

EASTCOASTER



EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE 22 JULY

This, the original Old Gaffers Race on the East Coast, will take start at the Nass off West Mersea at 0730 hours. Given a fair westerly, the traditional course will be set to take the fleet out the Wallet Spitway, as we have for over 30 years! There is nothing quite like the spectacle at the start of an East Coast Race. Nowhere else do you get the cruiser, the smacksman and the red-hot racer to join together to celebrate traditional gaff rig in such a way.

There are over 25 prizes for different types of boats.

For those who wish to enter:

- Please complete the attached entry form and send it to Jon Wainwright, Portview New Road, Mistley, Essex, CO11 2AE by 12 July if possible. That will give me time to post instructions to you. The fee is £10.00 before the deadline, £15 on the night.
- Open boats in Class III under 20ft get away with a fiver entry fee, proving it is received by that time.
- There is no sponsorship this year, so if you are able to add a donation, it would be much appreciated.
- Open Boats will start at 1200/ Noon.
- Food will be available at WMYC on Saturday night, £5.00 a head upstairs.
- Please could all those who have prizes return them to Sue Taylor 01206- 382843
- Registration will take place Friday night.
- Each entrant will need to sign a declaration, when he picks up his race boards with numbers thereon
- For Classes 1& 2, there will not be the start groups as last year, because the tide is so early. Everyone starts at 0730
- Ferry service will be available during the day and evening, but you may need to make your own arrangements for picking up crew on Saturday morning.

IN THIS ISSUE

RALLY REPORTS

EAST COAST RACE ENTRY

NORTH SEA CRUISE

EVENTS:

East Coast Old Gaffers Race
22 July

North Sea Cruise 23 July- 5
August

Vodka Rally 26-28 August

Colne Smack Picnic 20 August

Colne Match 9 September

Maldon Regatta 16 September

SORRY!

Sorry this Eastcoaster is a bit below par, but with all the classics preparation and having to get something to you in time for the East Coast Race before we go cruising.....

The East Coast Secretariat is moving down to Mistley Quay at the end of the month, where I have taken an office at Tops'l House, High Street Mistley CO11 1HD. There is so much documentation building up that I can't fit it in at home! Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Please continue to use the Portview address in the meantime.

EVENT REPORTS:

Foulness Island Rally- Mayday Bank Holiday Weekend

After last year's slightly disappointing turn out, it was heartening to have several vessels take part in the first EC sailing event of the season. Apart from local boats *Deva* and *Merlynn III* came down from the Stour, *Clytie* and *Maid Marion* from the Deben, whilst from Kent we had *Linnea* and *Sea Eagle*. Others amongst those attending *Peggy H*, *My Quest*, *Swanti*, *Aussie II*, *Aqua Sulis*, and *Jacqueline*. In the evening we went ashore and walked through the quiet lanes of this prohibited island to the George & Dragon. Many thanks to Denise & Trevor Rawlinson for organising this excellent rally, which even involved cooking up chicken pieces to supplement the pub's catering shortfall!

EC HON SEC'S LEGS SHOT AWAY BY BROADSIDE

Manningtree Festival 20/21 May

Old Gaffers added a colourful touch to proceedings at Manningtree Quay. Dwarfing all around her was the great bawley *Bona*, with Dunkirk Little Ship and ex bawley *Letitia* alongside. Also in the raft were the *Cromer Crabber Paternoster*, *Deva*, smack *Daisy Bell* and Orford Whitewing *Quinke*. We had a brief visit from *USS Ammonite* and Ness Yole *Gone for a Burton* was sailing about. The Stour Sailing Club laid on a free evening meal and Jazz night, with the added attraction of Adnams Broadside at £1 a pint. The EC Secretary's legs were shot away..

CROUCH RALLY BLOWN OUT!

Crouch Rally/ Royal Burnham Whitsun Regatta

Terrible weather caused disheartened organisers to cancel the Crouch Rally. Although *Deva* and *Airlie* ventured out, conditions off the Naze forced them to abandon their passage down the Wallet and flee up the Orwell to Ipswich. No other boats turned up, the winds increasing by Sunday to force 9/10 on some parts of the East Coast. 3 Local Shrimpers to part in a regatta race at Burnham on Monday.

