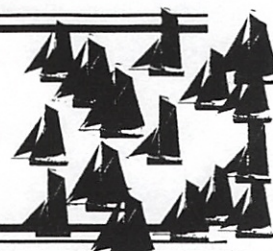


EASTCOASTER

NO 41 SEPTEMBER 00



NOTICE OF A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting for the East Coast Area will be held on Saturday 11 November 2000 at the Schooner Club at Woolverstone Marina, Suffolk. The business meeting is programmed to start at 1830 and be over by 2000. We can then eat and have the social evening, with shanty singing as well. The band "Bricabrak" have been booked. Hot buffet at £5.00 a head

We had a very good meeting last year, several boats came along and it was some party. I can not guarantee that we will see Sue Taylor in evening dress again, but I am sure Hammett & Co will keep you amused. We want your ideas on events and other opportunities for the OGA locally, and any points you would like Central to consider. It's also the last chance of a get-together in the year. If you want to bring non-member friends / crew as guests they will be very welcome in the social part of the evening.

Many of us keep our boats in commission a little later these days, so do please bring her along if you can - good place to crash out afterwards! Please could you return the attached form by 1 November to let me know if you require food. Also if you wish to make any suggestions, or put forward any questions for the A.G.M, please put that in as well. And of course, don't forget we are looking for extra members for the committee. Whilst there are times when some of us have to work very hard at events, our meetings are normally good humoured, short and productive, something to with the Chairman wanting to get home, and the Secretary wanting to get a few beers in!

DON'T FORGET ENTER YOUR LOG/ ACCOUNT OF DARING -DO IN 2000 FOR THE MAGNIFICENT FRANCIS B COOKE TROPHY!

Accounts should include chart-lets to indicate routes taken, and decklog if possible. And don't forget, whether you have doubled Cape Horn or just had a summer cruise to Butley Creek is immaterial. It is the quality that counts!

SEND TO EAST COAST AREA SECRETARY

Office 3 Tops'l House High Street
Mistley Essex CO11 1HD

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Vice President's speech
3. Minutes of 1999 AGM
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Refreshment Break
7. Francis B Cooke Trophy
8. 2001 AD Events
9. Election of Committee
10. Members' questions
11. Motions for OGA Central
12. Any Other Business

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Trying to find the right balance of activity for the OGA on the East Coast has baffled committees for at least the last 18 years I have been a member. When I joined there was just the Old Gaffers Race at Stone. Various rallies had been tried and faded away. We revived the August Bank Holiday rally with some racing and a barbeque on the Stour. Then there was the Crouch Rally, which was more racing, and later the Maldon Anniversary. Maritime Ipswich developed into the Classics. The Classics linked up with the Dutch at Hellevoetsluis, and the programme looked something like the one we have had for the last 8/9 years. Events have gone through good and bad patches, sometimes because of weather, sometimes because the format was not popular, sometimes we were not welcome. And of course people's needs change.

By and large we have had a successful season to date- The **Crouch Rally** at the Royal Burnham had its problems, but its offspring the **Foulness Rally** was an outstanding success. The East Coast can't claim to stage the largest events in the UK any longer, but I think they are much more sociable than they used to be.

Event administration is never easy, but the committee has changed from the days when work was left to one or two people who slogged their guts out.. Now they all pile in and do a tremendous job. I can't help making comparisons with established yacht clubs who couldn't hold a candle to our committee in most cases. And we have fun as well!

The Millenium year was always going to be a problem. Venues were lost, key people were not around. We thought we were going to lose the classics and just settle for the **3 Rivers Millenium Festival at Levington**. But we ended up with a super **East Coast Classics** as well, which included a special **Arthur Ransome** weekend for open boats at Walton(Cont page2)

DON'S DO

WOOLVERSTONE

SCHOONER BAR 8pm

21 OCTOBER

and a **Fish Fayre at Lowestoft** as new venues. And a meal was laid on at **Wrabness**, something we could not have contemplated before. Despite the complications of weather, changing venues and other things, we had some very interesting sailing, and new strides were made in the way results were presented and handicapping on pursuit races (Thank you Paul). We had a lot of help of course from several sources- **Walton & Frinton YC, Harbour Marine Services Southwold, Southwold Harbour, Waveney DC** and many others, but 9 days for £35 including mooring and races must represent incredible value for the membership. With this moving festival, it was interesting to hear comments from bystanders about just how much time and trouble people must put into maintaining and restoring their craft, compared with ordinary "yachties".

