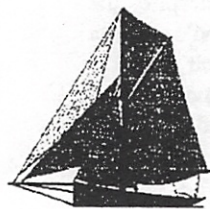




EASTCOASTER

ISSUE 14 AUGUST 1991



This issue of Eastcoaster is largely taken up with reports of the Classic Boat Festival at Shotley and the East Coast race, and I

apologize for not being able to fit in other contributions received this time round. Regetably we do not receive much coverage of our events in the press, so unless you read about it in Eastcoaster, you probably won't read about it at all!

Despite problems earlier in the year, and despite certain key committee members not being available, both Shotley and the East Coast Race have gone off very well, giving pleasure to the 260-plus entrants, I hope! I have also heard that the Open Boats Rally at West Mersea was a fine event, and a full report will be featured in the next Eastcoaster.

Having been told by one argumentative entrant at Shotley that he only came for the racing, I am concerned that we are not seeing enough of our non-racing fraternity at our rallies. We have two more rallies this season, they are primarily social events in interesting locations with informal racing just to add a bit of interest to the passage. We want to see more of you and your lovely gaff rigger, please!

Jon Wainwright

WALTON & DEBEN RALLY 27/28/29 AUGUST

Two races and two socials are planned to make this Bank Holiday Rally a most enjoyable event. Cruise or race, the option is yours (we still need the money!), but come along all the same. Please note the following instructions:

1. Passage Race to Walton from your home port on Saturday 27 August, send details of your boat on the form provided plus SAE, you will receive racing orders from the OGA. Also, please give me your telephone number in case of time difficulties.
2. Barbeque on beach at Stone Point Saturday evening, starting about 1900hrs. OGA will provide fuel and some drink etc, but please bring your own food. There will be briefing at 2000hrs.
3. Pennyhole Bay Race on Sunday, 0900hrs. The start time and course will be subject to wind and conditions over the Deben Bar, course sheets will be issued
4. Venue for the prizegiving and social on Sunday night is subject to weather, but the aim is the Ramsholt Arms on the Deben. The bad weather alternative is Shotley. Food will be available from the Ramsholt Arms.
5. Entry fee for the rally is £5.00 plus £2.00 for the passage race. £10.00 for non members. Entries on tear off strip to EC Secretary.

**IN KENT FOR BANK
HOLIDAY? TRY THE
CHATHAM RALLY
LENA 0795 534 212**

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DETAILS**

**SHOTLEY CLASSIC
BOAT FESTIVAL
REPORT**

**EAST COAST RACE
REPORT**

To : Jon Wainwright , Portview, New Road , Mistley , Essex, CO11 2AE

WALTON & DEBEN RALLY :

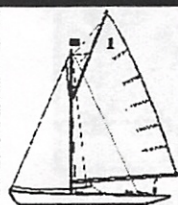
Please enter my boat

Type.....

LOA.....Sail Area.....

Home Port..... Passage Race?.....

Name Telephone & Address:



Despite ominous forebodings, Shotley came together at the eleventh hour to produce possibly the best ever

Classic Boat Festival. Largest craft of the 170 in attendance was the Dutch Klipper "Good Hope", built at the turn of the century at 90 ft loa. We had two Brixham Trawlers, the Kenya Jacaranda and the mule Regard, and with the 70ft ketch Willow Wren and tjalk Willemeijn, East Coast smacks were well represented with the addition of the Bawley Good Intent and the massive Boston smack Telegraph.

New classic hotshots included the new build "sharp yacht" Spirit plus the Dragon Therio and West Solent Mischief, fresh from Brookside's famous shed. There was more interest from the Dutchmen too. Aquila, the irrepressible Ron Valent's Hillyard came over with Lillebollero, the Boston Smack Yacht, Soma, another Hillyard, the sleek 42 ft sloop Pinta, and Kliene Beer a newly constructed clinker built sloop.

Saturday was stress day for the lockmasters, with not only 170 visitors to lock in but also their regular customers. The OGA Passage race was staged again, but winds were light and fickle, presenting quite a challenge for competitors. Winner of the Paul's Cup was the Smack Yacht Bee, first bermudan was Ostara, second gaff Cappricio, M A Solitude third.

