



EAST COAST

NO 36 AUGUST 1999



BANK HOLIDAY RALLY 28/29 AUGUST

By order of the committee there will be no racing at the Bank Holiday rally. In fact there will be trophies for not racing. The plan is to meet up at Stone Point at the entrance to the Walton Backwaters on Saturday 28 August for a pint and a barbecue, courtesy of Good Intent (NZ) Trading Co Ltd. HW is about 1340, so it should give all time to take the Saturday afternoon ebb to Stone Point, and plenty of sand to build castles and things. On Sunday 29 we sail up to Woolverstone HW1430. There will be a chance to visit Pin Mill or the Schooner Club in the afternoon, with another barbecue/ food in the evening. Bring your own food along and some drink for Saturday. Please feel free to bring your friends, even if they do have funny boats.

Please let me (01206393537) OR Don Windley (0850009508) know if you are coming for mooring re Woolverstone. . There's no official charge for the rally as there's no race, but a donation would be welcome to help cover costs of BBQ fuel, mailshots, OGA mugs etc.

MALDON TOWN REGATTA & OGA ANNIVERSARY RALLY

The Maldon Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally is all set for 11 September. Maldon Town and District Councils are giving it some financial backing, and we hope every entrant will leave with a token of a good time, win or lose. This year the racing for smacks gaffers and classic bermudans will start at 0730 early at the Nass Beacon off West Mersea. This will be set to finish round about lunch time off Osea Island. There the fleet will reassemble and set off to finish off Hythe Quay Maldon. Meanwhile the open boats will have racing on the tide from Heybridge upwards. Moorings will be free at Hythe Quay. There will be lots happening on the Quay, including shanty singing, and festivities will continue into the night at MLSC and the Queens Head. Food will be on an FIY basis. We will toast the Old Gaffers Association at the place and the anniversary of its formation in the Maldon Little Ship Club in September 1963.

Please could you return the tear off strip to me by the end of August. The fiver entry fee is the regatta entry fee which we pass on to the Maldon Town Regatta in its entirety. As you will have read in your Gaffers Log we have no subscription income to run the East Coast OGA, so a donation to the cause would be very welcome.

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& MUCH MORE!

2000 THOUGHTS!

The year 2000 is not going to be an easy one for the East Coast OGA- we don't have the finances to do anything special-ref Maldon Town Regatta. And our own Vice Pres will be on a Millennium Cruise to the Baltic for much of the year. However, there will be several events in which we will have an involvement. First that I know of in late May/ early June will likely be the Manningtree Arts Festival, similar to the format of 1991, which will include a rally/ race. On June 9-11 there will be the Three Rivers Millennium Festival at Haven Ports YC, where ideas are being considered for classic boat racing in lieu of the East Coast Classics Racing. The East Coast Classics itself will likely start in Brightlingsea on 17/18 June, and (cont. back page)

PLEASE RETURN TO : Jon Wainwright, Portview, New Road, Mistley, Essex, CO11 2AE Tel 01206393537

Please enter _____ LOA _____ type _____ Rig _____
Hull Colour _____ Sail Colour _____ For the Maldon Town Regatta & OGA
Anniversary Rally 11 September and / or Walton August Bank Holiday rally (delete as appropriate)

I enclose £5 entry fee plus £ _____ donation to the OGA

NAME, ADDRESS & tel:

EUROPE WEEK 14-16 JULY

Mersea Free State (170 points)

England/ Netherlands (2points each)

Norway (nil point)

Germany DNS

Some two hundred boats attended Europe Week and West Mersea Centenary, giving the organisers plenty to do both ashore and afloat. Regrettably the high cost of transporting vessels across the North Sea limited the foreign entries to one eight metre Carmen, but they did have very nice Europe 2000 jackets- where were the 1999 ones? (We don't really count the Dutch as foreign, but some of them actually sailed across to the UK in their own boats.) Fortunately there were plenty of local boats to make a spectacle, classes for racers, workboats, cruisers and open boats, West Mersea YC supplying the start boat and race management.

Social events included a notable 50th on a barge for a prominent member of Blackadder's crew (also our OGA local rep 38-28-43), Gala Dinner, Firework and Aereobatic displays (with vintage planes), culminating in a sailpast to take the salute from the Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

A full report will be sent to the Gaffers Log.

EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE 17 JULY

A rare mixture of conditions made this race for 86 gaff riggers (incl. 30 LATE ENTRANTS!) both interesting and frustrating for some. The forecast westerly faded to a flat calm, negating any benefit of the staggered starts. Then a rip roaring sea breeze filled in, giving craft a superb reach to Wallet Spitway, a bucking bronco of a run to Jaywick, some nice beating in and out of the Colne, then a fine reach back to Mersea. There were some casualties, the most notable of which being the hitherto unbreakable steel pilot cutter Noorderzon. The wind fell away completely just before the finish, which rather split the front runners from the rest of the fleet. There were a lot of problems with the computer on the results, which delayed the prizegiving by several hours- our apologies for this- but late entries don't help! *Spellbound* was the winner on handicap, and the prawner *Laura* winner of the Tom Bolton Cup for first ex fishing boat, as well as line honours. *Asti V* won the East Coast Old Gaffers Trophy. The Class III open boats class was won by the Orwell Corinthian OD First of May, recently restored to gaff rig. A beautiful new half model of Privateer has been given by Pat Eve for the first helm under 21- Let's have more entries for it next year! A full report has been sent to the Gaffers Log by Sue Taylor and results will be posted to entrants.

BURNHAM WHITSUN REGATTA

The Crouch Rally (racing part) was made part of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club's Whitsun Regatta. Broken promises from the Met Office gave grey and windy conditions on a very demanding course in very crowded waters.

The gaffers were made to do the same courses as the local hotshots, which often required a lot of beating over against wind and tide together. This was fine for those with fast boats and local expertise, but for the cruising types it was a tall order. For visitors the dan-buoy marks were very difficult to identify, especially as some bright Herbert had decided to place conspicuous orange marks nearby as well! Another frightening situation was a committee boat, not showing proper anchoring marks, bang in the middle of the fairway in the Roach, starting off fleets of Squibs into the teeth of fleets of boats doing 8 knots the other way. Small wonder that she was struck by a gaffer who mistook her for a power vessel underway.

There was racing on all three days at the weekend. Two boats who had set off at 0400 from the Stour to sail the 40 miles down had to turn round and race in these horrendous waters. The beautiful 6 metre *Asti V* led the fleet away, and around the wrong mark. Locals *Mary Ritchie*, *Lucky Star* and *Troubador* followed, totally confusing visitors. To overcome this Mafia ploy to get visitors disqualified, *Deva* rounded every mark on the Crouch to be on the safe side. The order was then given for everyone behind *Deva* to retire, to ensure she came last! The next day (theoretically the OGA Race) the wind was even worse, and took its toll on several boats. *Lucky Star* lost a mast, *Aussie II* went aground and a number of vessels retired through gear failure. But *Asti V*, with a reef in looked magnificent and won outright. *Mary Ritchie* romped through the grey Crouch slop in rumbustuous fashion under all plain sail, whilst the Shrimper *Troubador* stripped out and crewed like dinghy planed round the course. The usual order was given out- if she looks like overtaking retire- if you're behind her, retire. So *Deva* was last again!!!!

Merlyn III was the real winner of the day, however. She took the tide up to North Fambridge, and went ashore to the Ferryboat for lunch. After a respectable time for digestion, she then took the ebb back. RBYC race officers please note. We would rather take the tide if we can- we are gentlemen and do not like to fight Nature any more than we have to!

We thank the Royal Burnham Yacht Club for the hospitality of their Club. We thank the Trevor and Denise Rawlinson for their hard work in organising the OGA side of the event- they also did the Roach Rally at the beginning of the month as well!

EAST COAST CLASSICS

From the 9 -20 June it was fun all the way from Southwold to Ipswich, via Orfordness, Walton, Mistley and Levington. Virtually every day was a special event in its own right, for both racing, socialising and cruising. The fleet varied in size from 50-100, (including the tiny lifeboat *Snoopy* from Holland,) depending on location. A full account will be sent to those who took part and to Gaffers Log. Apart from one very wet night in Ipswich, the weather was fair, the company good and a real pleasure to participant and organiser alike.

