

Suntouched Sailboats

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Photo: Devoti D-Fantastica Finn
Credit: © Robert Deaves



Photo: Devoti D-Ones



Photo: Devoti D-Zeros

Featuring:

- ▶ *British Finn Association report and news*
- ▶ *Suntouched news and review of Devoti D-Fantastica Finn*
- ▶ *Devoti D-Zero Class Association report and news*
- ▶ *Suntouched news and review of Devoti D-Zero*
- ▶ *Devoti D-One Class Association report and news*
- ▶ *Suntouched news and review of Devoti D-One*
- ▶ *Devoti Optimist, Clothing, spares and accessories*

Newsletter: Dinghy Show March 2016 Edition

Finn Class News

The British Finn Association is looking forward to a busy and exciting 2016, with more events and members than ever before. There has been much activity over the winter with new boats being ordered and others changing hands. Welcome to all new owners – a healthy mix of U23 sailors moving up from the Laser fleet and Masters sailors keen to join the fun at the World Masters in Torbole, (Lake Garda) this year and Barbados in 2017! The entry for Torbole in May has already topped 300 boats, making it the biggest Finn championship ever - there is still time to ask Suntouched to find you a Finn to buy or charter, so don't miss this fantastic opportunity to race in one of the world's greatest venues!



New U23 sailor funding for 2016

The BFA has recently introduced a funding scheme for the top two sailors from the Traveller's Series to attend the Silver Cup, the U23 World Championships or the Junior European Championships. The sizable grants of £500 are designed to attract younger sailors to the class, particularly those who miss out on fast tracking into the RYA development squad. We are also working with the RYA to create a BFA youth squad, to help develop the next generation of top British Finn sailors.

The grants will be funded directly from the sale of personal sail numbers and is supported by Sir Ben Ainslie who has kindly released his iconic sail number GBR-3 to be sold by auction to raise money for the fund.

Several top Laser youth sailors have recently bought Finns - Henry Wetherall, Markus Bettum and Joe Stocker will be joining the current U23 Finn sailors, Jack Arnell, Calum Dixon, Cameron Tweedle, Jourdan Swindon and Hector Simpson in 2016.



Even more great events for 2016!

2016 sees some great opportunities to race a Finn both at home and abroad. The class is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the first Finn Gold Cup held during Easter at Burnham-On-Crouch in 1956, with the Royal Corinthian YC running a Finn regatta over the Easter weekend, where you can race in the wake of Andre Nelis, Paul Elvström, and all the famous Finn pioneers.



With the Nationals at Christchurch SC, a Traveller's Series of 8 events and additional dedicated Classics with carbon events at 2 inland venues, there are even more reasons to sail a Finn in 2016!

To find out how to get into Finn sailing and to try a boat for free, visit <http://finnuk.org.uk/sail-a-finn>

Don't delay... sail a Finn today!

In just over a year the Finn world has changed, with almost all of the major players in the class switching to the Devoti D-Fantastica. We would guess that it's no surprise, given the amazing success of the D-Fantastica over the past 12 months. The final major Finn event of 2015, the most prestigious Finn event other than the Olympics, the Finn Gold Cup was held in Takapuna, New Zealand and the top 9 places went to people sailing the D-Fantastica with 10th going to a Classic Devoti Finn.

Anyone wanting to get their hands on this revolutionary new Devoti Finn will need to wait until mid-September for delivery if they place an order now, such is the demand for these boats.



It's incredible that, with such tight measurement tolerances, Devoti and the Fantastica team have managed to, yet again, come up with the winning formula. One of our regular Devoti Finn customers, having owned a considerable number of Finns, just took delivery of a new D-Fantastica and first comment after racing was 'best Finn I have ever sailed'.

Our passion for Finns is well known and we would be very pleased to meet with you and tell you more about this amazing Finn.

The Finn on the Suntouched Sailboats stand at the Dinghy Show is for Giles Scott and it will be shipped to Rio de Janeiro for him to use in the 2016 Olympics. Almost every Olympic Finn sailor has now opted to use a Devoti D-Fantastica for the Rio Olympics.

Photos: © Robert Deaves



Since its launch at the RYA Dinghy show in 2014, the D-Zero has had an impact across sailing clubs in the UK. Based on the Punk dinghy designed by Dan Holman, there were a lot of people eagerly awaiting the production model, now known as the Devoti D-Zero. Dan and Devoti Sailing, who were bought together by Rodney Cobb from Suntouched Sailboats, worked hard to tweak and refine the Punk design into something that could be produced in volume and that could be easily sailed and raced by your average racing sailor. For those who are not aware, Dan is a pretty good sailor himself having been on the brink of Olympic selection.



Part of the design brief for the D-Zero was that all the spars, sails and foils should fit easily into the cockpit to facilitate easy transportation without the need for an additional roof rack or a big car to carry them. This makes the boat really easy to strip down ready for that away event or holiday. With simple rigging, putting it back together when you arrive is a simple task, maximising time on the water (or eating the obligatory bacon butties which seem popular with many of the travelling D-Zero crowd).

