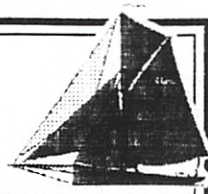




EASTCOASTER

No 27 RUSH EDITION SEPTEMBER 1997



MALDON TOWN REGATTA & OGA ANNIVERSARY RALLY 20 SEPTEMBER

As advised in previous Eastcoasters, this year's Maldon Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally is going to be different!

There are two races to enter; the first is a relay race starting at West Mersea Nass at 1000 hrs Saturday 20 September, the second race follows as a straight race from an anchoring start from Osea to Maldon. At Maldon there is meal laid on at the MLSC 1930 hrs(soup, steak & Kidney pie, trifle or cheese & coffee). By way of entertainment there's folk music in the MLSC or rock at the Queen's Head.

Many people forget that the whole OGA (not just the East Coast) was formed at MLSC in September 1963. It is hoped we can get a top brass OGA official to propose a suitable toast.

The relay race involves two - boat teams, one slow, one even slower. The boat one races from West Mersea to Osea, where she transfers her 1/2 cwt "freight" to her partner, who in turn races to Thirstlet and back. The second race will start after lunch, and is timed to finish at Maldon just before HW (1555). There will also be West Solent and ECOD racing; boats unsuitable or unwilling to take part in the relay can sail round with them.

For those who wish to enter via the OGA, the race entry fee is £7.00 (which includes £5.00 entry to the Maldon Town Regatta), meals are £7.50 per person, preferably payable with the entry. For those who want to protest, there is a fee of £25.00 per protest. All cheques etc. payable to the OGA.

Please could I have entries on the tear off strip by return; my apologies, we are running a bit late for various reasons.

TO: Jon Wainwright, Portview New Road Mistley Essex CO11 2AE (by Wednesday 17 Sept v latest)

BOAT NAME _____ type _____ loa _____

sail colour & rig _____ hull colour _____ sail no _____

Entry Fee (£7.00) _____ Meals at £7.50 per person _____

Name and Address of Skipper _____

Phone No to contact to arrange relay partners _____

IN THIS ISSUE:

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING; HELLEVOETSLUIS AND NORTH SEA RACE REPORTS; CHATHAM, OPEN BOATS, AVOLA'S SHOCK VICTORY; PLEA TO MALDONITES, BASINERS, TOLLESBURYITES AND STOUT FELLOWS OF BRIGHT-LINGSEA TO DO THEIR DUTY!

DON'T FORGET TO DO YOUR LOC FOR THE FRANCIS B COOKE TROPHY!

HELLEVOETSLUIS 24-27 JULY

For those who take part to the full, Hellevoetsluis is the grand finale to a super 8 days of sailing, which started with the East Coast Race, followed by Tendring Coast and the North Sea Classics. These, together with associated rallies at Roompot, Steenberg, Gouda and Willemstadt have really made this probably the best gaffer / classic boat occasion anywhere in Europe.

After a big rally in Willemstadt, the 120 strong fleet made its way on to the Haringvliet for the Willemstadt- Hellevoetsluis Passage race. Regrettably the wind was very light and with drizzle, but later it cleared to give a spanking finish for much of the fleet. Of the British boats, *Korybant* was a well deserved prizewinner. Any disappointments in the racing were more than made up for by the Civic Reception at the Council Offices, where there was as much Pilsner and Dutch Gin on offer as could be drunk in 90 mins!

Because of Friday's cancellations, there had to be some alterations to the stated Saturday programme. When the race did start, it was Mary Ritchie and Snippet who showed the locals how to do it, Deva being 8 minutes late. *Mary Ritchie* and *Snippet* stamped their class on the event to take first and second, whilst *Deva* made a late rally setting "the bastard" to slip into third place. By Sunday the wind was up again, causing most of the boats to reef, or indeed to set reef and topsail. Deva made amends for Saturday's poor start, luckily as she had a "Nautique" magazine reporter on board. It was another good days sailing, although Snippet had to scratch because of business commitments. *Deva* won the race by ten minutes, but had to concede the series to *Mary Ritchie*, whose second place gave her all the points she needed.

