

## Recollections of Derek King First Secretary of International Combustion Ltd Sailing Club: 1959 - 1969

I am still pondering on the names of the original Flag Offices and I feel that Mr Burley, our Works Manager, may have been involved or even Mr Wilf Barrow, our Purchasing Manager. I believe that Nick Milnes instigated the founding of the Club at International Combustion Ltd, together with Jim Naden. Both of them had sailing experience; Jim was responsible for recruiting me; I, having no sailing experience and a non swimmer, accepted with some trepidation!

We eventually recruited several other interested parties and had a meeting at Nicks house to form a committee with me being railroaded into being secretary. This I believe was our 1st meeting and the beginning of ICSC, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1959.

We had to recruit 40 members initially to each subscribe £5.00 for an initial stake of £200.00 towards the cost of 4 x Enterprise sailing dinghies. The International Combustion Ltd. Welfare Dept agreed to complete the financing of the boats, the part built version being all we could afford. The company also agreed to get one of our lorries to divert from a delivery to one of the company contracts in Portishead to Clevedon to collect the 4 hulls and deliver them to our works in Derby.

The photo above shows the arrival of the part built hulls of the four Enterprise dinghies we bought from the boatyard in Clevedon on formation of the club. From here, the first hull was brought to my home and the work to finish the boat was started in my garage.



1<sup>st</sup> Sailing at Weston On Trent 13<sup>th</sup> March 1960  
Jim Naden & Derek King



Finished hull on trailer, Nick Mills, Jim Naden, Derek King & Son

There followed over the next few months, visits to anywhere in the county that might be suitable for the establishment of a sailing club. We eventually located the Weston-on-Trent site and obtained the lease of the boathouse on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1960. I do not remember how we found the site but I remember the negotiations with the owner of this fairly large summerhouse on the bank of the river Trent. We eventually came to an agreement to rent the property for a five-year period with an option to renew. The photo shown here is of the unveiling of the ICSC flag in 1960 at the Weston-on-Trent Club House. Of the five people shown there is, from right to left, Nick Milnes, Me (Derek King), Jim Naden, Ed Bennett (Commodore), Reg Parker (ICLtd Welfare Manager).



The people involved unfurling the flag, starting from the flag, from left to right:-Ed Bennett (Commodore), Me (Derek King – Secretary), Jim Naden, Reg Burley (ICLtd Works Manager), David Cook, Nick Milnes, Roger Blurton, Reg Parker (ICLtd Welfare Manager), Henry Robin, 2 Unknowns & John Newnes.

The property made a good clubhouse with sufficient space between it and the river to store our four dinghies. The river at this time was wide with a long wooden jetty sticking out into the river to reach the deep main flow. Again this was long enough to hold the four dinghies.

We sailed happily at this site on about half a mile good width river until the winter of 1961/62 when the river flooded and washed away the weir at Kings Mill some 300 yards or so down river from our site. This lowered the level of the river such that the jetty was now completely surrounded by thick mud (6' 0" deep) making boat access impossible.

The next phase was talking to Long Eaton Council to rent a parcel of land adjacent to the Trent accessed through a tip. When this was arranged we fenced this piece of land some 30 yards from the riverbank and then set about designing a clubhouse, which had to be on stilts in case of the river overflowing the flood bank. This clubhouse was brick built on a steel girder raft supplied by International Combustion Ltd by the kind indulgence of the Works Manager, Mr Reg Burley. He also arranged for some of the Works maintenance staff to build the club house, fit the toilets, dig a cesspit, run the water supply piping and sewage pipes. They also dug out and concreted a slipway down the flood bank to the river and a wooden landing stage to give access for the boats.

The new site at Long Eaton opened in 1962, my first indication of sailing at this site was on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1962



I hope this information will be of some help and interest to the members of Attenborough Sailing Club but I must admit that at 83 years of age my memory is not perfect.



Regards

**Derek King**  
**ICSC Secretary 1959 - 1969**

