

## **The National Championships – Filey 1998.**

Filey SC hosted the 1998 Streaker National Championships which were held over the weekend of 27/28<sup>th</sup> June. As things got underway, competitors were greeted by a northerly force two-three, giving a flat sea and providing ideal sailing conditions for the thirty-three boat fleet.

Despite only having taken delivery of his brand new boat on the morning of the championships, and sailing just once since last years event, Peter Northen (Filey SC) set the pace up the first beat and led the fleet around the windward mark. In tern he was followed by Mike Rimmer (Covenham SC) and reigning champion, Alan Gillard (Sheffield Viking SC). Once past Rimmer, Gillard and Northen broke away from the rest of the fleet, quickly establishing a comfortable 250 yard lead. With Northen showing superior upwind speed and Gillard faster off-wind, these two enjoyed their own race within a race, by the start of the last beat Northen had managed to work a clear advantage and seemed to have the race in the bag. However as the breeze continued to build, Gillard took advantage of some big lifts and very quickly closed in on Northen. This was the cue for a titanic tacking battle as Gillard tried everything he knew to break cover and wrest the lead, and although only seven seconds separated the two at the finish Northen managed to hang on for a very promising start to his 1998 championships. a little further back, the main bunch fought for the minor placings, this ultimately saw Ian Whitfield (Tamworth SC) take third and Alan Ward (Ulley SC) fourth.

The start of race two saw a general recall which resulted in the black flag being flown to help guard against any further problems. At the restart, well aware that it would mean an early exit if they were over at the start, most of the fleet were ‘shy’ to the line, however Whitfield, Russ Hall (Broxbourne SC) and Dave Perkins (St. Catherines SC) took advantage of the others caution and made very good starts in plenty of clear air. Just behind them, new member to the Streaker ranks, Glen Truswell (Royal Yorkshire YC) was trying to make up for a rather eventful start to his championships in his third boat in only the second race – his brand new boat failed scrutineering, and the first boat he borrowed fell apart in race one.

However completely undeterred by these not insignificant problems and now at the helm of Dave Butler’s boat, 1418, he snatched the lead from Whitfield and Perkins as they approached the windward mark for the first time.

A short distance back Gillard led the main bunch, followed by Tony Newcombe (St Catherines SC) and Roger Finbow (Pennine SC). As the race continued, Truswell extended his lead over Gillard who eventually managed to pass Whitfield and Perkins and they in turn were third and fourth respectively.

As Sunday dawned, competitors were treated to the sight of a gusty force 4-5 south-westerly making its presence known across Filey Bay. Completely undeterred by these conditions Truswell, Northen and Gillard set the pace up the first beat, followed closely by local sailor, James Whitehead (Filey SC) and Nick Lovell (Ulley SC). As the first three rounded the windward mark Truswell held a 50 yard lead over Northen who briefly capsized, allowing Gillard through. Clearly growing in confidence after his mixed fortunes of day one, Truswell showed near mastery of the demanding conditions by opening out a one minute lead on his pursuers. In his wake, once more Gillard and Northen enjoyed their own private battle and again this was settled in favour of Northen – as if stunned by what was happening to him, the seven times Nationals winner then let Lovell through to take third place, relegating himself to fourth in the process.

After lunch the wind had increased still further and was now gusting force six which resulted in numerous capsizes and several retirements as race four progressed. Showing no sign of letting go

of his new found position at the head of the fleet Truswell again led Northen, who was this time followed by Whitfield and Gillard. Gradually, totally unaffected by the worsening conditions, Truswell and Northen established a large lead which they subsequently held to the finish. Behind them Gillard, who by now must have been wondering what he'd got to do to keep his crown, gamely worked his way past Whitfield with John Tate (Scaling Dam SC) a little further back in fifth and Robert Nettleton (Ulley SC) in sixth.

With many of the places already decided and no let up in the boisterous conditions, only eleven boats entered the fifth and final race. Yet again it was Truswell who was quickest away from the favoured end of the start line closely followed by Northen, who by the time they reached the first mark trailed by fifty yards. As with race four the testing conditions led to a high rate of attrition leaving virtually the entire stage clear for Truswell to give a virtuoso display of heavy weather Streaker sailing. This he did with such consummate ease, winning by over one and half minutes, one could soon lose sight of the fact that he was sailing a boat he'd borrowed from Dave Butler who by his own admission, is hardly of the same size and weight. Consequently, it seriously begs the questions what does it matter what hull and rig set up you've got, if you have real ability. Not to be out done by Truswell's sparkling performance, but unable to match it on the day, Northen and Richard Watkinson (Covenham SC) sailing extremely well themselves completed the frame for race five with second and third places.

