

September 2007



By the time this reaches you we will be looking forward to September with the major holiday weeks behind us. I hope you have enjoyed your sailing this summer. After a slow start for the season Katy and I have sailed at Pagham, Salcombe, Royal Harwich and Ripon as our tune up for Burton Week and then Salcombe Week. The weather has been strange. I cannot believe how idyllic it was at Pagham in April to then be followed by the rain of June and July. Thankfully the holiday weeks have been mainly dry and sunny. I hope that the rain and floods have not disrupted your plans too much.

Please see below the important information regarding Burton Week. We need your feedback in order to plan future events. It took me less than a minute to respond electronically, alternatively please cut out the form attached to this note and post to me. You will find the survey at www.national12.org/surveys/burton

Three Gill Series events remain for which the details are enclosed with this mailing. Like Burton Week this is emerging as a 2 way fight between the Graham Camm & Zoe Ballantyne and Tom Stewart & Elisabeth Ross. Phil & Helen David lead the Admirals Cup boats whilst the Family competition is turning into a battle between the father & daughter combinations of Steve & Joanne Sallis and Gavin & Sabrina Willis. Overall results can be found at www.national12.org/events/2007/GillSeries/results_overall.shtml There are 3 events left to complete the series, 2 of which are very centrally located.

You will also find the minutes of the AGM held at Burton Week and the full Burton Week results.

John Meadowcroft, Class Chairman.

Summer Event – IT DID NOT RAIN!!!

The Summer Event at Ripon attracted an entry of 38 including a large vintage turnout. A lot of fun for those who made the journey. The pursuit race was a benefit for the Vintage boats using the ABC handicapping system (Anyone But Camm) with Vince & Alexander Philips the winners fractionally ahead of Brian Herring & Ros Stevenson. The overall meeting was won by Graham & Zoe.

Burton Week – GRAHAM CAMM & ZOE BALLANTYNE WIN...

Sadly a reduced turnout of 38 boats attended during the week. The event will make a substantial financial loss. However the surpluses of previous years comfortably offset this. We do need to continue to review this event so as to ensure that both the racing remains highly credible but also attractive to both more entrants and clubs willing to host us. I would urge you to consider attending in 2008 at Teignmouth. The 2007 fleet had a lot of fun at Brixham both on and off the water.

Burton Week format was debated at the 2007 AGM by those present at the meeting. Evidently this is a skewed population of the Class. There was no clear consensus other than a strong desire for the Class to be stronger and successful in the future.

A continued trend of future low turnouts threatens our ability to visit the best venues for week long events as they will be attracted to larger classes as the economics are better for them. We need your feedback. Please see the survey on the website or complete the paper version at the end of this newsletter.

Congratulations to Paul and Guy Pelling on winning the Burton Cup and Graham & Zoe on winning the Silver National. Matt and Joe Stiles were convincing winners of the Admirals Cup. Winds were generally light. Thankfully it was predominantly sunny.

Highlight of the social week was the Feeling Foolish Party. Photos (with explanations) are available on the website. Start planning your outfits for 2008!

In all more than 60 different boats competed in the week long events at Brixham, Norfolk and Salcombe. Further, only 6 of the boats at Ripon made it to Burton Week, yet they were both great events. The health of our class is judged by many outsiders by the number that come to our National Championships and so in this regard 2007 was a poor year. We need to be better at supporting our major events – this is the best marketing and publicity that the Class can give itself.

Decanter – THANK YOU KEN GODDARD

At the Burton Week prize giving The Decanter Trophy presented for outstanding achievement and service to the Class was awarded to Ken Goddard for his work in leading the Vintage Wing over the past 7 years. His infectious enthusiasm has led to more Vintage boats being restored and raced over this time. Ken has also ensured that 12s are well represented in the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth and that our most famous boats are being recorded on the National Small Boats Register.

Gill Series – 3 EVENTS TO GO!

73 boats have competed in the five meetings so far, with 3 more to go at Thorpe Bay, Grafham, and Northampton. Details of these final 3 meetings are included with this mailing. With 3 meetings to go, all 73 could qualify as it is 4 events to count. 13 boats are so keen that they have already qualified. Intriguingly only 6 of these qualified boats made it to Burton Week this year.

Inlands, Guy Fawkes Party and Gill Series Finale! - 3 & 4 November

The Finale of the 2007 Gill Series will be on Saturday 3 November at Northampton SC. There will be no need to run off after sailing on the Saturday though as on the Saturday evening there will be food available in the Club, as well as the Gill Prizegiving and a Guy Fawkes Party. Camping will be available in the Dinghy Park, and I may even treat Mrs Meadowcroft to B&B at nearby Sedgebrook Hall where the 70th anniversary dinner was held last year. Waking up on Sunday you will then realise that your Saturday results count towards the Inland Championships, the final races of which will be held on the Sunday. One entry fee – a lot of fun.

Planning for 2008 – SOME IMPORTANT DATES...

