

Medway Dragon Fleet report for BDA magazine 2020.

Sadly Roger Dawe passed away on 10th October aged 79. His crew Mike Gagg has written a fitting tribute as he knew him well and his Dragon Royalist for nearly 50 years. He was a member of the Medway Dragon Fleet since 1973. I knew him for not as long and only as a Dragon sailor but he was an experienced yachtsman as well. Over recent years he introduced many sailors to cruising and racing on the Medway in Royalist.

He competed in the first East Coast Championship in 1980 at Levington when the practice race was held in a force 7 according to the newsletter co-produced by his wife Joanna which is in the Class minute book. He was also elected Class Captain in that year. I will remember that he would fly his spinnaker in high winds at every opportunity. He and Joanna also offered accommodation to visiting Dragon sailors from Ostend, Belgium. He competed last year in May 2019 at the Medway Regatta and showed his racing skills with top three finishes three times out of a fleet of nine Dragons all of which were more modern than his classic. This picture was taken at this Regatta.



Despite the virus there was limited club racing at MYC and we held a Dragon picnic on the beach next to the clubhouse with bubbles. Not wine bubbles but social bubbles! It was a beautifully hot summer's day and hats, sunglasses and parasol were needed.



Two dragons entered the club racing: SUTI and Taniwha. They were both sailed two up. These pictures were taken by Quentin Strauss on September 12th from the club rib and show Howard Paterson and Bill Baker in action.

The races were started by a single person in the race hut and this proved to be easily manageable because the sound signals and lights are automated following the pressing of one button.





We were pleased to welcome Neave O'Clery as a new Dragon owner and member. Local members instantly recognised her Dragon as the boat previously sailed by Julian and Claire Sowry then called Scimitar.

This boat was MYC overall winner in both 2007 and 2008 seasons and we all look forward to racing against her again next year.