

2023 Ajax Class Captain Report.

Firstly, thank you to Vice Class Captain Geoff Mayhew for his support this season and also Jackie Mckellar for her support too through the year as Vice Class Captains in my numerous absences.

Also, a massive thank you to all the RO, support boat drivers, support boat lenders and all the other volunteers and club members / organisers who make our fun possible ❤️ 🙏

2023 Lowlights:

The season was overshadowed with the passing of Bob Tate - SY Teal - he was and will be remembered not least in the now annual 'Bob Tate memorial race Pye End' - forming Race 1 of the Dovercourt Challenge.

Potential new owners / berthing.

I believe we have the opportunity to help our class thrive and grow through some innovative thinking to enable potential new owners to join our class with a marina berth - I believe the absence of such an offering will continue to limit / threaten the RHYC Ajax class potential and future.

Early commitment for Diaries and dates:

To encourage participation at our 2024 Nationals next June from St Mawes' teams - we agreed and announced a date at their prize Giving to give everyone there as much notice as possible for their diaries and commitments - despite similar efforts to agree dates to enable planning - we still don't have the 2024 dates published. Let's try to plan further ahead to encourage greater participation in our major annual events 🙏

2023 Highlights-

Communications - We seem to have a thriving WhatsApp community 😎

Giles Wright has more than honoured Bobs memory in the manner in which he has campaigned Teal and keeps the legacy burning brightly - nice work Giles and team Teal 😎

The return of the highly competitive Avocet with Doug Sharps and Richard Chennery showing us they still have it - wonderful to have you back Gentlemen.

Diversity of winners !!!!

It's a fabulous recommendation of our very special class to see such diversity of names in the winners enclosure. No one team dominated the season as you will see from the list below - most of the fleet has had their moment !!!

Each of our major events was won by a different Team - Most notably Will Pattern emerging victorious in the Pin Mill Regatta in the "guaranteed to win Mandalay " club boat for hire 😎

- Storm Petrel - Jackie McKellar once again won the Prosser Plate - Many congrats to Jackie
- John Williams - Thunderer won the East coast Champs
- Mike Clayton - Polly Oliver won the Club Champs
- Richard Merriweather - Orwell VI won the Dovercourt Challenge and Bob Tate memorial race

The inaugural Challenge Cup (presented to the top scoring yacht across these four main events is awarded to Orwell VI on account of her 2 second places in East Coast and Club Regatta - congratulations to Richard, Mark, Josh and Simon.

2023 Challenge Cup- Challenge Cup is called Sir Thomas Spence Lyme Challenge Cup. This trophy was introduced in 2023 to encourage participation in all four of our wide ranging main events, including a short sharp series, Windward leeward racing at sea (East Coast Champs and Dovercourt) and in the River (Club Regatta) and 2 River races as part of the Dovercourt Challenge.

Each event was won by a different yacht.

- Q1 - Prosser Plate- Storm Petrel
- Q2 East Coast Champs - Thunderer
- Q3 Club Champs Regatta - Polly Oliver
- Q4 Dovercourt Challenge - Orwell VI

With no winner of more than one event - The overall winner of the Challenge Cup therefore is awarded to the yacht with best scores in all the 4 races.

1st Orwell VI

2nd Thunderer

Orwell VI winning with a 1 in Q4 and 2 x second places in Q2 and Q3. 1,2,2.

With Thunderer coming second with a win in Q2 and 2 x 3rd places in Q1 and Q4. 1,3,3

Q1 Prosser Plate

1st Storm Petrel

2nd Avocet

3rd Thunderer

Q2 East Coast Champs

1st Thunderer

2nd Orwell VI

3rd Avocet

Q3 Club Regatta

1st Polly Oliver

2nd Orwell VI

3rd Thunderer

Q4 Dovercourt Challenge

1st Orwell VI

2nd Teal

3rd Dionysius

Spring / Summer / Autumn / White sail series-

RHYC Spring Series winners

1st Polly Oliver - Mike Clayton / Bob Portway

2nd Guillemot - David Mayne

3rd Dionysius

RHYC Summer Series

1st Hermione Geoff Mayhew

2nd Thunderer John Williams

3rd Avocet Doug Sharps / Richard Chennery

Autumn Series

1st Thunderer John Williams

2nd Avocet Doug and Richard

3rd Dionysius Phil Mayhew

Evening White sails

1st Teal Giles Wright

2nd Storm Petrel Jackie McKellar

3rd Puffin David Pearce

Pin Mill regatta- 1st Mandalay- Will Patten

2023 ends with a new class captain - Geoff Mayhew to take us all forwards together and with a search for a new class treasurer. After 7 !! 🤝👍 years in the hot seat Mike Clayton has announced his decision to hang up his abacus - thank you Mike for all you have done - who will step into his shoes?

Our end of season wrap up meeting and Class AGM is scheduled for Sunday 26 Nov 11:00-12:30 where hopefully these and other 'go forwards improvements' can be agreed.

Hope to see you all there and pls do encourage our potential new owners and crews who showed interest this year to join us.

On a final note I wanted to introduce a new prize for the season - the Class Captain's Team of the year - for which a bottle or 2 will be presented to the team who have given the most, been there, done it, made it more fun, made the effort and in general have made the season brighter - this year I would like to award the Class Captains award to

Team Dionysius

Phil

Graham

Adam

Jackie

And a few others 😊😊

Nice work Phil and Graham !!

Richard Merriweather

2023 Ajax Class Captain