

K1 Class Newsletter

January 2011



Welcome to the K1 Class newsletter! This is the first report on K1 activity to date with news of K1 class racing, training and other events coming up. It's aimed for K1 owners and anyone else interested in getting involved with K1 sailing.

The K1's first year 2010 saw the launch of the new K1 single-handed keelboat and was a great success with over 30 K1s going out to owners all over the UK. Several clubs now have small K1 fleets forming and the first K1 open meeting held at Oxford SC proved to be a popular event with twenty K1 owners meeting up. A number of K1 opens have been lined up for the coming season and preliminary details are in this newsletter.



The new K1 fleet racing at Oxford Sailing Club

K1 Oxford Cup

The new K1 fleet came together for the first time at Oxford SC in October with a mix of rigging and tuning advice and racing for the new 'K1 Oxford Cup'.

Saturday's rigging and tuning session attracted 20 K1 owner's from as far afield as Scotland all eager to gain a few tips and to meet the other new owners. K1 designer Paul Handley ran through rigging and some of the unique sailing aspects of the K1 single-handed keelboat and keen racer Chris Swallow shared his experience on tuning the rig.

The twelve sailors that had brought their K1s along took to the water later in the day for a couple of short practice races in an ideal 10 knot breeze. The first race saw Alan Russell (Rutland Water), Neil Cooke (Tewkesbury) and Hugh Duncan (Lyme) all showing good speed and in the second Chris Swallow (Burton) and Mike Deane (Windermere) set the pace.

Saturday concluded with a debrief, a sail numbering session and very pleasant supper at the Vine. The breeze was stronger on Sunday morning and the fleet had to work out how to navigate around Oxford SC's 11 racing buoys – all good stuff ensuring a mix of beats, runs and tight reaches. Paul Handley (Chipstead SC) lead the way, closely pursued by Chris Swallow and Mike Deane in 2nd and 3rd. After racing the K1 fleet moored on Oxford SC's new pontoons for lunch.

The afternoon brought sunshine with the wind increasing to gusts of 20 knots making perfect sailing conditions. Jeff Vanderbrought (Lyme) was first to the windward mark followed by Chris Swallow and Paul Handley. The fleet then enjoyed four fast reaches to the other end of the reservoir with the K1s planing furiously in the gusts yet no worries with the gybes!

By the end of the reaches Paul had caught Jeff and after that they were never more than a few boat lengths apart, sailing at almost exactly the same speed despite Paul being an 11 stone (72kg) Firefly sailor and Jeff a Phantom sailor... At the finish Paul was just ahead of Jeff with Neil Cooke third.

After the race the sailors had a short class meeting and Neil Cooke kindly stepped up to take on the role of K1 Class Chairman – thanks Neil. The prize giving followed where the new K1 Oxford Cup was awarded to Chris Swallow and presented by Terri Worrall.

Overall Results: 1 Paul Handley (Chipstead SC), 2 Chris Swallow (Burton SC), 3 Neil Cooke (Tewkesbury SC), 4 Jeff Vanderbrought (Lyme SC), 5 Mike Deane (South Windermere SC), 6 Hugh Duncan (Lyme SC), 7 Allan Russell (Rutland Water SC), 8 Peter Thomas (Lyme SC), 9 Kim Fisher (Deben SC), 10 Richard Smith (Bewl Valley SC), 11 Geoff Worrall (Oxford SC), 12 Terry Hand (Northampton SC)



Chris collects the K1 Oxford Cup from Terri

K1 events for 2011

With the new season coming up we now have dates for a number of K1 open race and training events and the first K1 Nationals:

- K1 Lake Windermere Open**, South Windermere SC - 11th June, followed by
- Waterhead Open**, Windermere, 12th June
- K1 Broxbourne Open**, Broxbourne SC, 2nd/3rd July
- K1 Nationals**, Burton SC, 24th/25th September
- K1 Oxford Cup**, Oxford SC, date tba, aiming October date

The Lake Windermere Open will be a chance to sail in beautiful surroundings at possibly the best time of year for visiting the Lakes and the K1 open on Saturday is followed by the Waterhead Open on Sunday, which is a handicap open race around Lake Windermere.

The Broxbourne Open will be shared with the Flying Fifteens, which are regular visitors to Broxbourne. Broxbourne SC is situated north of London just outside the M25 and is an ideal water for K1 sailing with easy launching and a new club house.

The first K1 Nationals - Burton SC is in the Midlands so an ideal location for our first Nationals given that the K1s are spread all over the UK. Burton enjoys excellent sailing facilities at Foremark Reservoir amidst the dramatic Derbyshire countryside in the heart of the National Forest. The Notice of Race has already been drafted and as soon as it is complete this and other information on the forthcoming events will be posted on the website www.k1sailing.com

Thanks are due to K1 owners Mike Deane of South Windermere SC, John Wolsoncroft of Broxbourne SC, Chris Swallow of Burton SC and Geoff Worrall of Oxford SC for being our main contacts for organising these events and to their clubs for kindly offering to host K1 events.

K1 Open Handicap racing - Trial PY to be 1066

Many of the K1 owners have been enjoying racing their new K1s on handicap at both club and open meeting level and have been getting some good results.

Neil Cooke finished 2nd overall in a 30 boat fleet at the Tewkesbury Town Regatta in September and the K1s of both Neil and Chris Swallow have been mentioned more than once on the Yachts and Yachting dinghy forum with comments along the lines of 'they are often keeping up with the 505s to windward...'.
Neil Cooke

Four K1s took part in the Draycote Dash in November which provided a good opportunity to get feel for how K1s can perform in a large handicap regatta.



K1s enjoying close racing

The K1s were starting on a crowded line with RS 300s, Phantoms and Blazes but were able to mix it with these and other fast single-handed dinghies for a lot of the time. Some interesting analysis of PYs was carried out after the six races and we've since recommended that the trial K1 PY for 2011 should be 1066 (easy to remember as the Battle of Hastings...).

Several K1s are planning to take part in the **Exmoor Beastie handicap open on 20th March**. This event is run by Wimbleball SC where three K1s are based.

The 2011 Dinghy Show – Man the stand



The K1 will be at the Dinghy Show, **Stand G18** for the weekend 5/6th March. This is a Class stand and we are looking for owners to volunteer to man the stand, so if you can spare a few hours to be on hand then please let us know (contact e-mail at end of newsletter).

The Show will also be a good opportunity to catch up with other K1 sailors before the sailing season gets going. To be eligible for a class stand at the show the K1 Class first had to become an '**RYA Affiliated Class**'. The required documents for this were submitted at the end of last year and we were pleased to receive approval of affiliation from the RYA a few weeks later.

K1 runner up Keelboat of the Year!

Well done to the K1 for being awarded Runner up Keelboat of the Year by Yachts and Yachting in their 2010 boat awards.

On awarding this accolade Y&Y stated that the K1 had found a niche as a single-handed keelboat and that their testers had enjoyed sailing it, finding that:

"The K1 felt beautifully balanced, totally forgiving and absolutely delightful. It's quite unlike any other small boat on the market..."

Thanks to Y&Y and its testers for this.



Demonstration K1 sail dates

Jeff from Vandercraft has been busy running K1 demonstration sail days and two more dates are planned soon:

Rutland SC - 5th February
Queen Mary SC – 26th March

If you would like to know more about these or other opportunities to sail a K1 please contact Jeff at Vandercraft on 01404 891 913 or 07971 404 617.



Some K1s and owners on shore after racing

Further information on the K1 keelboat is available www.K1sailing.com

General enquiries to zoehandley@k1sailing.com