

Pilkington Sailing Club

The Mainsheet

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Pilkington Triumph at Southport

Pilkington Sailing Club took part in their 42 24 hour race at Southport Sailing Club on the 6th/7th September. As in previous years entering 2 teams, A and B, to try and give everyone who wanted to sail a chance to do so.

As usual, the facilities provided by the club on the bank, during the race were first rate including bacon and sausage butties for breakfast, and a chilli for tea. Even the poor "graveyard shift" sailors were catered for with a hot soup for after their shifts.

The A Team started well with team aces Steve Blackburn and Nick Hampson stomping on the opposition and coming off the water in an amazing 10th place. Liz Wilcox and Diane also played the shifts well with the position improving until about 10pm when it steadied out at about 6th—but changing all the

time due to the average lap timing system which has a few quirks.

The wind dropped right off through the night with Richard Critchley and Diane Blackburn managing the slowest lap of the team, but thankfully the whole fleet had slowed down so the position remained unchanged. A commendation must go to Alan Blackburn who valiantly fought off tiredness to sail from 1am through until 6am needing only one stop to take on supplies which included dry bread rolls and a can of pop—the pit crew failed to think of a way of getting him the soup safely.

The wind returned in the morning, and strengthened to a force 4–5. With various teams taking a early bath, Trevor Fillingham and Karen Wayne kept cool heads keeping dry until the finish with

Pilks' best ever result—6th overall and 3rd Enterprise.

The B team also faired well, with many different helms and crews—many of which only completed the Beginners' Course this year. Their final position in the race was a fantastic 54th—a 14 place improvement on last years result.

A nice surprise was the A team trophy for 6th Place is the E.A. Brown Trophy. As some of you will no doubt know, Eric Brown was once a commodore of Pilkington Sailing Club and it seems fitting that our club name will now be engraved on his trophy.

Well done to all who took part in the race and thank you to everyone who helped, particularly Trevor Fillingham and Cliff Wayne for organizing the shore facilities.

Special points of interest:

- Alan Roberts has now left to join the Royal Navy. We wish him every success in his chosen career
- Bex Cox and Anna Hampson have now moved out of Toppers into Laser Class.

West Kirby "Fun" 12 Hour

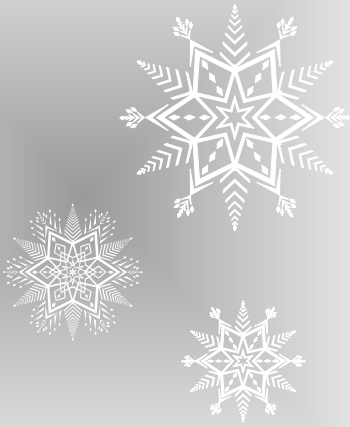
West Kirby held their first ever "fun" 12Hour race event on the 4th and 5th October. The event was designed to entertain and give sailors who wouldn't ordinarily get a chance to sail in the dark to do so.

Pilkington entered 2 teams—

an Ent Team of willing sailors and a Feva team comprising of Alan Blackburn and Rob Lea who were endeavoring to complete the whole race by themselves. Unfortunately the wind was very strong—gusting up to 40mph hour causing the race to be

postponed and eventually cancelled when the highest gust recorded that day hit 70mph. Alan and Rob finished 4th overall while the Ent team finished 8th overall.

Thanks to Derek Lee for organizing this event.



Pilkington Sailing Club AGM—27th November 2008

Notice is Hereby given that this years Annual General Meeting will be held on: - Thursday 27th November 2008 7:30 p.m. at Eccleston Mere

Any propositions must be submitted in writing to: -

The Hon. Secretary,

73, Pinfold Drive, Eccleston, St.Helens, Merseyside WA10 5BT

By no later than 18th November 2008

Note all propositions must

have a proposer & a seconder.

Everyone is most welcome, refreshments will be available in the interval.

Please come along, it is your club.

Eccleston Mere Primary School Taster Session

On 17th October, Pupils from Exxleston Mere Primary School took part in a sailing taster session requested by the school and organized by Derek Lee.

Despite being on a Friday afternoon, the turnout of helpers was exceptional. The weather was also kind, although a little more wind would not have gone amiss!

The lack of wind however did not seem to bother the students in the slightest. In further communication, one of the Teachers said "Many thanks again for allowing us to sail at your club on Friday, the feedback today has been

amazing, the children have all been raving about it! They absolutely loved every minute. Hopefully we can work together again."

This success was coupled with us raising yet more money for our club charity, The Lilac Centre at Whiston Hospital. The school donated £100 towards the centre as a thank you to the club and everyone who helped.

Once again, our training centre status is proving helpful in so many ways that initially we never even thought of.

Our success in this area is largely down to the hardwork and industriousness of Derek Lee and Trevor Fillingham who seemingly jumped through hoops of fire to get the status awarded to the club.

Well done and thank you to everyone who was involved in the afternoon's activities.

"A total of a thousand pounds has now been sent to the charity."

Charity Day

Freda Lunt organized a charity day back in September this year.

