



Supernova Review

After several wins in the club racing events at Chelmarsh recently in his Supernova SN#1090 David Bibby has asked Paul Jones to give his views on his boat which may enable club members to make an informed decision about having a try-out of the club Supernova SN#1133.

"As many of you know I've had a few different boats whilst being a member of the club over the past 10 years! [Laser/Fireball/GP14/Aero and back to Laser!] My short 9-month sabbatical away from the club gave me an opportunity to think what would suit my lanky build and ageing years, missing both dinghy sailing and the super club on my doorstep. I considered many single handers - Solo, Phantom, De Zero, OK, Blaze the list goes on.

There was a boat that in my "yoof" [well 25 at least!] I sailed that I really enjoyed and gave me a real buzz to sail, in the mid 80's I joined the relatively new sailing club at Bartley which had a few enthusiastic members who were trying to build a fleet of single handers. So, I bit the bullet, joined in the fun and bought myself an all wood Contender.

What a boat, a looker from any angle, full on powerful raking rig, long elegant hull, classic hull, large cockpit and yes it had a trapeze!

I had 2 great years at Bartley sailing a Contender until such time my work took me to West Africa and the Contender was sold.

So, you ask what's all this reminiscing to do with me buying a Supernova! Well whilst mulling over all my single hander options I kept thinking about the Contender, reality stated I was too old to trapeze any boat and anyway the trees at Chelmarsh made the lake unsuitable for a trapeze boat, ask the Fireballs! However, I realised that the Supernova had a lot of similarities with a Contender.... powerful raking rig, long elegant hull, large cockpit and NO trapeze It ticked a lot of the boxes.

Some other people had also noticed the similarity between the boats and that was Hartley boats who now build both the Contender and the Supernova in Derby, so perhaps I was on the right track. I spoke with both Richard and Mark at Hartley about the Supernova and they confirmed the Supernova had a lot of the features I was looking for.

So, after a conversation with Terry Gumbley to confirm my thoughts I purchased Supernova 1090, "Kiwi" from the new Class Chairman from Burton SC.



Chelmarsh Sailing Club

Matt has summed up the characteristics of the boat admirably, but I would just like to add the following:

'Having never sailed a fully battened mainsail boat before I feel it gives great control and maintains correct sail shape particularly in lighter airs. This also allows for a greater roach on the sail enabling to maintain sail area without having a high aspect rig.'

The adjustable rig is easy to manage and allows the rig to be raked back, coupled with the downhaul allows de powering to be done quickly and smoothly however having rig settings marked either on the deck or the adjustable forestay is crucial. Whilst the Supernova has a powerful rig it has never felt overly unmanageable and as stated above the adjustable rig makes the boat suitable for a variety of weights. The class association, whilst small is very active in developing the class and most welcoming, how many other boats got 100+ boats at their last Nationals? Particularly as there are only 1300 boats having been built. Supported by a very enthusiastic and respected builder in Hartley I feel the boat can only go from strength to strength.

In summary "Kiwi" has met all my hopes and expectations, it a real pleasure to sail and as someone said and I concur "it's the Bentley of single handers". The club boat 1133 is a well sorted boat and would encourage everyone to have a trial sail.

Not quite a Contender but again I'm not 25 anymore!"