We also had a small rally at **Manningtree**, courtesy of the Stour Sailing Club. Jazz band, the food, free mooring and Adnams Broadside at £1.00 a pint, we could not have been made more welcome. Stour SC also let us use their premises for committee meetings free of charge, as they have for several years. Perhaps some more members might like to sound their way up the Stour to thank them- there's a quay, the club has showers and the bar is open every day.

A prior engagement at Southwold prevented me from attending the **Millenium Rally** and race at Eastbourne Marina. The OGA top brass had put a lot of work into it, and it must have been heart breaking to have just 7 boats take part, and the racing cancelled as well. But thank you for the East Coast boats who made the effort to get there.

Such are the vagaries of OGA events, that we can not even take the **East Coast Old Gaffers Race** for granted. The committee and the WMYC did an exceptionally good job in running the race, but entries were down, in the open boats race particularly, a third of what they have been. Sponsorship was not available but **Classic Marine** stepped in at the 11th Hour to provide pennants and an offer to underwrite the race if it lost money. Regrettably pressures of work have meant that we are losing **Sue Taylor** at the end of this year. She has put her heart and soul into the event since it moved to Mersea, she will be a hard act to follow.

A few of us went to Holland on the **DOGS Tour**. Unfortunately, the highlight of the tour, the Mussel Race to Antwerp and the ensuing huge festival was cancelled, because the organiser ran off with all the money. However we still went to **Southern Holland** and had a fantastic time. It's a great venue, more of you ought to try it!

However, the East Coast cruise which put

most of us to shame was that of our Vice President in **Avola**. He toured all the **Baltic States** including Russia and has a tremendous story to tell. He came back laden with Vodka to our very informal Rally at **Walton**, which was a great success again.

Members will recall correspondence from me in the Gaffers Log regarding **Area Funding**, and the Association President publicly putting me back in my pram. However, I did receive a summons from the FGP and they agreed to fund area newsletters and also our **new peripatetic members booth**, very expertly made by **Mike Roskell**. I also learnt that they were going to actively encourage the membership of **classic bermudan vessels**, a highly overdue move in the opinion of the committee. I also discussed the issue of better links with the Dutch, even the possibility of setting up some kind of **Dutch OGA**. They did talk about holding an open meeting in the Netherlands in the winter to sound out local feelings. Re other FGP business, regrettably we have not received any minutes or briefings, so I can not report what our masters in Central are up to!

On behalf of the OGA I also attended a number of **Heritage Afloat Council Meetings** in London. Much of them are fairly heavy going on EU and Maritime Safety issues, but the **Registration of Historic Vessels** remains a bone of contention, because of the level of exclusion from the government sponsored register. This winter Heritage Afloat plans to set up its own register, making use of its wide network of member organisations. The proposal includes an official certificate for each vessel, which can be kept with the ships papers. The OGA will be asked if they can circulate forms to members.

Looking to next year, we have had several suggestions on possible rallies and races- how we fit them all into the season I do not know, but I'm sure we will manage. If you have ideas please let us know.

I have had to get this report out early because of an impending operation- I literally "bust a gut" (laughing at last year's AGM?!). You may see Maryll sailing without her poker this winter, because I haven't the strength to run it out & in! If I don't see you at the AGM, have a good season in 2001!

Jon Wainwright

East Coast Area Secretary

2001?

How are we going to fit it all in!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In terms of the traditionally "fixed dates" we have:

Mayday rally at Foulness-(when is May-day next year ?)

Crouch Rally Whitsun 26-28 May

Lowestoft Fish Fayre/ Maritime Festival 23 June

Ipswich Maritime Festival 30 June-1st July (provisional)

Old Gaffers Race 14 or 21 July

North Sea Race 22/23 July+ mini DOGS tour Steenberg, Willemstadt etc 23-26 July

DCYR Hellevoetsluis 26-29 July

Vodka Rally at Walton etc 26-27 August

Southwold will happen, maybe 3 days instead of 2?

