



## Newsletter of the Grafham Flying Fifteen Fleet

January 2023

### Captain's Comments

As most of you will be aware, Ex Commodore Peter Waghorn sadly passed away recently, and for those who have not seen the eulogy on the website, I have replicated it in the newsletter.

Last year was a busy year with the addition of the Europeans at Cowes and the Uffa Fox .... There was also the real challenge of low water levels which led to a number of events being cancelled or curtailed later in the year. The new jetty couldn't be reliably moved with the water so far out, and for the last six months, we've been working with a single jetty. Additional concrete has now been poured to extend the right side of the slipway and the jetty will come into play again shortly.

We have a number of events coming up this year, starting with the AGM on Wednesday 15th February. This will be via Teams, and the invite will be coming out shortly. Please do find the hour to attend so that we can get your inputs into the fleet activities. If you would like to join the fleet committee, please let me know.

The Ovingtons will again be held in March (18th/19th) and the Grafham Open in May (13th/14th) shared with RS600s and Europes.

For the Grafham Open, we've joined the Southern Travellers circuit this year, while next year will be an Inland Championship year. With a focus on learning and having fun, the traveller series provides opportunities for club sailors who want to visit other clubs but not necessarily compete at the level associated with championship events.

Participation at two events is required to qualify, so come to the Grafham Open and travel to one event. For more information on the traveller series, please see the UKFFA site at <https://flying15.org.uk/news/2023-southern-traveller-series>.

To reduce the management of Open meetings and ensure full duty teams, last year the club introduced the principle that if a fleet has an open meeting, then it must provide duty cover for another open meeting. This year, along with the RS600 and Europes we will be providing the duty team for the Solo Inlands in September (9th/10th). More details etc will be available nearer the time, but for now, if possible, please keep that date clear. Last year we fully staffed our event (thank you all!).

### Upcoming Events

<b>15th February</b>	<b>AGM</b>
<b>18th and 19th March</b>	<b>Ovington Inlands</b>
<b>13th and 14th May</b>	<b>Grafham Open (Southern Traveller Event)</b>
<b>9th and 10th September</b>	<b>Fleet to provide duty team for Solo Inlands</b>
<b>21st to 24th September</b>	<b>National Championships</b>

The full Flying Fifteen fixtures list is at <https://flying15.org.uk/fixtures-and-results/fixture-list>

### Race Results 2022

#### Spring Series

(April, May, to June 19th )

(29 races with 14 to count, 3 qualifiers)

1st 3794 Dave Philpott & Katy Wyatt

Handicap: 3849 Graham Wadeley & Al Fraser

#### Easter Salver

(17<sup>th</sup> April, 6 entrants)

3794 Dave Philpott & Katy Wyatt

#### Grafham Inlands

4024 Simon Kneller & Ashley Painter

#### Wednesday Evening Series

(21 races with 7 to count, 4 qualifiers)

1st 3794 Dave Philpott & John Forsdike **'Sweepstake'**

Handicap: 3464 Brian Appleyard & Matt Hood **'John Clifton Cup'**

#### Summer Series

(Late June, July, August, early Sept)

(23 races with 8 to count, 5 qualifiers)

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Gatton & John Forsdike **'Grafham Ducks'**

2<sup>nd</sup> 3794 Dave Philpott & Katy Wyatt

3<sup>rd</sup> 4012 Jonathan & Trish Knight

Handicap: 3849 Graham Wadeley & Al Fraser **'Grafham Rose Bowl'**

#### Ron Howard

18<sup>th</sup> September

4039 Sue & Andy Rhodes

#### Duke of Edinburgh

25<sup>th</sup> September

3794 Dave Philpott & Katy Wyatt

#### Autumn Series

(Late Sept, Oct and November)

(21 races with 10 to count, 4 qualifiers)

1<sup>st</sup> 3550 Les Rant and Susie Sontag **'Early Birds'**

2<sup>nd</sup> 4084 Simon Kneller and Ashley Painter

3<sup>rd</sup> 3947 Nick Taylor and Ian Dubock

Handicap: 4039 Sue and Andy Rhodes **'Autumn Handicap'**

#### Grafham Fox

9th October

(6 competitors)

3550 Les Rant and Susie Sontag

### Peter Waghorn MBE 1933 - 2023



Peter sadly passed away on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 after a brief illness, just short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Peter retired in his mid-50s and devoted his energies towards sport development both sailing and cycling. He was a member of Grafham SC for about 40 years and held senior volunteer posts for 24 years as Chair of Sailing Committee from 1980 to 1985, Commodore 1986 to 1989 and Open Meeting organiser 1989 to 2004. Peter held some strong views on how things should be done however you always knew when he didn't agree with something as well! His work to develop sailing at Grafham was immense. He was keen to develop youth sailing and was particularly generous with his time to encourage members if they needed help or lacked confidence. For his contribution to the Club he was made an Honorary Life member.

His early sailing was in Enterprises, where he was a prominent member of a very active fleet and even sailed on the tidal River Great Ouse during North West Norfolk Week. In his later years, he acquired a FF15 which he raced enthusiastically, crewed by many members still active today. He had a very narrow escape sailing his FF15 10 years ago when he suffered a brain aneurism whilst racing with Pippa Chapman.

Due to the prompt action by the FF15 fleet and that of the rescue services at Grafham he was moved swiftly to shore, whisked to hospital, operated upon and lived to sail another day.

With declining health he ceased competitive sailing and sold his final Flying 15 in his early 80s to focus his activities closer to home where he was Chairman of the Welwyn Wheelers for 50 years ([obituary](#)).

He left many lasting legacies at the club, some of his pursuit race courses are probably still in use and he was the instigator of the Grafham Grand Prix, now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year and still one of the premier UK winter handicap events.

Not many people manage to make such a big contribution to two different sports and this resulted in him being awarded a well-deserved MBE in 2013.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

This email was sent to [REDACTED]

GWSC Flying Fifteens

United Kingdom

