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Don't forget – Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> sees an important Working Party day and an evening BBQ – “cook what you bring” social. Hope to see you down at the club, with or without tools and burgers!

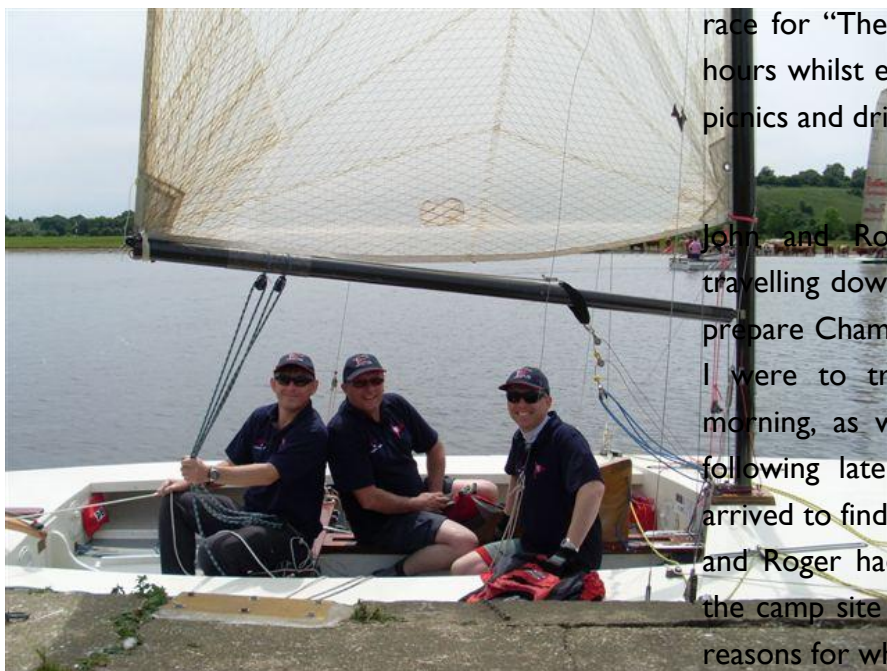


**TVSC'ers in action on the Thames at Bourne - more photos and part one of the week's adventures inside**

# Bourne End Week 23-26 May 2009

*Part one – The Arrival of Team TVSC*

James Clarke (Photos from those who took part)



race for “The Queens Cup” of 9 miles or 4 hours whilst everyone sits on the bank eating picnics and drinking Pimms.

John and Roger were the advance party travelling down on Friday to set up camp and prepare Champagne for launching. Angela and I were to travel down early on Saturday morning, as were Guy and James with Ann following later on Saturday afternoon. We arrived to find Guy and James rigging and John and Roger had already rigged Champagne in the camp site field known as “Sin City” - the reasons for which were never fully explained.

Ever since John bought his Thames A-Rater (*‘Champagne’, sail 21*) he has been keen to sail Bourne End week at Upper Thames Sailing Club. This is considered the world championships for A-Raters, if we can consider A-raters as a world class! The highest sail number was 23 but the oldest boat was 102 years old.

I wanted to do Bourne End week as it is a river regatta which I thought would be similar to sailing at TVSC, and Roger being keen for us to have a second A-Rater at our Club was keen to see what the class was all about. Guy Browne decided he was also going to come along and sail Heavy Artillery in the Merlin Class with his cousin James as crew.

Bourne End Week consists of 4 days of class racing (Saturday through to Tuesday) with two races per day. The fifth and final day on Wednesday sees a general handicap race in the morning with a final one o’clock A-rater

The first interesting thing about Upper Thames sailing club is the light railway which runs immediately behind the club house with trains running at ten-to and ten-past the hour. As the road runs alongside the railway it is a very sharp bend to get 28 foot of A-rater round and across the tracks. We waited until the ten-to train had passed before opening the gate - all six of us manoeuvred Champagne across the line well before the next train was due. Others apparently have been caught out by trains in the past so a network railway man was stationed on the crossing for the day.

The next operation was to launch with a capstan winch and a sinking slipway right in front of the club house. By this time the riverside lawn was full merlins, wayfarers fireflies and international 14s with us being the first to launch and being watched by a large crowd. Having not seen a launch by this

method we took advice from the locals which was basically don't let the jockey wheel on the floating part of the slipway and push it the rest of the way. The launch went smoothly for us but the next rater launch was not so lucky as the winch pulley became detached and the boat and trailer disappeared very quickly into the water. It took some considerable amount head scratching and manpower to retrieve the trailer.



All the raters were to be moored on buoys on the opposite side of the river as the waterfront area was not large enough for all competing 14 A-raters. This was actually a godsend as it meant we could always pull the sails up head to wind as the waterfront was nearly always in a cross wind. It's hard enough pulling up 40ft of main head wind let alone a cross wind. So we had to take water taxi across to the boats. On occasion this was reminiscent of a Turkish water taxi we once used, being over loaded considerably with what I can only describe as weighty rater crews with the taxi being very low in the water.

Having launched the boat we retired for well earned cup of tea upstairs in the club house and we all began to see great similarities with Trent Valley.

The club house is a wooden building and other than being painted grey shows some very similar features to TVSC. The club itself dates to 1884, so they say. We looked at the course where we could see even bigger trees than at Trent Valley and a couple of bends in the river similar to those on the Trent. All in all we did feel quite at home especially as we soon bumped into Phil Dalby and fiancée, Lizzie, sailing their Vintage Merlin "Onions" for the week. His cousin Andy was also there sailing "the light fantastic" for a day whilst its helm was at a wedding.