The Parade of Sail up the Orwell on Sunday was a fine sight, but there was quite a rush at the end for some of the boats to get back to Shotley in time for the afternoon races. With the wind blowing well south of west, the racing fleet managed to lay Ewerton before the ebb got going and there was a lovely lift to the wind on the Copperas shore to the sole benefit of Deva, putting her in the same water at the windward mark off Holbrook as Priscilla, Zoetje and Cappricio. However, the Laws designed Atahualpa on even water is second to no boat, and took first on handicap by 45 seconds over

Deva, Dabchick and Folkboat Zoetje only 30 seconds behind her. The smack race was won by Quiz, whilst the revolutionary Dirty Girty, a 24ft chine sprit schooner won the racers and Penguin won the Open Boats.

Monday saw the classic fleet making for the Walton Backwaters for lunch while the open boaters prepared for the Swallows and Amazons race round the Islands and saltings at high water. However tragedy struck when Firefly capsized and sank after her mainsheet jammed, the OGA rescue boat Spare Rib having to be dispatched! At the start of the Pennyhole Bay race few boats reckoned on the way to round Stone Banks, the exceptions being Deva, Ostrea Rose and Olivia Mary who did not put about until their snouts were poking up Hamford water and clipped across the bank just to seaward of Mussel Scarfe. Ostrea Rose, held a good wind round Stone Banks, and lead to the finish, Deva trailing just a few minutes behind. The West Solent Mischief pulled up magnificently to take third place. Kestrel Jifanix was fourth, Brown Boat Dabchick took fifth followed by My Lady and Cappricio. Meg (Maid of Wyvern) won the Swallows and Amazons, and Natterjack took the dinghy Passage Race back to Harwich. Subscription Prizes given by Classic Boat Magazine were presented in the evening.

Tuesday was the Stour Ditch Crawl, when 100 classics took the tide and a gentle southerly up the river, some of the gaff work boats using their "truss" to control their speed, for the water had yet to make alongside the quay at Mistley. We rafted out a dozen craft or more, and took lunch in the Thorn Hotel. No superlative could adequately describe the start of the Mistley race in the afternoon. Some 70 boats took part, and with a useful south easter giving a close reach for the start, virtually every boat sailing her heart out. The French 7.5 Meter Sheena won the Thorn Trophy, second was the Telegraph, third was the ECOD Nancy repeated her previous year's fine showing, just beating her "cruiser" sister Atahualpa on handicap. Natterjack had a good day in the Open Boats class beating Penguin into second place. Prizes were by

courtesy of Boatman Magazine.

In the last couple of years participation in the regatta has grown considerably. We started with the Try-a-Classic event and the Stour Treasure hunt in the morning, great fun despite the strong wind. The afternoon's regatta sports were opened by a choir from the crew of the Dutch Boats, and included many tests of skill derived from the days when Shotley was a working harbour in the 1850's. The Classic Crufts Competition is an OGA speciality, going back to the days when all old gaffers had beards to display.

Thursday was yet another fine day as the majority of the fleet made their way towards the Deben, sounding their way through the narrow entrance channel through the shingle banks up the river to the Ramsholt Arms. There was a rip-roaring Easterly for the pursuit race back along the coast, round Pye End then into finish off the breakwater in Harwich Harbour. The Scandinavian Seaways Bells went entirely to replica craft, the Cornish Crabber My Lady just beating Itchen Ferry Merlyn III and sister crabber Joyce. Back at Shotley the Classic Hotshots class was won by Mischief, whilst Natterjack took the open boats (again!).

Friday saw the fleet cruising in company up the Orwell to Pin Mill and the Butt and Oyster. Because of congestion at Pin Mill, the start line was moved down to Collimer. The course gave a close reach on the first leg over the flood tide to Shotley, then a magnificent run in the strong wind up the river to Holbrook beacon. The beat back was well fought, but a number of vessels had to retire for passing the wrong side of Copperas buoy. The Dragon Therio won easily on corrected time to collect the Two Rivers Trophy, but full marks to the little Harrison Butler Fleetwing for coming second. Widgeon was third, followed by the Albert Strange Yawl Firefly. Penguin won the open boats class. Prizes were supported by the Butt and Oyster.

The climax to the week's racing was the President's Race, for which this year Harwich Haven had presented a fine cup. For (CONT PAGE 4)



MALDON ANNIVERSARY RALLY 30 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER

Celebrate the formation of the OGA back in 1963 with a meal at the Maldon Little Ship Club and an informal race to Brightlingsea the next day.

Details are as follows:

1. If attending by boat, raft up on the Maldon District Council pontoon at Hythe Quay Maldon on Friday evening. HW is about 2110hrs.