Mistley, Two Rivers etc as part of **EAST Coast Classics** must happen

Walton Open Goats / Arthur Ransome Weekend is a must

Maldon Rally sometime in September when Queens Head Mafia/SSA decree

Interest in a **Deben Rally**

Interest in an **Orford Haven/ Butley/ Snape Rally**

Any ideas for spicing up the old Gaffers Race to give it broader appeal- classic bermudans separate race- (send them against the tide) perhaps. (would Vashti be back soon enough to do the results?)

Do you have information on appropriate club/ smackie events/ regattas/ weeks? We need to avoid clashes, and sometimes a club event can benefit local gaffers. Those of you in influential clubs, mafias and other select gatherings, could you please help?

We have a committee meeting at Stour SC Manningtree on 27 September? It would be great if we could have your thoughts before then, so the committee can give them some deliberation for the AGM. Or pop down in person, Brian Hammett will buy you a pint

VODKA RALLY (WALTON & WOOLVERSTONE), AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

For the second year running we tried out a simple gathering at Stone Point, no racing, just a barbeque. And it was surprisingly well received, about 30 vessels in attendance. *Bona, Blackbird, Bad Intentions, Vashti, Woodstock, Maryll, Avola, Merlin, Margaret Catchpole, Polly, Witch, Airlie, USS Ammonite, Noorderzon, Elfreda & Honeymoon Roker* were just some of the fleet, and there were several smacks boats gliding about under sail in the moonlight. Brian Hammett provided the Vodka fresh from Russia, which made a nice change to the normal stuff we drink. The weather was reasonably kind, although a squall did come through on the Saturday. On Sunday we went for a sail in different directions, from Longsand Head to Hamford Water, before sailing up the river Orwell to Woolverstone. Nothing very daring to report, just a very pleasant do with very nice people.

DOGS TOUR TO HOLLAND 24 JULY

Bad weather and other circumstances outside our control hit the DOGS tour to Holland, but as almost always with holidays in Holland, once the crossing has been made not much can stop you enjoying yourself. Good facilities, friendly people, unbeatable value at restaurants and pubs, and believe it or not, a wide variety of venues. With Hellevoetsluis next year, more members ought to give it a try.

Strong Northerly winds had built up the seas, but it was decided to set off on Monday 24 June in fresh winds from NNE on the basis that they were forecast to ease to NW 3. Unfortunately the opposite happened and the wind increased instead. *Two Much Ado* unable to hold a course fled to Ramsgate, *Merlin* retired off Roughs Towers, *Patience* and *Maid of Tessa* stayed at Mersea. *Maryll* was past the point of no return when it blew up, and continued her sail assisted submarine passage to the continent. Even the larger vessels *Vashti* and *Woodstock* took a bit of a bashing. However, the three survivors made it to *Vlissingen* and proceeded to *Middleberg*. Then it was on to *Goes* via the *Veersemeer* (where *Two Much Ado* caught up), *Zierikzee* via the *Oosterschelde* for a mega mosslen pig-out. Our pub in the secret town of *Steenbergen* was shut (done a runner with the Belgian from the Antwerp Mussel Race ?), but we kept the next one going pretty late. A barbeque on the *Gravelingmeer* preceeded a passage up the *Volkerak* and *Hollandsdiep* to *Dordrecht*. Then it was onward to deepest *Biesbosch*, the maze of creeks and swamps where the Dutch resistance hang out, before returning to *Middleharnis* and the private marina *Die Putt* on the *Harringvliet*.

Passages back were a lot easier than going, *Vashti* and *Woodstock* sailing back to Southwold from *Stellendam*, *Maryll* returning via *Blankenberge* in Belgium, having remarkably met up with *Avola* in *Middleberg*. The OGA's thanks go to Paul Wright for organising the tour.

Pete & Sarah

It is Eastcoaster's very pleasant duty to report the marriage of two of our most popular characters from the East Coast Classics at Maldon on 19 August. Peter Elliston (or "Pete the Knife" as revealed in the Yachting World expose) married Sarah Adie of Manningtree at Hythe Quay Maldon. A number of gaffers made their way up the Blackwater to celebrate the occasion- *Bona, Good Intent, Roker, Maryll* etc, and indeed, the happy couple went for a sail on *Bona* immediately they were married. Pete had to use his own weapon to cut the cake, due to an oversight in the organisation. There was a big party aboard the barges afterwards, and on the next day Pete & Sarah started a honeymoon cruise on the *Zeeschow Roker*. The OGA wish the "Knives" the very best for the future.

