

K1 Class Newsletter

September 2011



Welcome to the K1 Class newsletter reporting on K1 activity with news of class racing, training and events for K1 owners and anyone else interested in the new K1 single-handed keelboat.

The season is now well underway and successful K1 open meetings have been held at Oxford, South Windermere and Broxbourne Sailing Clubs together with some well-attended training sessions. K1s have also enjoyed considerable success in handicap races both at club level and in big open events with a K1 winning the Exmoor Beastie. The fleet continues to grow with 50 K1s now sold including recent sales overseas.



K1s racing in light airs at Broxbourne Sailing Club

K1 Opens round-up

Oxford Sailing Cub hosted the first open of the season in April following the success of the inaugural K1 open at Oxford last October. Racing was preceded on Friday afternoon by a session of training and rigging advice by Jeff from Vandercraft with some practice races in a light breeze.

Despite a complete lack of wind at first on Saturday morning the fleet of 13 was keen to get racing and managed to complete two races, albeit rather slowly. Peter Crossley from the Pennine SC found his way to the front in both races to become the second winner of the 'K1 Oxford Cup' ahead of Paul Handley from Chipstead SC and Neil Cooke of Tewkesbury SC third overall.



Peter wins the K1 Oxford Cup

The K1s headed next to the Lake District for an open at **South Windermere Sailing Club** and enjoyed a stunning location. The local sailors weren't exaggerating about the wind shifts which made for some exciting tactical racing. Jeff VanderBorgh was on form and winner of the new 'K1 South Windermere' trophy from Peter Crossley and Mike Deane third.

All enjoyed the barbeque meal on Saturday evening and on Sunday Mike Deane flew the flag for the K1s in the **Waterhead** race around Windermere Lake which he completed in 5 1/4 hours.



Close racing on Windermere – photo by Rose Bugler

In July **Broxbourne Sailing Club** hosted a weekend open and 14 K1s competed in very light airs. Mike Deane and Peter Crossley both scored two firsts with Peter winning the event by just one point from Mike. On Saturday evening the sailors enjoyed a pleasant meal and had a productive session going through the first **K1 tuning sheet** which will be updated at the Nationals.

Thanks are due to all the host clubs and K1 owners Geoff Worrall of Oxford SC, Mike Deane of South Windermere SC and Chris Cowie and John Wolsoncroft of Broxbourne SC for organising these events. Full reports and results from all the opens can be found on the website www.K1sailing.com and the K1 class page on the Yachts and Yachting website.

K1 handicap racing success

A lot of K1 racing takes place in handicap fleets at club level and we've had a steady stream of reports from owners of good results. Chris Swallow won the **President's Cup** at his home club Burton SC, so as a local hot-shot will be one to watch at the Nationals on his home water.

And Simon Hawkes impressed all by finishing 3rd overall in a 95 boat fleet at the **Starcross Steamer** in a good breeze and then going on the next weekend to win the **Exmoor Beastie** ahead of 65 boats in light winds.

The RYA has now published a **PY for the K1 of 1060**, so this number should be used for handicap events until the RYA revise it (when they see Simon's results...).



Simon storming along in the Starcross Steamer – Photo by Fotoboat

Coming soon- the first K1 Nationals

The first K1 Nationals, which will be held at **Burton SC** on September 24th/25th, looks set to be the biggest K1 event to date with some keen competition for the National title. The club is located in the Derbyshire countryside in the heart of the National Forest and will be open to the K1s on Friday as well for a tuning and training session. There's on-site camping and parking for campervans and a meal included on Saturday night – all for £25. Please send entry forms to Chris Swallow - see NOR on www.k1sailing.com and entry forms at www.burtonsailingclub.co.uk

How fast is a K1?

Well we're not sure yet but often surprised to be asked 'will it plane?' Anyone who has sailed the K1 in a breeze will know the answer to this as K1s will often plane pass other planing dinghies on the offwind legs. K1 owner Wiclif McCreedy has been sailing with a Velocitek and recorded 14 knots so far.



But perhaps more important is the fact that K1 sailors can enjoy sailing fast on windy days without worrying about unwanted capsizes. Kim Fisher summed it up, writing "*Took it out in a serious blow and was knocked over BUT she just sprung up like a 'wobbly toy'! Terrific and I didn't even get wet!! It has completely taken away my horrors of high wind gybing - its fun again!*"

Jib sticks and cruising sails

Jib stick kits are now available from Vandercraft for pushing the jib boom out when running. The kit can be fitted quickly to any boat and retails at £85 ex VAT – contact Jeff at Vandercraft for details.



A jib stick used to push the jib boom out



Another new option now available is a set of Dacron 'cruising' sails. Two sets have been made so far by Edge Sails and are about 90% of the area of the standard Mylar sail.

These reduced area Dacron sails include a reef and may be used for racing if preferred in strong wind.

Dacron cruising sails

International development

This year has seen the K1 starting to spread internationally with **K1s going to Sweden, Germany and France** opening up the prospect of international competition in the future.

K1 dealers have now been established to cover much of Europe. Enquirers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland should contact **ONSAIL** at www.onsail.de and enquirers from France, Italy, Belgium and Holland should contact **Suntouched Boats** at www.suntouched.co.uk. All UK enquiries are handled by **Vandercraft** at www.vandercraft.co.uk

K1s on show in UK and Germany

A K1 will be on view at two boat shows in September. At the **Southampton Boat Show**, September 16th-25th a K1 will be on the Vandercraft stand - A072, and in Germany a K1 will be on the ONSAIL stand at **Interboot** the same week.

K1 test sails

Please contact Jeff at Vandercraft on 01404 891 913 or 07971 404 617 if you would like to have a test sail in a K1



K1s moored at lunchtime on Windermere

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

General enquiries to zoehandley@k1sailing.com