2. Meet up at the Maldon Little Ship Club. The bar will be open from 1900 onwards on Friday. Supper will be available, but must be paid for in advance by 20 September. Cost per meal is £8.50 per head for three courses.

3. On Saturday Morning there will be a race starting from Osea Island Pier finishing off Bateman's Tower, first boats off at 1100hrs. Race Instructions will be available at MLSC Friday night.

4. Prizegiving will be at the Anchor Hotel Brightlingsea, where food is also available. Moorings will be available, but entrants must settle accounts with the Harbourmaster themselves.

5. Entry fees for the race will be £5.00, Non members fee is £10.00. Please send tear off strip with race entry fee plus money for meals to Brenda Jago to reach her by 22 September, to enable arrangements to be made with caterers and mooring agencies.

E. C. OLD GAFFERS RACE PRIZEWINNERS

CRUISER TROPHY TEAL
STONE TROPHY ADELLE
EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS
TROPHY DEVA
BRITANNIA TROPHY SALLIE
PUSSERS RUM CHITTABOB IV

TOM BOLTON CUP SALLIE
CORNISH SHRIMPER BERRY
MAY

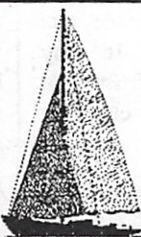
DAVEY TROPHY GRACIE
DULCIBELLA SNOOPY
HUNT TROPHY BLUE JACKET
SHEAVE HARDY

ROSE BOWL ATAHUALPA
TITHERIDGE BLUE HAWK
TARKA'S PIN SNOOPY
OLD HARRY MERLYN III
DAN WEBB & F. DIRTY GIRTY
CLASS IV POT TELEGRAPH

FIRST CLASS 1 BONA
SECOND CLASS 1 LAURA
THIRD CLASS 1 FIREFLY
FIRST CLASS 2 VICTORIA
SECOND CLASS 2 EMMA
THIRD CLASS 2 MY QUEST

ZETLAND WANDERER
COCKLESHELL NATIVE
ALPHA PITT JOANNE
LITTLE GAFF AILSA
PLODDERS POT AILSA
FIRST CLASS THREE HUSH
SECOND CLASS 3 KESTREL
THIRD CLASS 3 IBIS

SHOTLEY (cont)



some inexplicable reason three of the leading boats, Dirty Girty, Spirit and Atahualpa passed the Haven mark and headed off into the mist,

leaving the next group of boats, Peut Etre, Cappriccio, Wyona and Deva in happy wonderment! From Medusa back in it was a fine reach, and despite the light wind and the foul tide, boats made good progress for the line, with the hotshots now in pursuit. On corrected time Wyona won the Harwich Haven Trophy, Deva was second and Cappriccio third. Back at Shotley, there had been a good turnout for the open boats, Natterjack, Penguin and Overy 12 taking the first three places.

This year there were special cups presented by Shotley Marina for best overall performances, which were not just on pure racing but also presentation and boat management. Best Gaff went to Atahualpa, best bermudan went to Peut-Etre, and the OGA Victor Ludorum winner was Korybant. But the festival was just as enjoyable onshore, with beer festival and varied entertainment programme. Brian and Matt managed to put their minds to Shitley Spot amidst all the hassle, and the editorial was hilarious.

Our thanks also go to others who helped including the following: JK, Duncan and Ken on Stadats, Phil on his Rib, the Aussies and the Royal Burnham YC for the cannon. Particularly we thank the directors of Shotley, Jeremy and Richard, Sarah the Manager and the lockmasters, one of whom (Melvin) has joined the OGA!

Next year's date for the CBF is 25 June to 1 July 1995.

TO: Brenda Jago, Smugglers Cottage, Fambridge Rd, North Fambridge Essex

MALDON RALLY BOAT NAME CRAFT TYPE SAIL NO

LOA RIG HULL COL SAIL COL

MEALS REQUIRED AT £8.50 PAYMENT ENCLOSED (MEALS AND RACE ENTRY)

NAME ADDRESS & TEL NO.

EAST COAST GAFFERS RACE 16 JULY

Strange wind conditions made this year's EC Race on the 16 July memorable for some and frustrating for others, with constantly changing winds and calms.