Passage Race to Southwold (24 finishers)

1 *Blackbird* 2 *Maryll* 3 *Good Intent* 4 *Sunbeam* 5 *Quiz* 6 *Witch*

Sole Bay Race

1 *Vashti* 2 *Maryll* 3 *Micromette* 4 *Blackbird* 5 *My Lady* 6 *Thruppence*

Passage Race to Ipswich

1. *Bryher* 2 *HMS Buckley* 3 *Skandale* 4 *Minke* 5 *Maryll* 6 *Emanuel* (Pauls Cup)

Pennyhole Bay Race

1. *Rising Hope* (Nancy Oldfield Cup) 2 *Rosemary* (Bona Trophy) 3 *MA Solitude* 4 *Minke* 5 *Vashti* 6 *Airlie*

Harwich Haven Race

1. *Rising Hope* (Harwich Haven Cup) 2 *MA Solitude* 3 *Airlie* 4 *Vashti* 5 *Minke* 6 *Maryll*

Swallows & Amazons

1 *Dipper* 2 *Gone for a Burton* 3 *Nadine*

Mistley Race

1. *Rising Hope* 2. *Skandale* 3. *Minke* 4. *Maryll* 5 *Vashti* 6 *MA Solitude*

Scandinavian Seaways Race

1. *Rising Hope* (Bell) 2 *Airlie* (Bell) 3 *Skandale* (Bell) 4 *Minke* 5 *Maryll* 6 *Rosemary*

Two Rivers Race

1. *Rising Hope* (Two Rivers Trophy) 2 *Vashti* 3 *MA Solitude* 4 *Airlie* 5 *Skandale* 6 *Maryll*

Open Boats

1 *Doreen C* 2 *Nadine*

Pinmill Open Boats

1 *Dipper* 2 *Gone for a Burton* 3 *Kathryn Marie*

POINTS SERIES

Racers

1. *Rising Hope* 2 *Vashti* 3 *MA Solitude*

Bermudan Cruisers

1. *Minke* 2 *Skandale* 3 *Brhyer*

Open Boats

1 *Dipper* 2 *Gone for a Burton*

Gaff Riggers

1 *Airlie* 2 *Maryll* 3 *Bona*

Concourse d'elegance

Clytie

Special Committee Prize

Nancy Blackette

VICTOR LUDORUM

Airlie

Our thanks go to all those who supported the festival, including Brian Tower, HMS Buckley, Adnams, Ipswich BC, Haven Ports YC, Pat Eve, Practical Boat Owner, Classic Boat Magazine, Watercraft Magazine, Maritime Life & Tradition, Nancy Oldfield Trust, Hayes Parsons. Our prizes certainly outstripped any other event this year! Thanks also to those who helped on the days, Stadats & crew, Ken Self, Paul Wright, Brian & Lorna Hammet, Aussie II's, Good Intent Trading Co (NZ) Ltd, Phil the Rib and many others

NEWS ROUND

Chicken Nancy Oldfield (Trussed) was shot down from the rigging of bawley *Blackbird* by the C-in-C Wildfowl of WMYC. The feathers scattered around the yacht club lawn, causing great distress to the genteel OGA rep Sue Taylor. The shot was also taken as the signal of the start of Mersea Week, 180 boats taking to the sea in absolute chaos.

We understand that *Pete the Knife* is taking action against the proprietors of Yachting World for his disgraceful caricature in the September issue. (Have a look next time you're in Smiths) He is demanding that the Ticky-Tacky be printed in full on the front cover of the Boatshow issue, and the Broadside towel patch on his shorts renewed.

100th Birthday congratulations are in order for the ex Scottish Ferry *Witch* of the Mackenzie Shipping Line. Directors of the line and notable guests including the Crouch Mafia were present at celebrations at Walton last month. Gaffers Log covered the event.

FOR SALE -*Ostrea Rose*, built 1980 Holts, last working smack, converted for charter. 01621841321 or Eastcoaster 01206393537

DCYR HELLEVOETSLUIS

DCYR has now established itself as the premier classic boat event of the North Sea countries. The organisation was the best we have seen at any event on the start line, the instructions and briefing clear and concise, the signals and numbers obvious in both visibility and timing. And as usual, we were all made very welcome.

The cruising element, originally introduced for the benefit of the Brits, has developed into a significant part of the festival, with rallies at Zierikzee, Steenberg and Willemstadt en route to Hellevoetsluis. These are relaxed occasions which give plenty of opportunity to look at other people's boats and make friends. They also take the classic boat message out to more locations, and it is a pity that some of these other major regatta weeks don't follow the practice of the DCYR and the East Coast Classics.