PATERNOSTER

The Cromer Crabber Paternoster is for sale. This colourful boat has taken part in several OGA events, particularly the East Coast Classics, and has often acted as support vessel for the East Coast Race at West Mersea. She is a regular all year round sight in Orwell, Stour and Harwich approaches, fishing with trawl and line as often as cruising. This year she also rescued the engineless *Quinque* off Stone Point in the East Coast Classics (ref uncut report on OGA website!). She is 22ft LOA, 9ft beam, draws only 2ft. She has a powerful Lister watercooled diesel, and is rigged with Lugsail, jib and mizzen, plus an amazing square sail. She has the usual electronics, is built commercially in GRP and has a recent survey. Her asking price is £6,500 ono. Contact Melvyn Fox at 01473 681229 (H) or 788982 (W). Paternoster is resident at Shotley Marina.

EAST COAST CLASSICS REPORT: IN CURRENT ISSUE OF GAFFERS LOG. UNCUT VERSION INCLUDING WINNER OF PITA TROPHY ETC ON OGA WEBSITE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MALDON TOWN REGATTA & OGA ANNIVERSARY 16 SEPTEMBER

This popular event will again feature a race from West Mersea to Osea, a Parade of Sail Race from Osea to Maldon Hythe Quay and a big social event including music at the Maldon Little Ship Club and the Queens Head.

Race Details

Start at 0830 on a line between the Nass Beacon and the OLM (committee boat)

At 20 mins before, a Red flag will be hoisted; 10 mins sound signal, 5 mins sound signal

At the OFF a sound signal and flag lowered. There will be no recall, but a 20 min penalty will be added to the time of any boat over the line before the start.

Course, using WMYC Marks: Start Easterly for the no 1 buoy starboard, then southerly to the committee boat dressed with flags and anchored west of the turning mark, leave to starboard.

No 5 starboard, No 14 starboard, No 3 leave to port, No 12 leave to starboard, then Thirstlet to starboard.

Cross the finish line between the Doctor and Lawling Creek Spit buoy in a Westerly direction, anchor off Osea Pier well clear of the finish line for lunch. If the letter A is shown on the Blackboard, the course will be extended- after crossing the finish line sail to Goldhanger Spit and leave to starboard and return to cross the finish line.

Parade of Sail Race- will start at 1300 hours or at the discretion of the OOD, to ensure there is plenty of water for boats drawing 6 feet.. Signals: 20 mins red flag hoisted, 10 mins sound signal, 5 mins sound signal, **At the OFF sound signal and flag lowered.** Cross the line westerly, then sail to Maldon leaving Hillypool point to port. The finish is opposite the Queens Head PH.

If time does not permit, 2 Red/ white lifebouys will be hung vertically on the committee boat to indicate the first race will carry on to Maldon.

Prize giving of Cups and Trophies will take place at 1800 hrs on the Quay. Or Maldon Little Ship Club bad weather

The race will be sailed according to the International Regulations for the prevention of collision at sea and the Racing Rules of Sailing. The organisers accept no liability for damage, injury or loss, and it is the sole responsibility of owners and skippers to decide whether to race or not. They must carry appropriate insurance for the race.

Protests will be dealt with by protest committee.

Please complete the entry form and return to Tessa Mackenzie with your entry fee and boat details. Cheques payable to the OGA. The entry fee is £5, (£25 per protest) the entire amount of which is required to support the Town Regatta- if you wish to help meet the OGA's local expenses, a donation would be very much appreciated.

Details: 01245 382 058

MALDON - send to Tessa Mackenzie, 2 Sugar Mill Cottages, Ulting, Maldon CM9 6BL

Boat Name _____ Type _____ LOA _____
Sail No _____ Hull Colour _____ Sail colour _____
Entry fee @ £5.00 _____ Donation to OGA _____ Skipper _____
Address _____
_____ tel no _____

AGM -Please send to Jon Wainwright Office 3, Tops'l House, High St Mistley, CO11 1HD by beginning of November if possible

I will / will not be attending the AGM on 11 November & will likely require _____ meals

I would/ would not be prepared to serve on the committee

I would like the meeting to discuss/ put forward the following agenda item(s):