Therefore to summarise, despite not being allowed to sail his own boat, retiring from race one, sailing a boat set up for someone 50% heavier and in a class he'd never competed in before, Glen Truswell won the remaining four races and deservedly took the 1998 Streaker Championship's by storm. In doing so he became the first sailor to take Alan Gillard's crown since Alan joined the class in 1989 and for the second year running Peter Northen finished second, whilst a philosophical Alan Gillard took third.

Other mentions of note must go to Ladies winner Zoe Meynell (20<sup>th</sup> overall), Junior's David Perkins (14<sup>th</sup>), Over 45's Alan Raistrick (6<sup>th</sup>), Over 55's Alan Simmons (18<sup>th</sup>), Concours d'Elegance Tony Newcombe (5<sup>th</sup>) and Filey SC for the Team trophy. In fact every competitor deserves huge credit for making the event such a success, no matter where they finished and the Association's thanks go to Filey Sailing Club for hosting such a brilliant event.

From the comfort and safety of the shore, it is very pleasing to report that despite all of the new age boats that are on the market, the Streaker Nationals can be won by an eight year old boat and the class as a whole can attract high calibre sailors from a variety of other fleets. All in the very same year the association registered a record number of new boats – roll on next year's event!!  
Ian Fletcher (1332)

#### List of Prize-winners.

Tate and Lyle National Championship Trophy	Glen Truswell	Royal Yorkshire YC
Downs Cup	Peter Northen	Filey SC
Viking Trophy	Glen Truswell	Royal Yorkshire YC
Ripon Horn	Glen Truswell	Royal Yorkshire YC
Heron Salver	Glen Truswell	Royal Yorkshire YC
Blackpool Bailer	Glen Truswell	Royal Yorkshire YC
Scaling Belle Cup	Zoe Meynell	Scaling Dam SC
Under Trophy	David Perkins	St Catherines SC
Over Trophy	Allan Raistrick	Pennine SC
Well Over Trophy	Alan Simmons	Lancing SC
Altogether Shield		Filey SC

**STREAKER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP****FILEY 1998**

FINAL POS.N	SAIL No.	HELM	CLUB	POINTS - RACE No.					TOTAL POINTS
				1	2	3	4	5	
1	1418	GLEN TRUSWELL	ROYAL YORKSHIRE	33	1	1	1	1	3.25
2	1503	PETER NORTHEN	FILEY	1	7	2	2	2	6.75
3	1487	ALAN GILLARD	SHEFFIELD VIKING	2	2	4	3	12	11
4	1446	IAN WHITFIELD	FILEY	3	3	13	4	6	16
5	1489	TONY NEWCOMBE	ST CATHERINES	6	11	5	9	35	31
6	1483	ALAN RAISTRICK	PENNINE	5	6	8	16	12	31
7	1459	ALAN WARD	ULLEY	4	12	9	7	12	32
8	1497	EDDIE WHITEHEAD	FILEY	16	5	27	8	4	33
9	1310	JOHN TATE	SCALING DAM	7	17	10	5	12	34
10	1298	ROGER FINBOW	PENNINE	11	8	17	11	5	35
11	1490	RICHARD WATKINSON	COVENHAM	23	18	7	13	3	41
12	1303	JAMES WHITEHEAD	FILEY	19	21	12	10	7	48
13	1480	RUSS HALL	BROXBORNE	10	13	15	14	35	52
14	1400	DAVID PERKINS	ST CATHERINES	18	4	6	26	35	54
15	1464	ROBERT NETTLETON	ULLEY	33	9	11	6	35	59
16	1404	STEVEN GARRETT	BEXLEY	9	14	14	26	35	63
17	2030	LIAM BEAMISH	LANCING	15	20	19	12	35	66
18	1499	ALAN SIMMONS	LANCING	17	10	18	26	35	71
19	1488	NICK LOVELL	ULLEY	21	22	3	26	35	72
20	1321	ZOE MEYNELL	SCALING DAM	13	26	20	15	35	74
21	1469	PETER BRODIE	ROYAL VICTORIA	12	15	35	26	35	88
22	1501	MIKE RIMMER	COVENHAM	8	16	35	35	35	94
23	1354	GEOFF TOWN	BROXBORNE	25	23	22	26	35	96
24	1360	PETER CROOKS	FILEY	24	28	27	26	35	105
25	1309	STEVE LYNCH	LANCING	26	33	21	26	35	106
26	1236	CHARLES WOOD	THORNTON STEWARD	14	24	35	35	35	108
27	1092	MIKE WALKER	HMYC	34	34	16	26	35	110
28	1485	DAN RIMMER	COVENHAM	22	19	35	35	35	111
29	1467	TIM COLEMAN	RIPON	27	27	23	35	35	112
30	1473	ANDREW HAGUE	RIPON	20	25	35	35	35	115
31	847	NORMAN CLEMINSON	FILEY	28	29	27	35	35	119
32	155	MALCOLM ROOK	FILEY	30	30	35	35	35	130
33	1433	PETER MIALL	PENNINE	29	31	35	35	35	130