



Streaker Class Owners Association

January 2021

A newsletter circulated to all members of the **Streaker Class Owners Association**



**Dare to dream of warm
summer days and
no Covid restrictions.**

**C'mon 2021 – you can
do it!**

In this issue

- **What's in the calendar this year?**
- **The RYA Dinghy Show goes virtual – and Why the Streaker?**
- **News from our licensed builders**
- **Results of the November ballot**
- **How big is your mainsail? – Alan Gillard has been calculating!**
- **Who's in the Gold Fleet right now?**

Chairman's Letter

Happy New Year to everybody, and I hope that 2021 turns out to be better than 2020 was. As is usual over the winter months, the committee have been busy planning for the forthcoming season. Although we can't predict the future, we've planned the events for the season on the basis of this year being relatively normal, at least compared to last year. Unfortunately I think it's quite likely that some of the open meetings early in the year may get cancelled, but hopefully we won't miss too much. We will, of course, keep you all updated via the website and Facebook page of any last minute cancellations or changes to the calendar.

One event which will definitely go ahead this year is the Dinghy Show, or rather the "Virtual Dinghy Show" which will be run entirely online over the same weekend as when the Dinghy Show is normally held. We will have a booth at this event. I'm not sure how a booth differs to a stand, but essentially this is our opportunity to show off the class to the whole world, instead of being limited to those who make the trek up to Alexandra Palace. Part of the functionality of this virtual event is a chat facility for visitors to the booth to ask questions live, much in the same way people would when visiting the stand at a normal show. If anyone is able to spare a couple of hours to help out with this at some point over the weekend, it would be much appreciated. All you

will need, other than a bit of spare time is a computer and internet connection. Please let us know if you are able to help out, it's much easier than travelling to London!!

As hopefully most people are aware, the rule change proposals were accepted by the postal vote late last year. This has now ensured we have a reliable supply of masts for the future, so thank you for supporting these proposals.

Let's hope for a good 2021 sailing season, and I hope to see as many of you as possible at events over the year.

Ian Priest



Don't forget to pay your 2021 subs!

2021 subscriptions are due on 1st March but of course you can pay anytime now!

The fees are still:

- Full Member £15
- Family Members £20 (a family sharing 1 boat)
- Junior Member £10 (under 18 on March 1st)
- Associate Member £10 (non-boat owner or sharing a boat with a Full Member)

To renew your membership, log in to the [Members Area](#) of the website and follow the instructions. If you get stuck, [contact the Membership Sec](#), Alex Reindorp.

Streaker events 2021

Our fixtures list is taking shape but please regard much of it as 'provisional'. Some clubs have still to provide dates for open meetings and there are a few major events (Coastal Championship, Scottish Championship and the Northerns) that need venues and dates confirmed.

The good news is that preparations for the **Nationals at Staunton Harold (July 2nd-4th)** are underway and we should have a Notice of Race soon. It's a super stretch of water in Derbyshire with easy launching and camping on site (£6 per person per night). Here's hoping we can get a really good turnout this year. Alan Gillard has calculated that boats with sail numbers up to 1616 will be eligible for the Fifteen Transom (for boats over 15 years old) and that means some very competitive boats will be in the hunt for that trophy!



Keep an eye on the Streaker website for when the NOR and entry form become available. If you want to check out the SHSC website, click [here](#).

A few weeks ago we were asked by the Europe class to have an event with them at Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy while they have their Nationals there. So our **Southern Championship will be at WPNSA (June 19th-20th)**. This should be good fun. We've had 2 good Nationals there in recent years and if you missed them, here's another chance for you!

We did consider making this event our Coastal Championship but it was thought the CC should be later in the year, in the hope that the Covid restrictions won't be so bad as the summer goes on. Right now we haven't finalised a date and venue but one option for the **Coastal Championship** is to go to Snettisham Beach SC in North Norfolk for the weekend of 31st July – 1st August. That would overlap with the end of North West Norfolk Week so there could be a good number of Streakers already at Snettisham then. An announcement will be made on this (on the website) very soon.

The **Rooster Super Series** will consist of the Nationals, Southern, Northern, Scottish, Coastal championships plus the End of Season event at Ripon in late October. For this series you count your finishing positions in each event, not individual race scores as we do for our other traveller series.