With the class now having completed its second full year of competitive sailing, there has been considerable participation in the GJW Direct/SailJuice winter travellers' series with 32 unique entries making up 81 entries across the series. Alongside this, the class chose to include 2 additional events, an Open Meeting at Grafham Water and the Steve Nicholson Memorial Trophy, to make a 9 event winter series. Unfortunately the Grafham event was cancelled due to an excess of wind and was subsequently run as part of the Grafham Grand Prix, this reduced the series to 8 events. With only 4 events to count and new faces appearing in the fleet all the time the series has been hotly contested. The D-Zero has acquitted itself well against many of the more established classes with 2 boats in the top 10 overall, 2nd in the Class Standings, 2nd in the Musto Speed Challenge and 3rd in the Harken Youth Award in the hands of Tom Southwell.

Looking forward to 2016, the class has secured a great south coast venue in Highcliffe Sailing Club with a 3 day National Championships event planned from the 24th to 26th June 2016 and with a low early entry fee of just £60, with a Friday and Saturday evening meal included what is not to like! We are confident of a great turnout and are looking forward to joining the 50+ boat club. For a class that is less than 3 years old this will be a fantastic achievement and a credit to all the sailors in the class.



Add on to that a great Open Meeting circuit with events throughout the UK, an Inland Championship towards the end of the traditional sailing season at Grafham Water in September and boat owners indicating they will be attending some of the big summer events, such as the POSH Regatta at Paignton, the Lord Birkett at Ullswater, Lyme Regatta and Chichester Harbour Week (Fed Week) 2016 and an inaugural Scottish D-Zero Open Meeting at Largs SC, 2016 is looking to be great year for the D-Zero class.

D-Zero events 2016

23rd Apr 2016	D-Zero Open – Emsworth Slipper SC
24th Apr 2016	D-Zero Open (Northern Tour) – Shotwick Lake SC
30th Apr 2016	D-Zero Open – Hunts SC
7th/8th May 2015	POSH Regatta – Paignton SC
21st/22nd May 2016	D-Zero Open (Northern Tour) – Largs SC
11th Jun 2016	D-Zero Open – Clevedon SC
24th-26th Jun 2016	D-Zero National Championships – Highcliffe SC
2nd/3rd Jul 2015	Lord Birkett (Northern Tour) – Ullswater SC
24th Jul 2016	D-Zero Open – Hill Head SC

10th/11th Sep 2016	Inland Championships – Grafham Water SC
24th Sep 2016	D-Zero Open (Northern Tour) – Rossendale Valley SC
8th/9th Oct 2016	D-Zero Open (Northern Tour) – Yorkshire Dales SC
29th Oct 2016	D-Zero Open – Burghfield SC

Class Supported Events:

6th/7th Aug 2015	Lyme Regis Regatta – Lyme Regis SC
15th – 19th Aug 2015	Chichester Harbour Race Week (Fed Week)

News

It's fantastic to be able to report that the class outshone all other dinghy classes in terms of number of races entered in the 2015/2016 GJW Direct SailJuice Winter Series. This amazing statistic, after less than two years from the launch of the D-Zero, demonstrates the high level of enthusiasm and commitment from the early adopters of the class.

We describe the D-Zero as a modern, lightweight single hander for the enthusiastic dinghy racer that can also be used as a beach boat and not to be confused with a beach boat that can be raced!

The D-Zero Class Association have invested considerable time and resource into providing information and news updates as well as putting together a great programme for 2016 which all goes to help with fleet development across the UK.

Limited Edition Celebration D-Zero

To celebrate two years since the D-Zero was launched in 2014 we are making a limited edition, 15 only, Anniversary D-Zero available. The boat comes in a combination of light and dark grey with a carbon mast bearing insert in the foredeck. The boats will include a full race pack with upgraded Kicker and downhaul as well as a carbon TackTick bracket plus a number of small, but significant other modifications.



Flip up Rudder

The long awaited D-Zero flip up rudder will soon be available as an option on the D-Zero. This rudder will also be available to existing owners who want an alternative for tidal racing or where launching and recovery may be an issue. Pictures, prices and availability will be published on the Suntouched website and Facebook page. The prototype Flip up Rudder is on display at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show 2016, stand C6.

Carbon TackTick bracket

The Suntouched D-Zero Carbon TackTick bracket can also be seen at the Dinghy Show. The bracket is easy to install with just the aid of a screwdriver. It's designed for the TackTick T060 compass which fits just behind and below the central kicker cleat. Expected price for this is £50.00 including VAT. Full details will soon be available on the Suntouched website and Facebook page.

New appointment of North of England agent

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Boat Bits of Huddersfield as our D-Zero agent for the North of England.

Rodney Cobb of Suntouched Sailboats said: "We are impressed by the knowledge and experience at Boat Bits and are pleased that they will be supporting the D-Zero in the North. It's great that we can now, through Boat Bits, provide regional access to the D-Zero for new fleet development and support for the current fleets in the region."

