pleased as you can imagine! Anyway we have gone for Grafham again this year and I shall be there with 617. We're hoping that numbers will be better this time as restrictions are lifted and people are more willing to travel.

My question is would you be interested in a Classic Fifteen?

The boat in question is 647, September Song, built by Richard Watson and is all wood. Richard gave her to me as he is now too old to sail and she had sat for many years and had to be moved from where she was kept. I found a new owner for her but he contacted me just before Christmas to say he now won't have time to do the work, which is a shame as he had previously restored another wooden Fifteen to a high standard.

Anyway 647 is currently in dry storage in Northwich and is saveable with work. She will be free to the new owner and I'm happy to go and get her (I live in North Yorkshire) for the right owner. She is complete and the sails are in nice condition. She also has her paperwork and the advantage that Richard Watson is still alive and happy to talk about her. She is very much a race boat of her time and has a number of features which were hi tech at the time that are also worth saving.

If you or anyone you know might be interested, I have plenty of photos of her I can send to you and I can go into more detail. I'd hate to lose her but she needs a higher skill level than I have to do the work, although not hugely complicated. I also don't have the space with the boats I already have.

I'm really trying save as many wooden Fifteens as I can before they disappear and am also keeping a watching eye on another one which I have known since childhood and which is currently languishing. '

Upcoming Events

A summary of all the dates above, plus some others for later in the summer,

16th February	Fleet AGM
27th February	Rearranged club Christmas Lunch
19th and 20th March	Ovington Inlands
28th and 29th May	Grafham Open and Inland Championships
7th to 10th July	National Championships at Hayling Island
18th to 21st August (https://uffafox2022.org)	Uffa Fox 2022 at Cowes
20th to 26th August	European Championships at Cowes

For the full list of Flying Fifteen fixture, please follow <https://flying15.org.uk/fixtures-and-results/fixture-list>.

Whitsun Regatta incorporating the Bulwark Trophy

Please see this message from Mark Nicholson of HISC:

For those interested in an early trip to Hayling, the Bulwark is on, scheduled for the Whitsun Regatta on 4/5 June. There's also a pursuit race on the b/h Monday if you fancy a race around the harbour! Please do circulate among your fleets.

<https://www.hisc.co.uk/sailing/open-events/hisc-whitsun-regatta/>

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