Each year we have tried to do something slightly different for this event and keep up interest. Last year we had an 8 hour race where Royston Taggart took first place honours sailing the whole race himself!

This year however was slightly less sailing biased but still plenty of fun on the water. Games and competitions were held while Tombola's were drawn.

The fisherman were also in on the act raising a great deal of money for our club charity—the Lilac Centre again.

A total of a thousand

pounds has now been sent to the charity.

Thank you to everyone for turning up and spending their hard earned cash., but also to Freda Lunt for organizing this very enjoyable event.

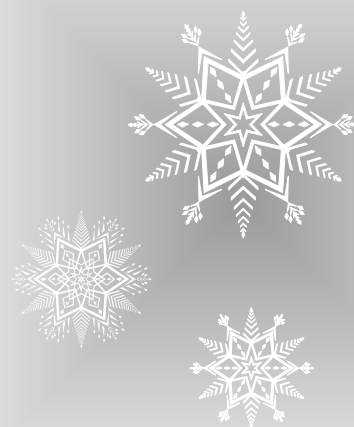
Travelling Juniors by Caroline Cox

As you may be aware, two of our juniors - Becca Cox and Anna Hampson - have been representing the club in both northwest and national competitions. Over the past year we have worked out that they have travelled approx 6500 miles travelling to events and training sessions, and to a total of 19 different sailing clubs in England, Scotland,

Ireland and Wales. It's a good job their parents enjoy driving! They have experienced every type of weather and every type of water from meres, quarries and reservoirs to the open sea. It's been an experience they won't forget - they've forged what will be life-long friendships, learnt a lot about sailing and racing as well as themselves, but most

importantly had fun and enjoyed themselves.

Alan Roberts also deserves a mention for taking part in many of these events too—without any transport he managed to convince members to take him to these events proving, where there's a will, there's a way!



Club Awards by Caroline Cox

After a successful year on the water for the club, it also turned out to be a very successful year when a number of club members represented the club at the St Helens District Sports Council Awards at Haydock Park. There were nominations for the club in 4 of the 5 categories with nominations for Derek Lee (volunteer), Trevor Fillingham (lifetime achiever), Becca Cox (young sports-

person) and PSC (club). We were successful in two categories with Becca and the club picking up their nominated awards. Well done to all, both nominees and winners alike. reports can be found on <http://www.sthelensdsc.org/11.html>. There is also an article on Becca <http://www.sthelensdsc.org/8.html>. The following week Malcolm Armstrong attended the Adelphi in Liverpool at-

tending the Merseyside future sporting Champions dinner representing the club and Becca in their representative categories (club and sports-person). Both received glass plaques for their nominations, and although neither were winners - competition was fierce - it is a magnificent achievement for the club.

*"Blackburn wins
November plate!"*

Enterprise Open Meetings

Steve Blackburn and Royston Taggart, crewed by Nick Hampson and Diane Roberts are continuing to shine on the open circuit.

Most recently Steve won the November Plate at Southport Sailing Club with Royston in third place overall.

This for Steve is his second overall win at an open meeting to go with his first place at our own open earlier this year.

Steve, a former winner of the

trophy, currently lies in 2nd overall in the Top Helm Trophy—a series which encapsulates all the opens in the northwest, with Royston Taggart in 4th place overall.

More information can be found about the Enterprise Open Circuit on <http://www.enterprisenw.co.uk>

It is a very friendly circuit and also very competitive so it's a fantastic way to learn and polish your racing skills.

If anyone does wish to take

part in some of the opens, many members of the club can offer advice on where to start, how to pack down and tow a boat, and any other questions that you may have on the subject.

Compound banter...

PILKINGTON SAILING CLUB

*Burrows Lane
Eccleston,
St Helens
Merseyside.*

*Newsletter Editor,
Richard Critchley
Rich.critchley@btopenworld.com*



As another successful year draws to a close, I thought it'd be nice to reflect on the things that have happened through the year.

The most noticeable difference is the new changing room facilities which took place remarkably quickly and without any fuss. One week we were in one side of the building and the next we were in the other. I wonder how many members on auto-pilot nearly walked into the wrong one...?

However, there have been many behind the scenes changes, first and foremost was the sad resignation of Trevor Fillingham from the committee and subsequently as Principal of the Training Centre. It was a shock to us all, and we did wonder what would happen without such a hardworking member on our team, but thankfully he hasn't withdrawn altogether from the club and can still be found working away on a boat or other most days of the week.

We've also seen a noticeable increase in the solo fleet, with many members now already having purchased or thinking about purchasing one. Could this be as Liz Wilcox's influence by leading the fleet on so many occasions?

Former member Andy Wilcox has left the Royal Marines and got married. Having raced against him when he was just 11, I'm now starting to feel old myself! And while one comes out of the forces, Alan Roberts goes in. Certainly the end of an era. I'm sure I won't be the only one who'll miss him.

Dates for your diary.

27th November—AGM

13th December—Adult
Christmas party.

21 December—Children's
Christmas Party.

For Sale

Club Mirror—Please see
Trevor Fillingham.