The passage race from Willemstadt had to be abandoned because of the atrocious forecast, although boats were allowed to take their own times for consideration. *Vashti*, *Ecclelin*, *Mary Ritchie* and *Snippet* all put up creditable performances. Maryll managed to be becalmed on three occasions, a meteorological impossibility in the circumstances, and came pretty well near the end!

The first proper race (for gaffers) saw the Brits squaring up to each other at the start. *Maryll* forsook the safe starboard end of the line for a port tack flyer, which gave her the lead at the windward mark. However she had to let *Mary Ritchie*, who had superior boat speed, pass on the run. *Avola* took the opportunity to set her squaresail. There was quite a problem with a rogue bermudan boat in the next class, who eventually collided with *Snippet* and took her mizzen away. Another collision occurred at the finish between *Maryll* and the Belgian Boat *Anemone*, where *Maryll* tacked on to starboard in the Belgian's wake, knowing she would have to go on to port to cross the line. The Belgian was shocked into irons at the sight of a Morecambe bay gelcoat stripper on starboard at 5 knots, *Maryll* went about to avoid collision, but the Belgian fell on top, then drifted astern. The Belgian's beer lockers were stripped in lieu of protest and international relations restored most cordially. *Mary Ritchie* took line honours and first on handicap.

The second race was in much calmer conditions, with temperatures building nicely. *Snippet* came out as a sloop, and she seemed to perform nearly as well. *Maryll* won on handicap, *Mary Ritchie* still taking line honours.

There were 2 very short races on the last day, and winds were shifting all over the place. A little hi tech light weight German boat, who should have had better manners at the start, won the first race, and Riks lifeboat *Patghan* got a superb lift for the windward mark in the second race. When it came to adding up the points for the series, traditional British superiority at gaffer races took a severe jolt, as the Belgian's better handicap bore fruit, giving him three second places as opposed to the British *Maryll* and *Mary Ritchie* who both had a first and two third places.

NORTH SEA CLASSIC PASSAGE RACE

The 110 mile North Sea Classic Passage Race was started this time from West Mersea 18 July. The sea breeze made it tough going for the gaffers to get round North East Gunfleet while the ebb still ran, before heading east for Holland. One Dutch boat, *V Symphony*, grounded on the Gunfleet, and required assistance. *Vashti*, who fortunately had a Dutch crew aboard stood by to relay messages to the coastguard. *V Symphony* was able to continue her passage after refloating, although she did break a halliard in the process. The fleet were treated to a mother and father of a thunderstorm in the night, fortunately no one was struck. A westerly breeze sprung up in the early hours, enabling *Maryll* to reach trolling speed in time for a mackerel breakfast. This continued to build during the day until there was quite a blow for the last vessels finishing at the Roompot in the evening. Because of the lack of information to to prepare OGA handicaps, VKSJ ratings were used. *Vashti* (who would have won on either system) was the winner, followed by *Phantom Light* and *Joanne*. After the racing finished, the boats sailed up the Oosterschelde to Zierikzee, where they met up with other craft who had sailed down the coast from IJmuiden.

RESULTS

- 1 *Vashti*
- 2 *Phantom Light*
- 3 *Joanne*
- 4 *Maryll*
- 5 *Melody A*
- 6 *Morgaine*
- 7 *Marie Ritchie*
- 8 *Snippet*
- 9 *V Symphony*

EAST COAST OGA AGM- CHANGE OF VENUE

Please note that the AGM will be held in November at the Schooner Bar Woolverstone. Food and entertainment will be laid on after the meeting - more details next mailshot.

YEAR 2000 continued:

work its way up the coast to Walton, Shotley, Deben/Ore, Southwold (HMS Buckley) and finishing at Lowestoft for the Fish Fair etc. 24/25 June. Alternatively there is Maritime Ipswich at the same weekend. A lot of work has yet to be done on this one, but bare in mind the dates. The amount of racing is likely to be limited to a few passage races and events at Southwold and Lowestoft, but we intend to have a really friendly time! The World President has asked that we keep the beginning of July clear, as there is a possibility of a National Rally at Eastbourne in their new marina. The East Coast Race (If WMYC have us back) has not been set, but we have a tide of 0423 on Saturday 22 July (0730 start). Maldon Town Regatta/ OGA Anniversary Rally will happen in September- dates to be confirmed. If any one has information on Y2K events, PLEASE let me know as soon as possible.