

## **Solo Fleet Review 2005**

The year started with the fleet being represented at the Winter Championships at Chew Valley on 5<sup>th</sup> February by Chris (Chubby) Cleaves, Malcolm Bell and Adrian (slightly chubbier) Griffin. Three dull races were held in virtually windless, freezing conditions with the club achieving 35<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> & 75<sup>th</sup> respectively, followed by torrential rain as the crews packed up ready for the return trip. Peter Sturgess made an appearance during the lunch break to road test the new Speed Sails FRP hull and was so impressed he bought one, which he campaigned with much success during 2005.

Alister Morley made the journey to North Berwick for a very windy national championships and secured a well deserved 6<sup>th</sup> place in his new Winder. Martin (chubbiest of them all) Payne was unable to make the trip, but his new Winder Solo did and was overall winner in the capable hands of Jamie Lee.

Alister continued his open meeting success with 6<sup>th</sup> place overall at the Inland Championships at Rutland Water in June, a 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sutton, 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bowmoor, 4<sup>th</sup> at Chew Valley & 5<sup>th</sup> at the end of season championships at Draycote Water in October. This event was also attended by Chris Cleaves, Malcolm Bell, Andrew Borne and Peter (not in the slightest bit Chubby) Edwards. Securing 11<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> places respectively. All of the Salcombe crew were able to enjoy the generous hospitality of Andrew Liddington, a regular visitor to Salcombe, at his manor house in Easenhall.

Meanwhile at home, Chris Cleaves capitalised on Alister Morley's occasional absences to secure outright victories in all of the Club's series, toppled only when he came a close second to Morley in the Spring Open meeting. The local crews did not have it all their own way in the August Regatta however, when Phil Milanese narrowly beat Morley by one point to clinch overall honours, with Cleaves close behind.

Once again our thanks go to Shirley Tyler for supporting her old fleet by permitting the use of Smalls Cove as a base for 2005.

For 2006, Cleaves launches his new plastic thing to help fend off the challenge from Morley & Bill Jago & we look forward welcoming Hugh Tubbs back with a brand new Boon after his last one was wrecked in the gales at the end of '04. Meantime, there will be more intense fighting down the field between the all wood boats as the ever improving Rob Hyde takes on the likes of Edwards, Griffin & Chris Spencer-Chapman.