11 open meetings are currently in the **North Sails Northern Paddle** with 1 or 2 more likely to be added in, while the **P&B Southern Paddle** consists of 8. Some of these Paddle events also count towards more local series and perhaps the most interesting of these is the Border Reiver series in southern Scotland and northern England; this is a stand-alone series, not linked to the Northern Paddle this year, but enabling Streaker sailors to enjoy racing at some interesting, spectacular venues.

If your club wants to host an open meeting in 2021, please get in contact with Veronica Falat (secretary@streaker-class.org.uk) for events in the south and Ian Priest (chairman@streaker-class.org.uk) in the north.

We've also included some events on our fixtures list online that are not specifically Streaker events, e.g. the Scottish and Northern Singlehander Open Meetings Series and some regatta weeks.

Keep your eye on the class website www.streaker-class.org.uk
for the latest news on events, series and championships

RYA Virtual Dinghy Show – and Why the Streaker?



This year the Dinghy Show goes online and the Streaker class will be there with its 'booth' ready to receive visitors logging in from the comfort of their own homes. We're already preparing videos, images and documents to be accessed from the booth but of course it will be a very different experience without having real live boats on show. We don't

know how well the show will be attended – that could depend on whether people can go sailing that weekend if the lockdowns ease enough, but probably there'll be loads of people stuck at home happy to while away a bit of time by perusing the dinghies – including people from outside Britain. Therefore, we really don't know what to expect! Hopefully we'll get plenty of people keen for info about the class – so we will need some help!

If you can spare some time during that weekend to help man our chat room, please get in touch by emailing secretary@streaker-class.org.uk as soon as possible. Ideally we could do with people from different parts of the country and with different types of expertise e.g. class rule expert, amateur builder, owner of older restored boat, hot shot racer, club handicap racer, etc. If we have a team of people we can make sure it isn't a huge job for anyone of us. The chat will mostly consist of replying to written questions and comments but there's also the option of doing individual video calls.

The show will be free for visitors and the opening times are 10 am to 5 pm on both days. Obviously it will be great if lots of Streaker sailors visit our booth. Feel free to chat with us and tell us how much you like Streaker sailing! Your comments will be available for others to see – but we can get rid of rude ones!

The show will continue to be available to view throughout March.

Why the Streaker?

In particular, we would like to include comments as to why you've chosen to sail Streakers.

For starters we've asked that very question of **Jasper Barnham** who joined the class in 2020 having had experience at high level of many other classes.

Here's Jasper's reply

Good question, and it's one I spent significant time thinking about.

The process I went through was a list of requirements, which basically eliminated most other classes.

Lightweight - having sailed Aeros a bit I knew I wanted a light boat for easy retrieval in the waves at Snettisham. Leaves Streaker, aero and Europe (solo too heavy).

Weight range - at 75kg I am a bit between classes. Too light for solo, Supernova and aero 7, too heavy for aero 5. Top of weight range for Streaker & Europe

One design - I like one design as it minimises the investment needed to continually upgrade. Opportunity to self build or fit out. My original plan was to build a wooden hull in the lounge, but it was clear that a FRP hull from Beer was cheaper. I did the fitting out myself and really enjoyed it.

Local competition/ social side - there are a few streakers locally, and I knew my good mate Graham had bought one.

My expectation was that I would be competitive in a breeze, but I have been surprised by just how responsive it is in lighter conditions. I always felt the Aero 7 was underpowered and sticky in under 6kn, but the streaker still feels responsive.

Downwind in a breeze is an absolute blast, reaching speed is very quick, and downwind in waves is a lot of fun.

The boat has been better than I hoped it would be, just need some events to do!

My only reservation is some of the venues that the class visits, I would like to see a Sea Champs this year as the Nationals are inland. Weymouth could potentially be great.



Jasper (2127) to windward of Tom Gillard at the 2020 Northerns at Welton. Photo: Stephen Chilton

So what's your answer to Why the Streaker? What drew you to the class and how have you found it compares to other boats you've sailed?

Please let us know by emailing secretary@streaker-class.org.uk.