NORTH SEA CLASSIC PASSAGE RACE

Excellent conditions for most of the course made this fourth North Sea Classic Passage Race the most pleasurable yet. 12 gaffers and classics crossing the start line on a light northerly breeze on 21 July. The tidal set took many of the fleet too far to the south, although ocean racer Vashti's cruising chute picked up a private breeze at South Cork that took her clear of the fleet and over the horizon!

A light NNW breeze sprung up over lunch, enabling mackerel lines to be shot. Wise skippers used the opportunity to draw up to the north of the Galloper before the wind developed into a spanking 4/5 Nor' nor'easter on a beam reach, especially good for the smaller gaffers. Indeed many of the classic hotshots such as the likes of the eight metres had to struggle to get past. Unlike previous North Sea races, it was possible to see several competitors for most of the race. Sailing into the night, setting 3 headsails and topsails, crew sitting out on the weather rail, water boiling down both side decks logging 7 knots at times, it was a "cruise in company" few would forget!

Vashti held her line position till the end, finishing just minutes ahead of Dutch yacht *White Haze*. 30 Square *Korybant*, *Sea Scamp* and *Stormmeeuw* followed within the next 45 minutes, but they were not actually very far ahead of the much smaller *Mary Ritchie*, *Snippet* and *Deva*, who not surprisingly won hands down on handicap. All three were gaff rigged, all three set sails made by a certain Tollesbury sailmaker, all a credit to traditional design.

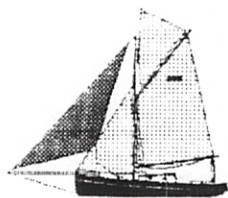
Having entered the East Scheldt, the fleet were joined by others from Belgium and Holland, and sailed by river and canal up to Steenberg. The classic boatmen, treated to free moorings, raw herrings and a band at a "civic" reception in a pub gave a very good account of themselves, proving they had as nearly good stamina as their boats!

The social side of the regatta was very well organised, with good bands, cheap beer and a very good atmosphere. They do it better than Shotley now, and full credit must go to the DCYR organization who put the OGA to shame by comparison with the numbers of volunteer helpers they field. We all made lots of friends, and the OGA owe Brian Hammett a great debt in this respect. As is traditional he made a speech in Dutch, which caused great mirth amongst our hosts, apologising for the British yachts taking so many prizes, even under the VKSJ system! With Shotley and Hellevoetsluis now completed, we await the outcome of the European Points Series for the VKSJ Challenge Cup, to be presented in Amsterdam in January.

NORTH SEA RACE RESULTS

YACHT	ELAPS	CORR
1 DEVA	1153	986
2 SNIPPET	1175	1074
3 MARY RITCHIE	1171	1094
4 VASHTI	972	1102
5 WHITE HAZE	979	1110
6 STORMMEEUW	1122	1128
7 ANCHAN	1166	1172
8 SEA SCAMP	1111	1229
9 WILL. HEND.	1235	1241
10 KESTREL	1189	1315
11 KORYBANT	1110	1376
12 AVOLA	1750	1506

TENDRING COAST: Light headwinds did not prevent 5 boats racing from West Mersea to Harwich. After a long seaward tack *Mary Ritchie*(3) came in to take line honours from *Snippet* (2) and *Deva* (1), who were followed by *Patience*(5) and *Witch*(4) (corrected time pos)



Despite the best intentions of the committee, despite the size of the sailing programme, not everything has gone to plan. The weather

has not always been kind, and we've carried out some experiments which (understandably) have not always been appreciated by the some of the racing membership. Perhaps we are short of expertise in racing. How about putting your name forward for the committee, and show us how it should be done? We have no committee reps from Maldon, Heybridge, Tollesbury or Brightlingsea, which account for about 75% of the EC gaffer population.

