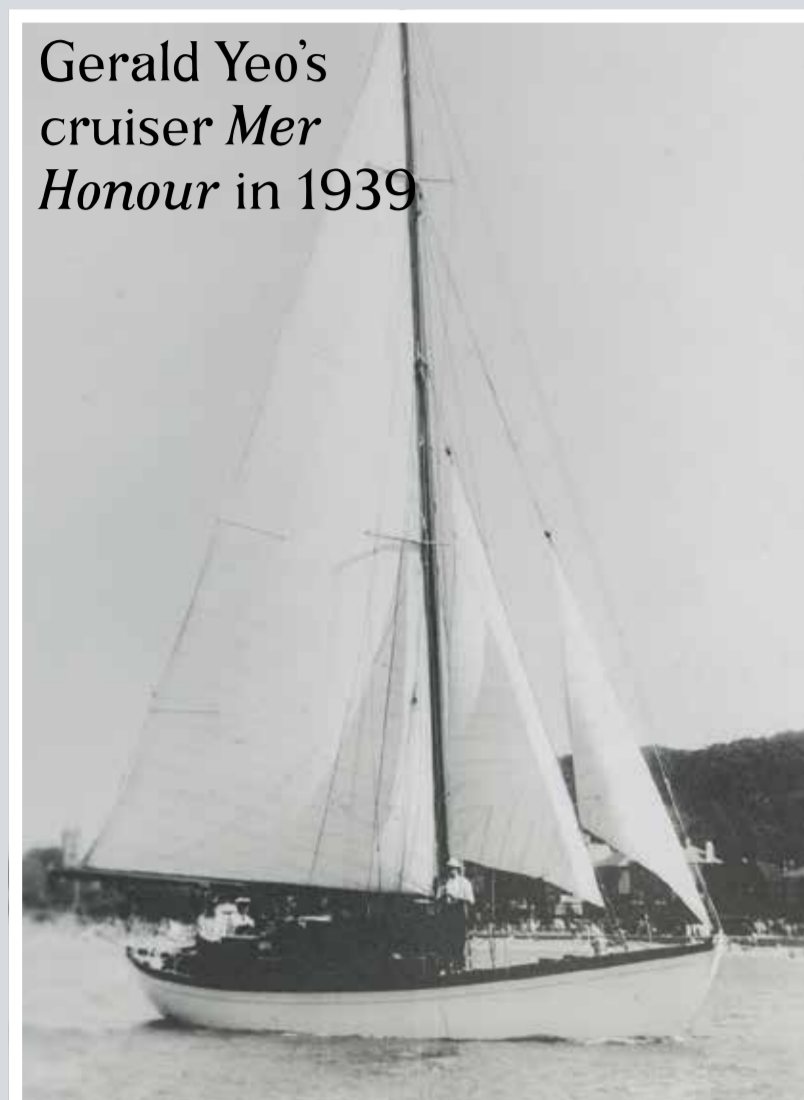


From Sharpies to SUPs

The Evolution of Boats



Gerald Yeo's cruiser *Mer Honour* in 1939

In 1923 the Portsmouth built Emsworth One Design (EOD) was introduced to replace the Club Sharpies and remained one of the mainstays until 1950s. The EODs were allocated to members on race days by ballot. The club now owns and rents to members a number of Bahias and Fevas so perhaps we are returning to a similar way of operating.

The early Club boats were wooden, either clinker or carvel built, but by the late 1940s moulded plywood boats such as Firefly's and 12 foot Nationals, were proving to be lighter and faster.