News from our licensed builders

In early winter rumours spread that The Boatyard at Beer was going out of business and we've since learned that it has indeed ceased trading. There was concern we would be losing one of our licensed builders but fortunately Kevin Driver plans to be up and running again by April with his new company, Driver Dinghies, concentrating primarily on building Streakers and Solos. This is great news and also reflects Kevin's confidence in the Streaker class's place in the dinghy market. He'll still be in Devon; contact details: tel: 07779 364121 email: driverdinghies@outlook.com.

Meanwhile, over in Brough on the north side of the Humber, Butler Boats has continued to get through a difficult year with various jobs on Streakers and other dinghies. On the right is Streaker 1280 after a recent upgrade giving her a false floor and a double-thickness cockpit floor (so long floor battens not needed now) – and the whole procedure has actually made her 2 kg lighter! Dave Butler's contact details are: tel: 01482 669848 email: dave@butlerboats.biz.

Both our builders had a lean time in 2020 with new builds. The highest sail number right now is 2135 (Mark Langston's fit out of a Boatyard at Beer hull). A year ago it was 2133 (the Butler boat on our 2020 Dinghy Show stand) so you can see how slow the growth in the class has been. (In case you're wondering, 2134 is Alex Reindorp's Butler composite.) So here's hoping that 2021 sees our builders back to full order books. The Coronavirus and resulting restrictions have a lot to answer for.



Results of the November Ballot

Thank you to everyone who voted in the ballot we ran shortly before Christmas.

The result of the voting is that all 4 rule change proposals have been agreed:

- Proposal 1 - agreed with 52 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions. **This means that tapered masts will be allowed - but only tapered versions of the mast sections allowed in the class rules.**
- Proposal 2 - agreed with 52 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions. **This means that the Super Spars M9 will be added to our list of permitted mast sections.**
- Proposal 3 - agreed with 49 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions. **This means that masts may be fitted with short internal sleeves or external collars in the deck gate / kicker attachment area.** (This tidies up our class rules as many masts already have sleeves or collars!)
- Proposal 4 - agreed with 47 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions. **This means that we won't have a defined position for the kicker attachment on the boom, thereby making it possible to use webbing or ropes to attach the kicker to carbon booms.**

The rule changes will be on the website very soon.

In practice, what does this all mean? How soon will we notice tapered masts in the fleet? That probably depends on how well we can still access our untapered sections. We've already experienced problems with the availability of the Selden lambda. Our concern was what would happen if the Super Spars rigel was similarly hard to get hold of. The rigel has been the default mast for the Streaker for a long time now and, despite its rather basic appearance, has proved to be a really useful section and our sailmakers have made consistently good sails to suit it. There's no problem in getting rigel masts right now and hopefully that will continue well into the future – but at least we now have the option of other sections (the tapered lambda and the tapered M9) so that we won't be left in the lurch if both the untapered Selden lambda and Super Spar rigel sections do become unavailable.



Streaker Nationals 1978 – The class has certainly come a long way since then! The original masts were a simple round section, supplied in 2 pieces so they could be sent out in the same box as the boat kits.

Something to ponder on, from Alan Gillard

STREAKER SAIL AREA QUESTION

In the original Y&Y article and the sales information from Jack Holt Ltd the sail area for a Streaker was quoted as 6.5 sqm. This always seemed rather strange but was calculated as a simple right-angled triangle. None of the roach or foot of the sail were included. I calculate 6.2 sqm.

My method based on the known width and dimensions of the sail was to divide the sail up into 4 trapezoids. With a segment of a circle for the foot. The height being the distance between the black bands divided by 4. It is probably not quite correct as it is the leech that is divide equally when measuring the sail.

Simple mathematics really.
 Area of a trapezoid.
 Area = (top + bottom)/2 x Height.