Ben Ratcliffe of Boat Bits said: "I am excited by the opportunity to be able to offer the D-Zero in our region and have already a significant number of people lining up for trial sails. I am grateful to be involved with the D-Zero as it's an exciting boat which seems to be gathering a significant following in the UK. It's fantastic that the D-Zero, after less than 2 years from its introduction, managed to get more race entries in the GJW Direct SailJuice Winter Series than any other class! For me that makes it a winner in terms of enthusiasm from the owners and I am confident that the class will go from strength to strength."

For all contact information please refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Demo/Test days

To set up a demo event at your club please contact us at into@suntouched.co.uk or 07734 251033.

What a fantastic year 2015 was for the D-One!

We have seen new faces join the UK Fleet and the class continues to grow throughout the UK. We have been lucky enough to have had some amazing events and as usual the D-One continues to provide extra close racing, which makes for a truly exciting sailing experience. If you haven't already, you can read all the event reports on the website: d-oneassociation.org



In 2015 we had some incredible sponsors, Suntouched Sailboats, Spinlock, Devoti Sailing, and there is a prize of a brand new North gennaker, kindly donated with the help of Suntouched the winner will be revealed at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show, at Alexandra Palace, which we thought would be a great venue to announce the lucky winner.

We can also announce for 2016 a fantastic sponsorship agreement from Suntouched Sailboats, with £500 worth of vouchers for travellers' series prizes.



The Class Association have been really busy behind the scenes over the winter organising the 2016 calendar and are confident that 2016 will be another corker of a year for the D-One Class.

We are proud to announce the 2016 national championships will be held in the fine English Riviera town of Torquay. This premier south coast venue has extensive experience in running national and international events. Torbay is a beautiful part of the country and a fantastic location for sailing. Home of the 1948 Olympics, the Royal Torbay Yacht Club has played host to major World and National Events up to the present day. It remains a very hospitable and friendly club with fantastic facilities and easy launching slip into a protected harbour.

DEVOTI D-ONE CLASS OPEN RACING EVENTS 2016

Win **£500** Suntouched Vouchers

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<p>Oxford Weir Wood TRAINING Weir Wood OPEN Paignton (POSH) Europeans (Lipno CZE) Gorleston REGATTA Torquay NATIONALS Lymington REGATTA Lyme Regis REGATTA Thorpe Bay Gold Cup (Garda ITA) Northampton Inlands</p>	<p>2nd-3rd April 16th April 17th April 7th-8th May 17th-19th June 25th-26th June 8th-10th July 30th-31st July 6th-7th August 3rd-4th September 15th-18th September 22nd-23rd October</p>
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<http://www.d-oneassociation.org/unitedkingdom>
CLASS SECRETARY: ben@d-onesailing.org

News



As has been reported by the D-One Class Association the Devoti D-One has, over the past two years, gone from strength the strength in the UK attracting a number of top dinghy sailors from other prominent single handed classes. It was great when Nick Craig, one of the most successful and prominent dinghy sailors in the UK, fell in love with the D-One and joined the fleet with the result that many others followed him into this exciting, two sail, single hander.

We are pleased to have sponsored the D-Ones in previous years and will continue to do so in 2016 supporting both the travellers' series and the National Championships. We are looking forward to an exciting 2016 season with the usual thrills and spills to be expected in this demanding class.

Devoti Optimist, Clothing, spares and accessories

Devoti Optimist

As you may imagine the Devoti Optimist has been designed and built to the exacting standards that apply to their whole range of boats including the multiple Olympic medal winning Finns. We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer, with the support of Devoti Sailing, a special 'Dinghy Show deal' for a complete Devoti Optimist with spars and sails. Don't miss out on this winning formula at very competitive prices!

Clothing

Our current clothing range includes Sandiline and Zhik but we will also soon be adding the Queensport hiking pants to our range. Although we believe that the Sandiline Hikers are currently the best available we recognise the need to provide options that meet all expectations and budgets. We are pleased that many of the best Finn sailors in the world buy their Hikers from Suntouched and most will be using them for the 2016 Olympic regatta in Rio.

Spares and Accessories

We are pleased to be associated with Devoti Sailing who's boats, including the Optimist, D-Zero, D-One and Finn, give us a fantastic range of single handed, quality, options to supply to our customers. We are, of course, well known for that but we also represent many other manufacturers including North Sails OD and, in spite of being one of their Finn Specialists, we can offer any of their range of sails, just ask! Add Harken, Allen Brothers, SeaSure, Ronstan along with most of the other major dinghy accessories suppliers and you will probably find we can supply the product, again, just ask! Suntouched also own and market the 'Needlespar' Finn and OK boom products which are renowned for quality and durability in these classes. We offer our own carbon tiller extensions and defy anyone to break them in sailing conditions. If there's something that you want please ask!



Photo: © Robert Deaves

Contacts and links

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British Finn Class Association

Website: <http://finnuk.org.uk/>

D-Zero Class Association

Website: www.d-zerosailing.org

D-One Class Association

Website: www.d-oneassociation.org