Surely there are one or two of you in those areas who are prepared to do something for the local OGA? It was founded in your area!!!!

Having said that, there has still been a lot of fun in OGA events for Deva and her crew in her last season for a while. The North Sea Race, Hellevoetsluis, and the MNK event at Chatham were great for the participants, many thanks to those who were involved. However, even at Hellevoetsluis, there was some nasty business. I was asked to intervene in a situation where serious death threats had been made by a UK skipper to a Dutchman following a ramming incident on the start line. Fortunately (for he was much bigger than me!) there was no violence, and matters had quietened down before the police arrived. Fortunately it ended in good humour as the DCYR committee decided to present a joint award of three cans of varnish to both parties, which they had to divide amongst themselves. The matter was settled over several beers. They are now the best of friends

Perhaps the I.S.F., the RYA, the FGP, OGA race committees and participants could learn from this. We only do it for fun, after all!

Jon Wainwright EC Sec

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the East Coast Area of the Old Gaffers Association will be held at Maldon Little Ship Club at 1600 hours on Saturday 6 December 1997. This will be followed by a film show (1997 OGA video) and social at approximately 1930 hours. It is hoped to provide a light meal at MLSC, for which there will be a small charge.

Please could you let me know in writing by 14 November if you would like to serve on the committee, or if you would like a question raised at the meeting.

Agenda:

Apologies

Vice President's address

Minutes of 1996 AGM

Treasurer's report

Secretary's report

Log Competition

Relevant Matters from the OGA AGM in London

Election of Committee

1998 Events

Any Other Business

Jonathan Wainwright

East Coast Area Secretary

Portview, New Road, Mistley, Essex, CO11 2 AE

E Mail 101323, 3617@compuserve.com

LOG COMPETITION

Despite the age of many of our craft, they continue to make fine passages in the hands of their expert skippers. The OGA have a superb trophy, the Francis B Cooke, to award for the best log or account of 1997 passages or cruises. Logs should be accompanied by a chart showing the passage taken, together with a deck log. This can be the Summer Cruise, attending an OGA rally, or just your year's sailing. Please send your entries to Rob Williamson, Brick Kiln Cottage, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex.

AVOLA'S SHOCK WIN

The world's yachting press were dumfounded at Chatham at the August bank holiday weekend, following *Avola's* remarkable victory in the Harwich - Sheerness Passage Race. She beat Britain's VKSJ European Challenge Cup Bronze Medallist Deva, fresh from her North Sea Classics victory, by a full 3 minutes. Said Brian Hammett (27) "It really was incredible. We did not stop the engine once, and still beat Deva under sail." The following day *Avola* attracted considerable attention from shipping on her victory parade, completely disrupting the Medway and North Kent OGA race, but that may have been due to the crew's attire (or lack of)

Regrettably Eastcoaster can not give a detail report on the East Coast Old Gaffers Race, because of an outstanding appeal, which could affect final results. Hopefully there will be a report in time for Gaffers Log. Corrected time order results should be available for the AGM on 6th December.

MNK OGA MAKE UP FOR A DISAPPOINTING CHATHAM FESTIVAL

Several Eastcoasters made their way down to Chatham Dockyard over the August Bank Holiday weekend for the Festival of the Sea and the Medway & North Kent Race.

Many found the dockyard site very disappointing, with so many of the old buildings pulled down to make way for residential development. The lack of convenient pubs and proper eating places in the locality caused many to dip heavily into ships' stores. The vast area of water was largely unused, giving a feeling of emptiness, despite there being nearly a hundred vessels spread around the two basins. Public interest was very poor, which must have been disheartening for those on the stands. Many had been led to believe Chatham would be better than Sail Ipswich, but the reverse was almost certainly the case.

However, whatever the failings of Chatham, the good old MNK OGA made up for it by laying on a splendid race on the Medway.

