



FOX'S EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE

WEST MERSEA
18 JULY

Please could you note the following.

1. The race is open to all gaff, sprit and lug rigged boats, irrespective of age or construction. *With very great regret we can not accept even the most classic, graceful or historic of bermudan vessels.* This is the official OGA race the East Coast is obliged to stage.

2. You should let me (Jon Wainwright Portview New Road Mistley Essex CO11 2AE) have your entry on the form enclosed by 4 July at the very latest.

3. You will need the sailing instructions before you arrive at West Mersea.

4. The standard OGA handicap system applies. If your boat has not entered an East Coast Race before, or you have made any changes to the rig, or taken the engine out of the boat, you must complete the measurements on the race entry form. *It is entirely your responsibility to ensure you have a handicap (THCF) before you race.* If you have an OGA THCF from another OGA area e.g. Solent, MNK etc., that will be fine.

5. Fees are as follows: - CSPS & OGA members' Dinghies/Open Boats under 20ft (Class III) £5.00; Boats over 20 ft (Classes I, II, IV) £10. Non (continued next page) Members



EASTCOASTER

No 31 JUNE 1998

CROUCH RALLY REPORT

Once again our first event of the season is over, and what an event!

It all started with boats sailing to the North Fambridge Yacht club for a Saturday evening get together. The only problem being that North Fambridge has an acute shortage of domestic staff, so we had one waitress running her little cotton socks off and had to wear a sweat band, and a waiter who was on work experience for the MOD or an undercover agent for the Crouch Mafia- either way he was -----(censored ed.)! A speech was made by our Vice Pres thanking NFYC for their hospitality and presenting them with a trophy commemorating their centenary. Richard Walsh replied by reading an extract from a book by Francis B Cooke, one of the founder members of the club. After dinner we were entertained by Doug MacEwen, and his gang of shanty men.

There was a good turn out for the start, some twenty boats taking part in the race to Foulness. The wind was light from the North West, with a sluicing spring ebb. There was quite a tussle on the North shore, amazingly no one was luffed over the sea wall. At Inner Crouch we had to face into the ebb and wind. Most chose to cross to the north shore, and those who chose the south (including the European Chumpion) had the ignominy of being passed by those astern- to quote Doug MacEwen, skipper of the leeboarded lifeboat *Sheba* "I did pass Deva".

It really was a fast boat day with 1st *Asti*, 2nd *Red Shank* and 3rd *Sauntress*. *Maid of Tessa* led *Phylla* in the classic bermudans, whilst *Memory* was first Open Boat. Mention must be given the Leigh Cocker "*Alice & Florrie*" sailed by just Tony and Shirley, a lot of boat for just two people.

Ashore Sunday night to the George and Dragon, - prizegiving, good food and good beer.

Now we get to hear what went wrong during the day- like why are there not more signs on the river, especially ones to tell it is a dead end, to stop you going between marina pontoons and the river bank (no names but the boat is called D...censored this bit.)...your race officers were enjoying the hospitality of John and June Martin aboard the committee boat *Aqua Sulus*.

Once again thanks to all who helped, and all those who took part.

Trevor and Denise Rawlinson

NB A Proper report will be published in the Gaffers Log

OPEN BOATS RALLY SEPTEMBER 5 - (ANYONE SEEN THE RACE OFFICER?)

Eastcoaster regrets that no further information is available for the Open Boats Rally, as the race officer Sue Taylor (38-28-43) has gone missing. She was last seen painting furiously in the forepeak of her West Solent Black Adder, prior to the decking going on. Said Peter Brookes (19) boatbuilder "It did suddenly go a bit quiet when we put the deck on, but we will soon know if the boat's down by the bows when we launch. We can fix that with a pig of ballast the other end." From communication via the hawse pipe, it is understood that she will be running the Open Boats Race & Rally at West Mersea on September 5th on the high water, along the same lines as last year. The entrance fee will be a fiver, cheques payable to the OGA. Tel Sue on 01206 382843, or write 10 Brickhouse Close, West Mersea, Nr Colchester Essex.



and late entries £5.00 extra. Donations will continue to be very much appreciated!

6. *The racing rules changed last year!* Entrants are expected to know and understand the 1997 -2000 "Racing Rules of Sailing"

7. There should be spare or vacant moorings in Salcott Channel and the various channels about West Mersea. Contact the Club Boatman on Channel 37 call sign "YC.1" on approach, and he will advise on availability.