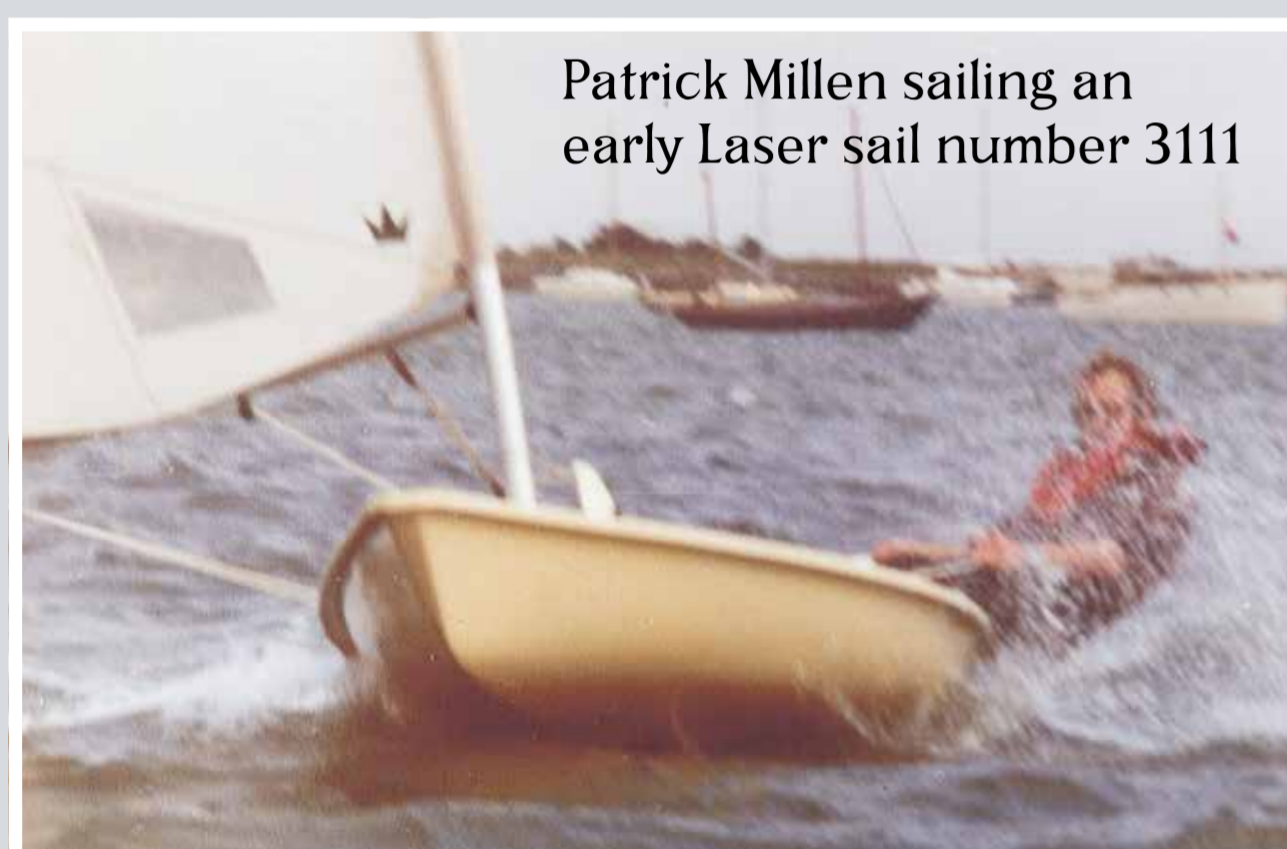
Susan Rutter's Folkboat *Folkdance*

The cruiser fleet was active from the early days including Commodore Gerald Yeo who had a number of boats between the wars. While today most ESC cruisers are GRP (glass reinforced plastic) the fleet includes the lovingly cared for wooden boat *Folkdance*, which was built in Emsworth by Parhams in the 1950s.



Mirrors and Toppers being prepared in 1982

Other materials and designs were being developed and boat builders started using single skin GRP in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Wayfarer dinghy was available in GRP from 1966. The Optimist in 1972 and the first Lasers were on sale in the early 1970s.