'A' = 0.662 m²

'B' = 1.608 m²

'C' = 2.400 m²

'D' = 2.932 m²

Total 7.6m²

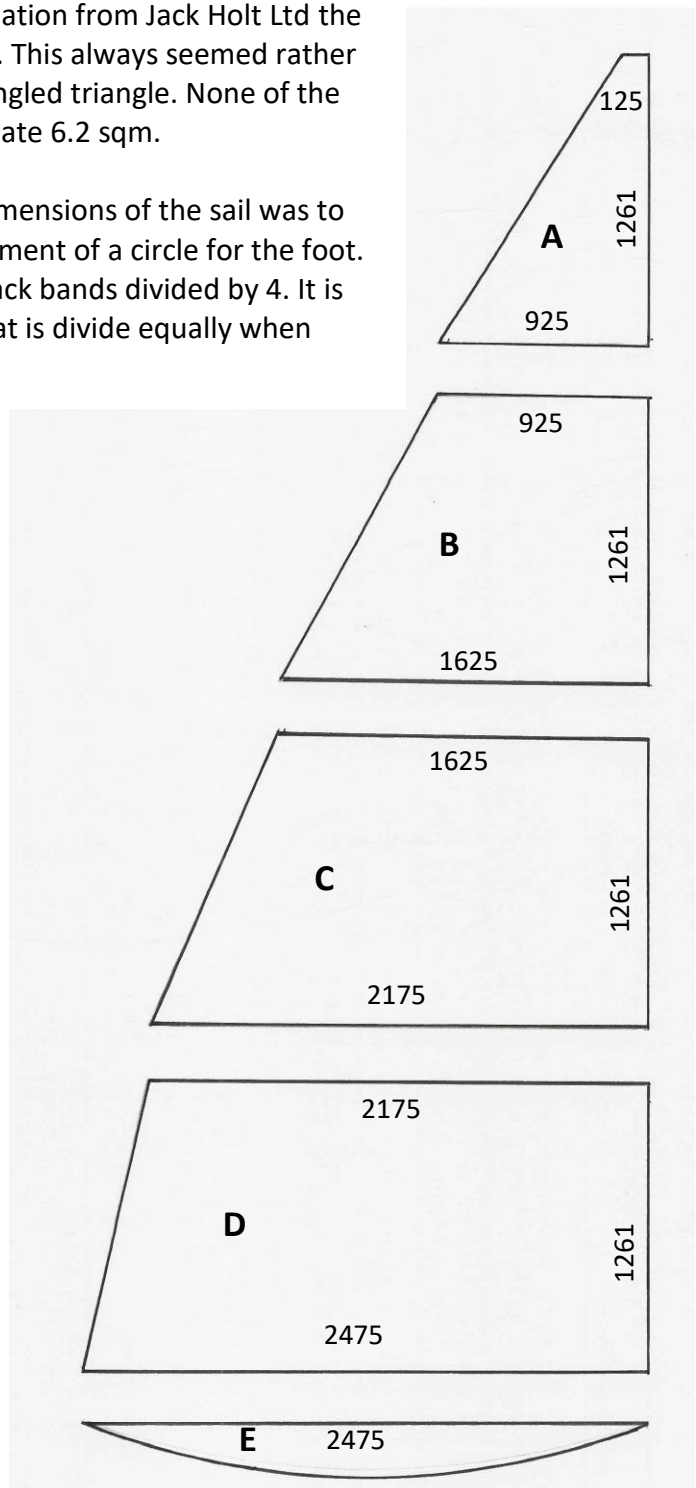
Area Foot of Sail. Segment of a Circle. Complicated equation.

'E' = 0.265 m²

Total Area of Sail.

7.87 m²

**Let's call it 8 m²
 amongst friends.**



*Editor's note –
 No wonder I'm always tipping over!*

Gold Fleet – who's in it?