Please note the following confirmed dates

North West Norfolk Week – 26 July to 2 August 2008

Salcombe Y.C. Regatta – 10-15 August 2008

Burton Week – Teignmouth Corinthian Y.C., Devon, 16-23 August 2008

We are also planning the Gill Series for 2008 already. We intend to continue to have a wide geographic spread of events and to focus predominantly on salt water and open water venues. This slight shift in venue selection is in part to make the Class more attractive to newcomers and potential newcomers.

New Boats – YOU KNOW YOU WANT ONE...

P&B have announced that they have secured Ovington Boats to build 12s from the P&B Feeling Foolish moulds. The first boats should be appearing imminently. Ovington previously built the Design 8 during the late 80s early 90s. They are arguably the finest high performance dinghy builder in Europe and it is excellent news that they are building 12s again.

Mike Cooke is also understood to be working on a new boat for a mystery customer.

There is strong demand for secondhand double bottomed boats at the moment with 3490, 3445, 3458 all changing hands within hours of being on the secondhand list. There are no secondhand double bottomed boats available on the secondhand list at the time of writing. Without us buying new boats there are few toys for us to attract new people into the Class with.

Old Boats – WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT???

Jo Richards repurchased N2993 Bouncer, the 12 in which he won the Burton in 1977 earlier this year and set out to restore her to her former glory. Bouncer was in a neglected state in a dinghy park, but undeterred Jo took her back to the Isle of Wight, sheathed the hull in carbon inside and out, smoothed off the chines a little, removed the daggerboard and replaced with a centreboard and a double floor, finishing with a boat 1 kg overweight to which he added a P&B/Superspar rig and arrived at Burton Week with Holly Scott, the current Mirror World Champion crew. The campaign did not end on arrival however. Lying 3rd after 4 races, they fell away to finish 6th but demonstrated that an old boat very well sailed can still be very competitive.

Your 2008 NTOA General Committee

Following the AGM at Burton Week the General Committee of the Class now comprises

Chairman	John Meadowcroft
Vice Chairman	Antony Gifford (Eastern Area)
Hon Secretary	Janet Bloor
Hon Treasurer & Records Officer	Michael Brookman
Hon Certification Officer	Kevan Bloor
Representatives	Brian Herring (Northern Area), Kevin Iles (Fixtures) John Murrell (South West Area), Mike Day (Thames Area) Mark Simpson, Howard Chadwick (Vintage Wing) Dave Peacock
Burton Cup Winner	Paul Pelling

- There remain a number of vacancies on the General Committee. The General Committee are keen to co opt anyone who wishes to contribute to the Class.
- Liaising with the various area reps, Kevin Iles will pull together the Fixture List for 2008 including the Gill Series
- Sophie Mackley will edit the Newsletter
- Jon Brown will continue to be the Chief Measurer and Chairman of the Technical Committee
- Graham Camm & Zoe Ballantyne will continue as Webmasters

Newsletter Publication date / Photos

Sophie Mackley is editor of the Newsletter. The deadline for copy is 10 November 2007. Please email your articles and suggestions to sophiemackley@gmail.com

Please continue to send CDs of your National 12 photos to Graham Camm.

And finally...

If there is anything that you would like to raise with me, please call me on 01494 445205 or email chairman@national12.org. Hope to see you sailing soon. Our fleets racing together are our best publicity. Come and see the new P&B boat on the water at the remaining Gill events.

John Meadowcroft, N3473

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Burton Week Survey - We're seeking your view on the format of future championships

The 2008 BURTON WEEK will be at Teignmouth in Devon, starting on the 16th August. The current plan is to run a week long event.

Burton week this year had a lower turn out than expected (38 boats rather than the high 40s of the past few years). With lower entry numbers clubs are less willing to put on a full week and also costs for a full week go up for each competitor. The Burton week competitors were asked for their preference on format during the AGM at Burton week, with no particular option receiving overwhelming support. The 70th anniversary survey indicated a shorter championships might be more popular. The Association want to run an event that has the broadest appeal but retains the true test of establishing the best sailors of the year, hence we are running this short survey to get a wider view.

please circle response or (preferably) keep this and complete the electronic version on www.national12.org/surveys/burton

Are you likely to compete in Burton week 2008?	YES	NO	MAYBE	
Would you come if the event was 4 days, starting on the Saturday afternoon with two 1 day races (including the Burton cup) and two 2 day races finishing on the Tuesday?	YES	NO	MAYBE	
Would you come if the event was the current 6 day format, starting with the practice race on the Saturday?	YES	NO	MAYBE	
If you would come in either case, which is your preference?	4 DAYS	6 DAYS		
Are you likely to compete in future Burton weeks (2009+)?	YES	NO	MAYBE	
What would be your preferred future format?	4 DAYS	6 DAYS	EITHER	UNSURE
Name				
Boat number (if any)				
Is there anything else you would like to add?				

PLEASE POST TO JOHN MEADOWCROFT, 2 BAILEY CLOSE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS, HP13 6QA