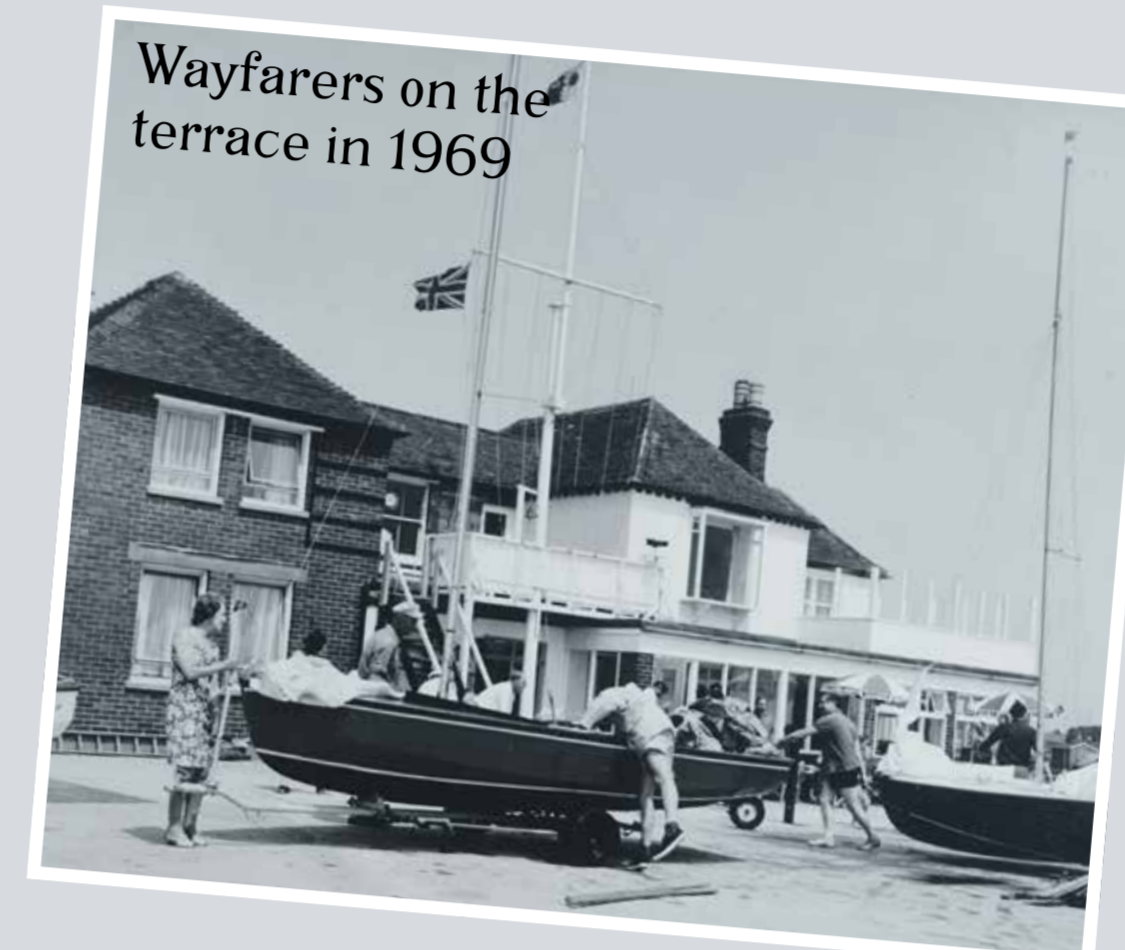


Patrick Millen sailing an early Laser sail number 3111

GRP materials gave the designers more scope especially with smaller dinghies - low cost, integral buoyancy and easier maintenance. More recently progress continues with carbon fibre and polymeric materials in boats such as the RS Aero and Devoti D-zero.