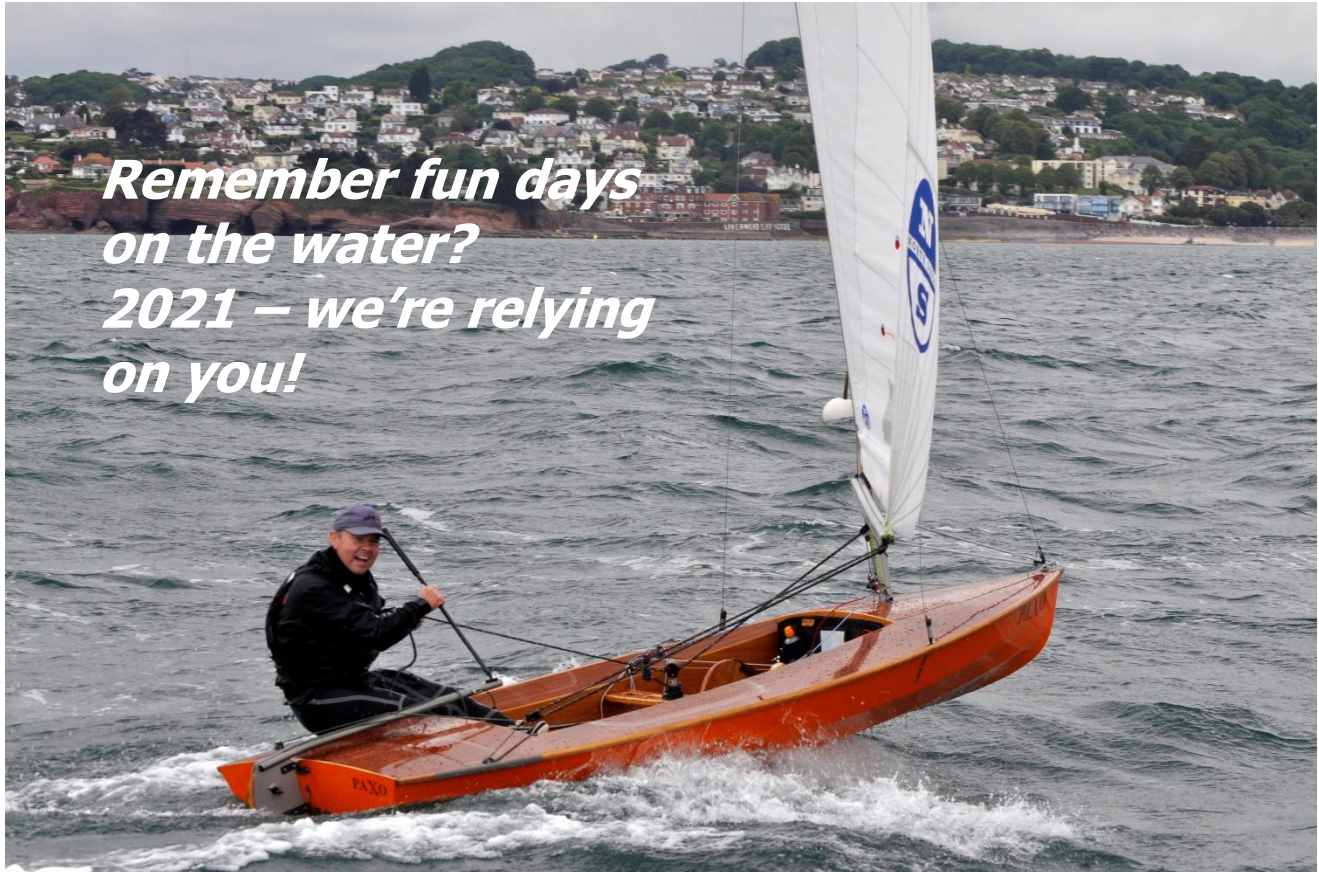
With any luck, sometime soon, we'll be racing in open meetings and dishing out prizes again – and it's always good to spread the prizes within the fleet and recognize not just the people at the front but also those in the middle – or even further back! So, we like to identify those competitors in the 'Silver Fleet' and that's done by saying everyone's in the Silver Fleet who's not in the Gold Fleet! To be in the Gold Fleet you will have finished in the top third of a National or Inland Championship in the last 4 years (we used to say 3 years but we're not counting 2020 because that was rubbish!) or are new to the class and have been assigned to the Gold fleet because you're really rather good!

Jasper Barnham
Steve Blackburn
Ian Bradley
Graeme Bristow
Lawrence Creaser
James Dawes
Ben Dennis-Smith
Veronica Falat
Neil Firth

Alan Gillard
Tom Gillard
Paul Grace
Doug Horner
Brenda Hoult
Ian Jones
Phil Manning
Isaac Marsh
Duncan McDonald

Martin Penty
Ian Priest
Phil Priestley
Andrew Rawson
Graham Sexton
Rupert Smith
Giles Therkelson-Smith
Sam Waller

We'll update the list as the year goes on – so if you're not a Gold Fleeter now, you might be later.



The Streaker Class Owners Association

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Other committee members: Chris Smith
 James Dawes
 Ian Bradley
 Neil Firth (co-opted)

Northern Paddle co-ordinator – Ian Priest

Southern Paddle co-ordinator – Veronica Falat

Website address: www.streaker-class.org.uk

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	Driver Dinghies	Tel: 07779 364121 Email: driverdinghies@outlook.com

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