Three Rivers Millenium Festival 9-11 June

This event was put on by the sailing and yacht clubs in the Stour, Orwell, Deben and Walton Backwaters, hosted by Haven Ports Yacht Club at Suffolk Yacht Harbour. A tremendous amount of work had been put in by the organisers. The OGA had been invited because it was not going to be feasible to host the East Coast Classics this year, and indeed there was going to be no East Coast Classics in 2000 but.....

Old gaffers and classic yachts which entered the racing- *Quinke*, *Merlynn*, *Ammonite*, *Bona*, *Good Intent*, *Airlie*, 3 shrimpers from the RHS (who sailed an inshore course) *Blackadder*, *Vashti*, *Wily One*, *MA Solitude*, *Persephone* The first race was out to sea, round Stone Banks and Cork Ledge. The bawlies *Good Intent* and *Bona* led the way out, their topsails grasping the fading NW, while those of us lower down just drifted. An issue of external assistance under the Racing Rules of Sailing was raised when the skipper of *Good Intent* radioed the *HSS Stena Discovery* and gave her permission to enter Harwich Harbour, as long she went astern of him and ahead of the next boat in the race. There were several jibes at Shitley Spot. After a glorious break in the cloud, the wind died at the change of tide. *Bona* and *Maryll* went in search of the expected Southerly off Walton, whilst others sought a lift off the Felixstowe shore.

When the wind did eventually fill in, it brought all the fleet together and an absolute headache for the spotters. In the OG class *Merlynn* was first followed by *Maryll & Airlie*. The official Gala Dinner was held in the Marquee, but those of a more financially challenged nature sought refuge at a party on the bawlies. The pursuit race on Sunday was real devil of a course for gaff riggers, most of it spent on a heavy beat against wind and tide up the Stour. Local knowledge working the shallows was not enough for *Maryll* to maintain her lead past Parkeston, and she was soon passed by bigger modern boats and *Airlie*. It took 32 tacks for *Good Intent* to reach Stour no 1., and she was not short-tacking! *Airlie* was first gaffer home followed by *Maryll* and *Good Intent*.

The OGA wish to thank the 3RMF committee for their work

NORTH SEA CRUISE 23 JULY -5 AUGUST

Fellow 'Yotties', 'Smackies', 'Folkies', 'Prawners' and all-round good people,

As the Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta (DCYR) is only held bi-annually, and this year isn't one of them, a 'Dutch Old Gaffers Sail' (DOGS) is taking place instead. This is going to be a strictly 'social' cruise around the inland waterways of the Southern Netherlands. You don't need to have a classic or gaff-rigged boat to join in - just so long as you are an Old Gaffer or Classic at heart. If your friends want to join in with their boats, bring them along!

The following itinerary is not cast in stone; it will be adjusted to suit weather, sea-sickness, hangovers, or engine-trouble. It is expected that some will leave and join in later on. VASHTI will monitor Channel 16 as well as local VHF frequencies.

All skippers are responsible for the safety of their boats and crew at all times. You are required to have up-to-date charts, insurance, registration documents and licences on board.

OUTLINE PASSAGE PLAN

(anticipated average trip times in brackets):

Saturday 22/7: Old Gaffers East Coast Race, West Mersea (this is an early start - circa 07:30).

Sunday 23/7: All DOGS will travel to and congregate in the river Orwell. Game plan is Levington. VASHTI will be sailing down from Southwold in company with Woodstock (8 hrs)

Monday 24/7: Mid-day start to sail to Vlissingen (Flushing). It is expected that most boats will arrive between sunrise and noon. (18-24 hrs.)

Tues 25/7: Lock in and meet at Middleburg. Middleburg YC Tues night. (3 hrs)

Wed 26/7: To Veere for lunch, all find an island (possible anchor off) for evening BBQ (3 hrs)

Thrs 27/7: We goes to GOES (4 hrs)

Friday 28/8: Early start to Antwerp (via the Kanal door Zd Beveland) for the Antwerp Mussel Race (9 hrs)
Note - free mooring, free diesel, and a mussel dinner for a fiver (well - that's what I've been told!!!)