8. You may consider anchoring in the Quarters. Please observe pilotage instructions for West Mersea. Do not leave your tender on the outside of the pontoon, this area is for pick up only.

9. Having moored or anchored in the right place, there is a ferry service. WMYC have their own launch, and there is a commercial service run by West Mersea Marine, call sign "CC.1" on Ch37.

10. If you want to eat at WMYC on Friday or Saturday night, please give advance warning of numbers by telephoning 01206 382947. Breakfast can be obtained from the Waterfront Cafe and Fleetwood Stores. For those who don't know West Mersea, there are pubs and cafes which give a good range of catering.

11. Prizes must be returned to the West Mersea Yacht Club, Secretary's office.

12. **You will need to go ashore at West Mersea Yacht Club on Friday evening to pick up a number board and register for the race.** We are now obliged to follow standard practice of each skipper/owner signing a "disclaimer" prior to racing. The OGA has to protect itself and the host club from possible third party claims. Entrants themselves must be adequately insured from third party claims. There is a special "form of words" which has to be signed. If you have not signed the disclaimer, you will not be considered to be racing. You can not enter on the line, as some used to in the past. (For open boats and latecomers, the OGA office will also be manned in the morning.) Note Rule G!

13. **Please check which start group you are in.** These groups are loosely

based on past performance through the water or boatspeed, they are nothing to do with the class or type of boat. Group A 0930, Group B 1000, Group C 1030. Actual finish time will be the criteria for line honour type prizes, elapsed time or time on course multiplied by the THCF handicap will determine the corrected time type prizes. Open Boats under 20ft start on a different course at 1045.

14. For those who wish to spectate, the racing this year will follow the traditional format of going out to the Wallet Spitway, rounding a mark off the Jaywick shore, to Colne Bar, up the Colne Estuary to Inner Bench, then return to Bench Head, then in to West Mersea.

15. On return to shore, please hand in your declaration even if you have retired. This is not just for the sake of the administration, you do want the free **FOUR PINTS** of beer (compliments of Fox's) don't you!

16. We intend to have the **prizegiving at 2000 hrs**, subject to the usual caveats on weather, boat identification etc.

17. Many entrants are non members. If you want some additional entry forms to hand out, let me know.

Have a very enjoyable sail, and sail in such a way so other entrants enjoy their sail too!

EAST COAST RACE COMMITTEE

MALDON 26 SEPTEMBER

Despite the barrage of insults between big Les and Mike Emmett, some £741.62 was raised at the Shanty Jack & Co evening at Maldon earlier this year, from bar and ticket sales. Thank you very much to all those who supported the event. This means we can help pay towards the expenses (food and berthing) of the 30 strong Dutch Shanty Choir, Compagne Zangers, as well as Shanty Jack himself, and put on a splendid show for the Town Regatta and the OGA Anniversary Rally (do remember that the world wide OGA started here in Maldon in 1963, when the politburo were in short pants!!!)

There are two races to enter; the first is a race starting at West Mersea Nass at 0930 hrs Saturday 26 September, the second race follows as a Parade of Sail from Osea to Maldon. At Maldon there is meal laid on for boat crews and by way of entertainment there's folk music in the (Old) Labour Hall or rock at the Queen's Head. For open boats there is an exhibition race from the Hythe Quay prior to the big boats berthing.

The regatta entry fee is proposed at £5.00. We hope to provide a prize for almost every one! For those who want to protest, there is a fee of £25.00 per protest. More details and entry forms next issue.

EAST COAST CLASSICS 19-26 JUNE

Thank you very much for the messages of support received from many members in our efforts to salvage the classic boat festival from the wreckage of Shotley, and also especially to those who have included donations with their entry. Entry levels are regrettably well down (so don't be afraid to enter late!), but perhaps it is as well as we try to bed down the new format. Ipswich Wet Dock, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Yacht Harbour and Haven Ports YC are all being very supportive and positive, which bodes well for the future. With Southwold (17-19 June) as a header, a big regatta programme and ship display in Ipswich and our own East Coast rallying, a lot of fun is going to be had! Don't miss it.

Entry forms should be circulated to you via the Maritime Ipswich mailshot. If you don't get one please telephone 01206 393537.

Do you know of a smack yacht or small smack (10 metres) coming up for sale? Condition reasonable. tel 01206 393537

Apologies for the below per Eastcoaster- it's a rush edition to catch the Gaffers Log postage to save money! Jon Wainwright EC Area Sec OGA