It was well organised by Bob Holden and Lena Reekie, with detail instructions and charts to aid us foreigners from the East Coast. They did however try the usual trick of letting the Eastcoasters get ahead, then turning off the wind so the locals could catch up. Mirrors were also used to dazzle overtaking craft. On the beat back they narrowed and widened the navigable channel to order so quickly that where Chittabob (4ft draft) was well and truly putted, bawley Thistle (6 ft draft) was able to sail with ease, only to close up the channel again for Deva (3ft draft) 100yds behind! Acknowledging the international status of the event (we had French as well as Essex boats taking part), a current World President was fielded as race officer. At the prize giving, held at the Jago's OGA stand, punch was dished out in liberal quantities, as were a magnificent array of prizes. A proper report will no doubt appear in Gaffers Log, but of the

prizewinners, 6 metre *Asti V* took the Lions's Share for line honours, starting honours, corrected honours etc., *Chittabob* had quite a few too, *Thistle* deservedly won some smackie trophies, *Deva*, having had to consume ships stores, was lightened enough to win a couple of pots, for class line honours and corrected time. *Emanuel* also won something for a "dazzling" display on corrected time. All were presented with a "gaffer" plaque.

Eastcoasters thank MNK for their efforts. The residents of Walton on the Naze were able to enjoy a dry gale free weekend for the first time in years, thanks to there being no Stour Rally BBQ at Stone Point.

SNIPPETS

Languishing schooner *Bagheera's* bad days are still not over. Lawyers have become involved, the ownership is back with the original owner. Soon she is to have her keel cut off, so that she can be lifted ashore. She will likely fall apart through legal beligerence. There's better news for the nobby *Selma*, which has been bought by David Brown as a rebuild project. He would be pleased to hear (0181 677 3997) from any one who has experience of these craft in pursuit of the project. David has also bought the Rivers Class *Severn*, no doubt to help him get the hang of sailing the nobby type of boat.

Back on the Stour, we were very pleased to witness the arrival of *Polly*, the last smack to work out of Maldon under sail alone. She appears to have a fine turn of speed, and her bowsprit is long enough to stack 6 Micro Cuppers on a good day. Ashore progress is now being made on the EC Sec's 26 ft prawner, she now has new ironwork and rudder whilst de-gentrification continues apace above the waterline.

Members are reminded that Eastcoaster will willingly publish details of gear or boats for sale, and looks forward to any contributions, humorous or otherwise, from members.

OPEN BOATS RALLY

After much soul searching, it was decided to run the Open Boats Race at West Mersea on 6 September. 23 Open boats scandalised their mainsails as a mark of respect for the late Princess of Wales. Over £100 was raised for her charities from profits on entry fees and meals.

The race fleet, (which only included about 4 OGA members!), enjoyed an interesting course round the creeks and islands in a fine sailing breeze, starting and finishing at Dabchicks SC. *Dipper* was the overall winner, sailed by Nick Greville, followed by *Polly* (M Green) and *Albert Harry* (D Exstein). *Jade* won the U12's again, whilst *Vigse Beatha* took the Plodders Pot.

Sue Taylor was not only race organiser, she was cook as well, providing meals for all at a low key social event at Dabchicks SC. The Committee thank her for her very fine effort for conducting the race in an appropriate way for the special day.

SAILS AND SPARS £600

JIBS 18' LUFF 7'10" FT
16'5" LEECH 23'3" x 10'3" x 18',
MAINS 14'6" LUFF, 11' HEAD,
23'4" LEECH, 18'3" FT, AS NEW
J. LAWRENCE

BOOM 20' x 3.5" GAFF 12'3" x
3.25" + A TOPSAIL!

A. BALFE (DROYD) 01255821903
OR ST OSYTH BOATYARD

JOB LOT COPPER NAILS
MISTLEY BOATYARD TEL
01206 392127

WANTED
YANMAR 1G10 DIESEL
01206 393537