With the light northerly breeze at the start enabling boats to reach over the current, a good start was achieved with Mole, Bluejacket, Emma, Bona, Mary Ritchie and Chittabob out in front of the rest. Many craft tried to set big reaching jibs with varying success, as the wind varied so much. Emma tacked to starboard to gain the North shore, clearer wind and better current, but in the event we in Deva found the safe leeward position paid off especially after passing Bradwell. A new entrant to the EC Race which was doing well at this stage was the Craig-Bennetts White Moth, the celebrated Wickham Martin's ketch, no snarl up's on the jib furling gears on that boat!

Concentration was vital on the long drag to the Knoll, the Tollesbury regulars Miranda and Greenshank kept their sails drawing well on this section, as did Fleetwing, Mary and Adelle. But at the head of the fleet, they appeared to be more concerned with each other than giving their boats breeze, allowing the middle order to catch up.

From the Knoll to the Wallet Spitway was a critical part of the race. The front runners had swept round with the wind up their tails, but had not noticed the signs of the new sea breeze. The answer was to steer up to the East of the rhumb line, so that when the wind filled, the Wallet Spitway could be laid in one at speed. Too many boats ended up having to go wide of the mark, and there were places for the taking by devious others.

Chittabob IV rounded the Spitway first, but in hot pursuit were the smacks Sallie and Charlotte Ellen. Betty II, Deva & My Quest had their

moments here on this leg too, overtaking many theoretically faster boats. Round the OGA mark it was the long run home, setting all possible sail, a strengthening sea breeze pushing the tail enders back into the main fleet with the flood tide now underneath them. With all the boats so heavily bunched, clear wind was at a premium, especially with the 53 ft Boston smack Telegraph astern!

Sallie went ahead to lead to the finish, and with the 50 ft Summers and Payne Hardy pushed the much smaller ECOD Chittabob into third place. The stowboater Charlotte Ellen just beat the Bona into fifth place by a minute, whilst Firefly sailed possibly her best EC Race ever to finish just behind the bawley. Mersea Smacks Gracie and Peace must have been pleased with their placing as well. Other very creditable performances came from the husband and wife crewed bawley Thistle and the yawl Cormorant, going well despite her makeshift rig. And somewhere in the fleet was the little Snoopy, sailed over from Holland singlehanded just for this race. Indeed the day really belonged to the smaller fry, and when the little 19 ft 1947 Teal came storming in under a huge press of sail, skippered by Harry Lymer and expertly crewed by Jane Burn, there was no need to use a computer to work out who won on corrected time. Second on corrected time was the Blackwater Sloop Adelle, skippered by another fellow of the Crouch Mafia, Ray Austin, showing skills normally reserved for the Crouch Rally. Deva in third place, after 23 years, regained the East Coast Old Gaffers Trophy, last won when most of today's hotshots were very dubious restoration projects!

The Class 3 race for Open Boats sailed a very different course this year, which went down to Bradwell,

then back up the river for a dogleg round Stone SC buoys up to Osea. For the faster end of the fleet this gave excellent racing with plenty of interest, working windshifts and currents. For the not so fast, it was a challenge, but these guys are tough in open boats, the last boat, the lugsail dinghy Ailsa taking the best part of 8 hours to complete the course! Flying Cloud, winner of past occasions, made too much of a flying start, and suffered a hour's penalty as a consequence leaving the way open for some new names on the pots, Wanderer, Native and Joanne to take the first three places on handicap. Hush managed a creditable fourth, not bad considering Sue Taylor had all the worry of preparing the programme and arranging the course.

Mention must be made of the splendid Three Sisters, a Suffolk Beach yawl owned by the Simpers, which carried out an excellent salvage job on an open boat which had sunk.

Presentation of the Prizes was by Cllr Delderfield of Maldon District Council, with the World President officiating for the OGA. Thanks go to many who helped, but particularly Sue & the Aussies on the committee, and Matt Wring, the OGA OOD. Also thank you very much indeed Peter Ford and Anneke Koomen for your help on Friday and Saturday. Outside the OGA we had help too; Stan Atkins again was a superb OOD on the bridge, offering helpful advice as well. The ferry service from Stone SC had quite a challenge with the strong winds on Saturday night. And from West Mersea Phil needs our thanks for laying and retrieving the OGA mark, whilst similarly we thank Bill Weekes on Springbok for taking out the film crew.

And of course, the OGA thank all the participants, without whom we would not have the East Coast Old Gaffers Race.

FOR SALE "SUE TOO"

BAWLEY TYPE GAFF CUTTER 22' LOD * 21'7" LWL * 7'7" TBEAM * 3' DRAFT BUILT 1989

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