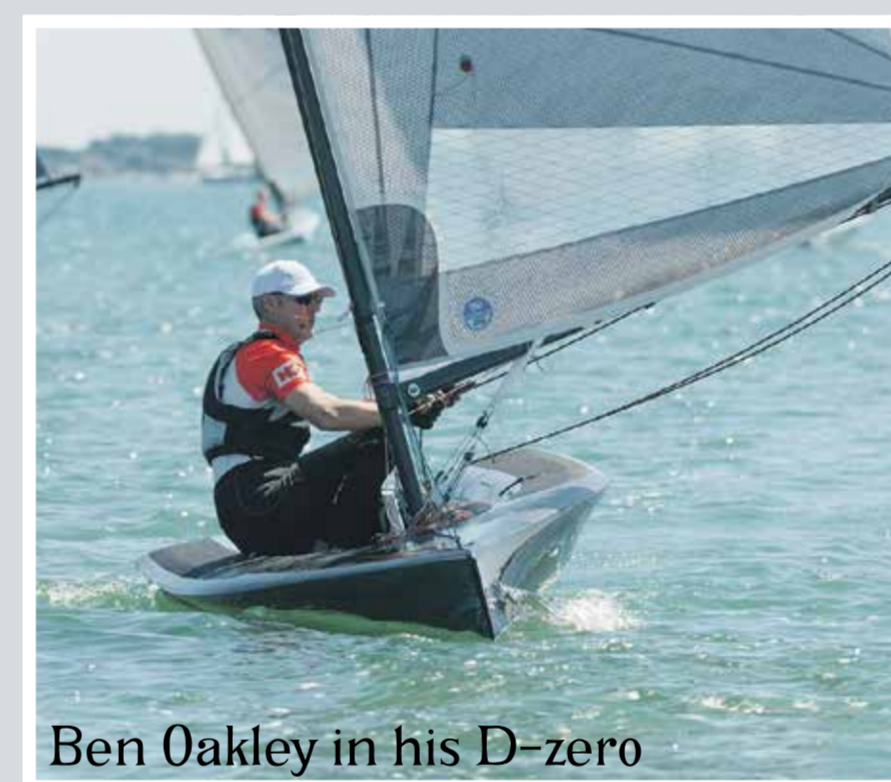


Wayfarers on the terrace in 1969



Turning Turtle

It was virtually impossible to recover from a capsizing in the early boats such as an EOD. A nine page letter in the clubs archives reports on a capsizing of an EOD in 1946. Modern boats have buoyancy tanks and self-bailers.



Ben Oakley in his D-zero



Club Boat Census'

1921 - The first club census recorded 11 Boats

6 Sharpies • 4 private boats • 1 dinghy.

1949 - The second census recorded 101 Boats

8 Club EODs • 1 motor boat • 4 dinghies • 13 cruisers • 75 private boats.

1978 - The third census recorded 464 Boats

1 Club motor boat and 3 dinghies • 112 sailing cruisers • 23 motor cruisers and launches • 70 miscellaneous dinghies and day boats • 86 Mirrors • 36 Wayfarers • 29 Lasers • 25 Solos and 70 various other dinghies.

1994 - The fourth census recorded A total of 724 boats

135 sailing cruisers & catamarans • 24 motor cruisers & launches • 24 day boats • 6 420s • 3 505s • 8 Albacores • 7 Enterprises • 6 Europes • 40 Toppers • 90 Lasers 11s & 16s • 46 Wayfarers • 17 Scows • 11 GP14s • 6 Fireballs • 70 Mirrors • 9 Solos • 6 Kestrels • 10 Wanderers • 56 various • 70 sailboards • 80 tenders.

2018 - While a full census has not been conducted recently, the club has at least 77 sailing cruisers • 4 motor cruisers • 11 motor launches. **The following boats were recorded in the dinghy park,**

4 Devoti D-Zeros • 6 Gulls • 54 Lasers • 14 Laser 2000s • 29 Laser Picos • 13 Mirrors • 38 Optimists • 4 Club Optimists • 12 RS 200s • 7 RS 400s • 7 RS Aeros • 24 RS Fevas • 44 RS Teras • 4 RS Visions • 32 Scows • 1 Club Scow • 42 Tenders • 2 Club Tenders, 9 Toppers • 5 Wanderers • 9 Wayfarers • 36 Others. **Plus Club boats** 3 Laser Bahias • 1 RS Quest • 3 RS Fevas • 2 Kayaks • 2 SUPs (stand-up paddleboards).

Young Sailors

The Club's strong junior training programmes began in Mirrors and Optimists. This evolved through Toppers and now uses Teras and Fevas. Optimists have remained the boat for the youngest club members.



Optimist racing in 2018



RS Fevas racing in 2018



Mirror team racing event in 1982