Saturday/ Sunday Antwerp Mussel Festival- Receptions. Parties. Exhibitions. Vintage Aircraft Fly pasts. Vintage cars and motorcycles. Parade of Sail. Concourse etc. etc.

Monday 31/7: Up the canal (mind the big boats) to Tholen - the faint-hearted can retrace their steps via Hansweert and the Bergsediepsluis (6hrs, 10 hrs)

Tuesday 1/8: To the Grevelingenmeer or St Annaland (dependent on weather)... (6 or 4 hrs)

Wednesday 2/8: To STEENBERGEN the OGA's little village off the edge of the charts. Where else can you drive an ocean-going yacht alongside a combine harvester for 7 miles, and drive right into the middle of a village for the night? (3 hrs)

NORTH SEA CRUISE *continued*

Thursday 3/8: Willemstad (2 hrs)

Friday 4/8: De Put. That's private marina on the north bank of the Haringvliet by Tiengemeten island. Paul Hartevelde is kindly organising spaces for us in the marina - so I'll need to give him some idea of numbers soon. (2 hrs)

Saturday 5/8: Morning - to Stellendam. Afternoon - leave for respective ports in the UK (18-24 hrs)

Sunday 6/8: Arrive - pick up the dog from kennels, make a note of all the things you've broken on your boat for that winter re-fit, and go down the pub for a pint of Adnams ('til closing time)

I expect people to leave and join the group as they want - the only fixed dates will be Antwerp and DePut, as these will be organised.

Paul Wright

Event coordinator

For those who are interested please email me or send the tear off strip with boat details to Dr Paul Wright, Crossways, Ipswich Road, Waldringfield, Suffolk IP12 4QU

SMACK POLLY NOW LEGAL

Eastcoaster is pleased to report that the smack *Polly* has had her bowsprit shortened to within legal limits. She has been contravening eighteenth century anti smuggling laws, which still limit the length of bowsprit, so that the Revenue Cutters can catch up. Now that she complies with the law of the land, we may see her at more OGA events!

However it is rumoured that the sawn off bowsprit end is being retained for evidence by the CSPS.

CLASSICS SELL-OUT!

Paid up entries for the Classics on Tour have passed the 60 mark, which is very pleasing for the organisers. If you can't enter your boat, why not jive on down to the many ports of call we make, and join us for a beer?

W/e 17/18 June - Walton and Frinton YC, Monday lunch time Mistletoe Quay, Tuesday lunch time Butt & Oyster Pin Mill, Wednesday Thursday at Southwold, Saturday 24th June at Lowestoft Fish Fayre.

NORTH SEA CRUISE

To Dr Paul Wright

Please enter my boat _____ for the North Sea Cruise. Her details are:

LOA _____ BEAM _____ SAIL NO _____

RIG _____ HULL COLOUR _____ SAIL COLOUR _____

VHF CALL SIGN _____ TYPE OF BOAT _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

OUR MISSING VICE -PRES!

Reports have reached Eastcoaster's foreign desk that our Vice President has reached Latvia in his 30ft Gaff Cutter Avola. He asks to be remembered to you all. Congratulations Brian, and safe journey, and don't forget to bring the Vodka for the Walton & Woolverstone Rally- you are sponsoring the Sandcastle Competition.

Don Windley is Acting Hammet meanwhile.

KSA BAN NOBBIES

The Kentish Sail Association is stipulating that all vessels entering the smack race must have been built between Spurn Head and North Foreland. This effectively takes fishing boats from other parts of the British Isles, such as nobbies, out of smack racing. It is understandable that smack organisations want to stage workboat races to replicate the local heritage. However, with the large numbers of other ex working boats on the East Coast, perhaps they could consider a separate "open" class at their events?

EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE

RACE ENTRY FORM

DATE _____

ENTRY FEE _____

DONATION _____

NAME OF OWNER/ ENTRANT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE(DAY) _____ EVNG _____

BOAT NAME

PHOTO (or sketch to help identification)

HISTORY Please describe overleaf

SAIL / FISHING NO. _____

BOAT TYPE (e.g . Smack, Colin Archer , ECOD) _____

RIG (eg cutter, sloop, ketch) _____

LENGTH _____

YEAR BUILT _____

HULL CONSTRUCTION _____

COLOUR

HULL:

SAILS:-

MAIN _____ TOPSL _____

MIZZEN _____ TOPSL _____

JIB _____ STAYSL _____

RACING FLAG _____

VHF RADIO CALL SIGN _____

HANDICAP DETAILS

T(H)CF (if known) _____

To be completed where T (H)CF details are not known, or if there has been any changes in measurements since the last race entered. Dimensions to be given to the nearest inch, or in decimals of feet. All details must be given. Guidance notes and diagrams refer overleaf.

MAINSAIL: b _____ h _____ g _____ TOPSAIL: h _____ i _____

MIZZEN: b _____ h _____ g _____ TOPSAIL: h _____ i _____

FORE-TRIANGLE: i _____ j _____ (NB Actual headsails are not measured)

HULL L.O.A. _____ L.W.L. _____ BEAM _____ DEPTH * _____

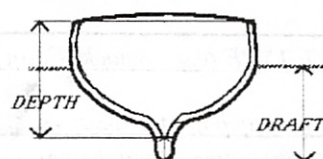
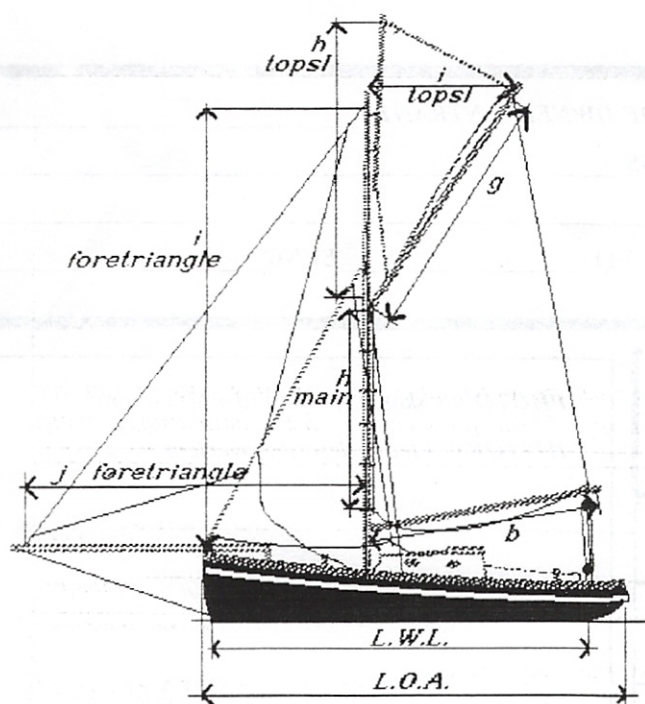
PROPELLER: Fixed/Folding/Without CENTREPLATE: With /Without DRAFT _____

I understand that the Race(s) will be sailed under 1997 -2000 Racing Rules of Sailing(except as specifically modified in the Sailing Instructions) . I agree to accept the Race Committee's decision as final on all points of handicapping and conduct of the race.

(Signed) _____ Date.....



MEASUREMENTS REQUIRED FOR OGA T(H)CF HANDICAPPING



DEPTH is the vertical height amidships, in the way of the main beam from the top of the hog (or keelson) to a line joining the underside of the deck at the sides. For non-traditionally constructed craft, e.g. GRP, ferro, cold-moulded, steel, depth is considered to be 2/3rds of the beam, and no shoal draft bonus is allowed. Under OGA rules, traditional craft can use this ammendment if wished.

DRAFT is what the lead line reads immediately after you have gone aground

NO ACCOUNT is taken of the actual sails set forward of the mast: the triangle in which they are set is measured.

HISTORY OF BOAT

To assist with programme preparation, reports for the OGA and the Press, and for archives and records, please give a potted history of your boat

Datebuilt _____ Boatbuilder _____

Location _____ Designer _____

Other information (e.g Commercial use, yacht use, conversions /rebuids , voyages, noteworthy owners, major mishaps, successes in races etc continue on separate sheet if required)