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Newsletter of the Grafham Flying Fifteen Fleet

Issue 3 - March, 2018



Supermodel Katy shows off the new Grafham Fifteen fleet branded clothing

New Grafham FF branded clothing

We're proud to offer (new for 2018) the complete range of GWSC club clothing - but now with Flying Fifteen insignia to display your fleet loyalties to the outside world! To view the full range of clothing available, visit '[Club Regalia](#)' on the Grafham web site. Please note that it is not currently possible to purchase the FF-branded clothing via the on-line shop: if you'd like to buy items with the FF logo, please call or mail the [club office](#).

Please note also that the hoodie that Katy is modelling was specially prepared for the Paris fashion salon: we've decided that the items to be marketed will have the fleet logo emblazoned on the left upper forearm.

Sunday afternoon racing

I'd like to remind regular participants (and potential participants!) in Sunday afternoon racing that the club is undertaking a survey of members' views about the shape of afternoon racing. This has been discussed at successive recent fleet AGMs and the overwhelming majority of the fleet have expressed the preference - at least in the summer - for separate morning and afternoon races with a break for lunch. This is not to rule out changes in the way in which the Sunday afternoon series are organised, especially if such changes a) result in greater participation and b) reduce the load on committee and safety boat personnel.

If you've not already done so, you are strongly advised to make your views known by completing the [on-line questionnaire](#). There have been 114 responses to date (you can view a summary of the responses to each question at the same web address) and we believe that the questionnaire will be closed shortly, so please act soon!

Fleet Dinner

It cannot have escaped your attention that the Fleet Dinner and prize giving takes place on March 24th at the club (19:00 for 19:30). As usual, people are leaving it to the last moment to book - giving the organizers cause for anxiety. To reserve your place (if you have not already done so) please [complete the booking form](#) and send it, with your remittance, to John Forsdike.

Club Racing

We're now well into the Frostbite Series (which started at the beginning of February). As of the beginning of March, we switched to separate morning and afternoon racing, with a comfort break at lunch time.

Morning racing starts at 11:00 with two races sailed back-to-back off six starts (2-minute intervals between fleets). D-Zeros (Fleet 1) start on numeral 3 and the Fifteens (Fleet 2) on numeral 5.

The two afternoon races start at 14:00 and follow the three-start format of previous years, except that the fast fleet start on numeral 3 and the medium fleet (in which we sail) on numeral 5. As in morning racing, fleets start at 2-minute intervals.

So far, the weather has largely conformed to the billing implicit in the series title: given that the 'Frostbite Series' continues to the end of April, it's to be hoped that this proves to be a misnomer - after all, I need to plant my tomatoes by then!

We congratulate the hardy souls who have ventured forth, no matter what the weather threw at them. Mike & Jean Wilczynski, in particular have earned undying admiration, hardly missing a beat despite the weekly trek from Ipswich to join us.

And, finally, you'll know spring has really arrived when, on April 11th, the Wednesday evening series kicks off. Make sure you're there to contest it.

Events Diary

I'm repeating the Fleet Calendar that I published in February and will continue to update this as the season progresses and various ideas bear shape (or not!)

We're in discussion with the FF Class Association, with the object of organizing a training day on the Friday prior to the Inlands (we did this with some success three or four years back). The event would be open to Association members nationally, though we'd be looking for a strong Grafham presence, not least because this would free us from charges for RIB hire!

In addition to this, we plan to repeat the 'local' training run so successfully last year by Dave Lucas and Mark Longstaff. I'm hoping to schedule this in late April - early May to tap into the burst of enthusiasm that we expect at the beginning of the summer sailing season. Watch this space!

Finally (for now) I'm planning a 'Try a Fifteen' event - also, ideally to take place in late spring / early summer. Purpose is to attract possible newcomers to the Grafham Fifteen fleet. A Club Open Day is scheduled for the early May bank holiday (May 7th) and that may well be a sensible date. We'll need two or three boats to be available, together with helms / crew to show newcomers the ropes. The target audience is proficient sailors, rather than complete novices.

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

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

Start of Wednesday Evening Series: April 11th

Club Open Day: Monday, May 7th

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

Jetties

I've had precisely zero response to my request for ideas that might feed into the design of the new jetty, so I plan to alert Andrew Lawman to the suggestions made at the AGM for a) more mooring cleats; b) better protection around the ends of the jetty, in particular, and c) grab ropes to assist in landing and disembarkation. If you've any further thoughts, please mail me..

Good Sailing...

...and see you at the dinner!

[Barry Wyatt](#)



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