The sun was now shining the day was heating up, Angela had assumed the sun worshipper position on lawn. We took some top tips from Martin Hunter, who was the helm of "Spindrift", the A-rater that came up to Trent Valley in 2007, whilst Guy and James set off for the Merlin start which was an hour and half before the raters. We were now ready to start racing.

*To be continued: hear how Champagne and her crew fare in the July edition.*

*More information on the Rater Association and this class can be found on the Thames Sailing Club web site:*

**[www.thamessailingclub.co.uk/E7E9E/Raters.aspx](http://www.thamessailingclub.co.uk/E7E9E/Raters.aspx)**

# TVSC Merlin Open 31st May 2009

Guy Browne (Photos Ken Goddard)



TVSC's 2009 Merlin Open was greeted with 12 boats and a lovely sunny day with reasonably breeze for the first time in many years.

First Race started upstream in Force 2 breeze, with spinnakers straight up. The fleet got separated out early on in the Doldrums, with Rob Sloane and Bea Bramhall rounding the first mark first followed by Peter Browne and Dave Cluley, then James Clark and Lorna Orton.



Rob rounding the first mark and out ahead



As the fleet came down the river to the Goddard Twist there was plenty of place changes with John Dalby 3534 and Jim Hopton 3194 taking on water and dropping down the fleet.



At the start of the second lap most people closed up as the wind pick up with James and Lorna going for a swim whilst attempting a spinnaker jibe.

First race ended with Mike Anslow across the line, 2nd Rob Sloane and 3rd Terry Bridgwater.

Second Race started with some competitors shy of putting the spinnakers up, enabling the early ones a slight getaway.

As everyone got to the first mark the field was very close together with a lot "WATER" being shouted for the buoy. First round was Guy Browne and Julie Redford, second Richard Turner and Eric Banning, third Mike Anslow and Chris Winters. (cont.d)

This created some excellent tacking duels down the river, with Guy leading from Rob, closely followed by Mike.



The start of the second lap saw Guy drop down the field to fifth and the second race finished with 1st Mike Anslow, 2nd Rob Sloane and 3rd Andy Dalby.

The Excellent Trent Valley Traditional Roast lunch was enjoyed by all which left us full and ready to work off.

Third Race started with the wind up to force 4. A couple of boats either went for a swim

or found the bank with enforced jibes. At the first buoy Rob Sloane led from Peter Browne and Andy Dalby in 3rd. Well down in the pack was Mike Anslow in 9th.



On the way back down, both Andy Dalby and Peter Browne both took on water with Rob Sloane leading from Terry Bridgwater and Mike Anslow in 3rd.

On the final leg of the course Mike Anslow manage to out-drag Rob Sloane to win all 3 races and take the Trent Valley Trophy.

1st old boat trophy was won by Tim Male in 3339 who came 4th overall.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Boat No</b>	<b>Helm</b>	<b>Crew</b>	<b>Club</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	3674	Mike Anslow	Chris Winters	Midland SC
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3430	Rob Sloane	Belinda Bramhall	TVSC
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3591	Terry Bridgwater	Estelle Bridgwater	Earlswood Lakes SC
4 <sup>th</sup>	3339	Tim Male	Rebecca Aldred	Blithfield SC
5 <sup>th</sup>	3629	Peter Browne	Dave Cluley	TVSC
6 <sup>th</sup>	3482	Guy Browne	Julie Redford	TVSC
7 <sup>th</sup>	3532	Andy Dalby	John Dalby	TVSC
8 <sup>th</sup>	3489	Richard Turner	Eric Banning	Banbury SC
9 <sup>th</sup>	3041 / 3226	John Richardson	Ann Britton	TVSC
10 <sup>th</sup>	3509	James Clark	Lorna Orton	TVSC
11 <sup>th</sup>	3194	Jim Hopton	Louise Hopton	Shustoke SC
12 <sup>th</sup>	2681	Roger Britton	Brian Wilmot	TVSC

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# INVITATION



Your presence is requested at the annual

# TVSC SUMMER BALL

On the evening of

# SATURDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2009

## RSVP

[guy.browne@trentvalleysc.org](mailto:guy.browne@trentvalleysc.org)

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### **Committee Notices to Members:**

#### **Bunkroom Space (second call)**

Two part-share vacancies have arisen in the Gentlemen's bunk rooms.

The Committee invites expressions of interest in these vacancies from active sailing male club members.

Registrations of interest should be addressed in writing or by email to the Club Secretary, Mr Rob Sloane: [rob.sloane@trentvalleysc.org](mailto:rob.sloane@trentvalleysc.org)

Applications will be considered at the July Committee Meeting.

#### **Boat Parking Pitches – Members Responsibilities**

Members with boats at the club are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep their parking pitches mown and tidy. With one of the mowers having been damaged recently on a mystery object on non-grass origin, please take care when using the cutting equipment and ask if you would like a 'refresher'.

## The Back Page

...is sadly devoid of a calendar this issue because frankly it's a bit of a pig to extract and rework into a printable format and I've run out of time. Sorry – draft version is on the TVSC web site. Here's a great picture of David Peacock at the 2009 N12 Championships though!



**Please send me stuff.** Thank you to this month's contributors. Next issue will have a later publication date due to holidays and will probably feature the Ball so practice your photo faces now – see you in a DJ/gown?

Deadline for contributions is **22<sup>nd</sup> July** to [richard.partridge@trentvallevsc.org](mailto:richard.partridge@trentvallevsc.org) Thanks!