Name & address:

East Cost Old Gaffers Race 2000 - 22nd July

21 Miles

Start 7:30 results

No. Vessel	TCF	ATA	ATE	Tc	VMG	
54 Asti V	0.991	10:49:45	3:19:45	3:17:57	6.33	EC Old Gaffers Trophy
66 Nooderzon	1.005	10:49:58	3:19:58	3:20:58	6.33	Stone Trophy
76 Ethel Alice	1.035	10:44:11	3:14:11	3:20:59	6.49	Sheave Trophy
71 Laura	1.055	10:42:47	3:12:47	3:23:23	6.56	Britannia & Tom Bolton
38 Airlie	0.920	11:15:33	3:45:33	3:27:30	5.60	Cruiser
80 Lizzie Annie	1.038	10:50:00	3:20:00	3:27:36	6.30	Davey Trophy
61 Rainbow	0.859	11:32:47	4:02:47	3:28:33	5.21	Priveteer & Pusser's Rum
72 Primrose	1.008	10:59:43	3:29:43	3:31:24	6.03	1st Class I (no other prize)
53 Chittabob	0.958	11:11:45	3:41:45	3:32:26	5.70	Boat World Rose Bowl
67 Snippet	0.914	11:24:39	3:54:39	3:34:28	5.38	Titheridge
81 Dram	0.862	11:39:47	4:09:47	3:35:19	5.06	1st Class 2
82 Bona	1.035	10:58:11	3:28:11	3:35:28	6.06	2nd Class 1
42 Victoria	0.842	11:46:41	4:16:41	3:36:08	4.92	2nd Class 2
89 Nivana	0.969	11:13:15	3:43:15	3:36:20	5.65	Austin Edge Trophy
77 Sheila	0.895	11:31:50	4:01:50	3:36:26	5.23	
88 Firefly	0.969	11:13:45	3:43:45	3:36:49	5.65	
59 Christiane	0.941	11:20:31	3:50:31	3:36:55	5.48	3rd Class 2
55 Kate	1.005	11:07:07	3:37:07	3:38:12	5.81	3rd Class 1
74 Letty May	0.866	11:42:34	4:12:34	3:38:43	5.00	
70 Cara Cara	0.820	11:58:10	4:28:10	3:39:54	4.70	
39 Molly Cobbler	0.839	11:53:00	4:23:00	3:40:39	4.79	Dan Webb & Feesey
79 Moonstone 8	0.829	11:56:45	4:26:45	3:41:08	4.74	
69 Mary 11	0.895	11:37:21	4:07:21	3:41:23	5.10	Hunt Trophy
64 Touchstone	1.020	11:08:31	3:38:31	3:42:53	5.78	4th Class 1
Miranda	0.936	11:29:37	3:59:37	3:44:17	5.27	
49 Pelican	0.904	11:39:21	4:09:21	3:45:25	5.06	
45 Roseann	0.990	11:19:20	3:49:20	3:47:02	5.50	
46 Gracie (CK46)	0.995	11:19:29	3:49:29	3:48:20	5.50	
56 Prawner	0.928	11:36:15	4:06:15	3:48:31	5.12	
32 Bold Hamster	0.844	12:00:51	4:30:51	3:48:36	4.67	
57 Boadicea	0.920	11:43:33	4:13:33	3:53:16	4.98	
86 Dorothy	1.006	11:25:28	3:55:28	3:56:53	5.36	
85 Ariel	0.918	11:48:56	4:18:56	3:57:42	4.88	
35 Jemma	0.835	12:14:48	4:44:48	3:57:48	4.44	
Tethys	0.960	11:39:01	4:09:01	3:59:03	5.06	
Linnaea	0.830	12:18:48	4:48:48	3:59:42	4.38	
60 Alando	0.908	11:54:44	4:24:44	4:00:23	4.77	Lo
33 Twinkler	0.869	12:06:46	4:36:46	4:00:31	4.57	
Merlyn III	0.878	12:05:20	4:35:20	4:01:45	4.58	
58 Hyacinth	0.995	11:34:59	4:04:59	4:03:46	5.16	
48 Bird of Dawning	0.964	11:43:04	4:13:04	4:03:57	4.98	
43 Francesca	0.906	12:02:34	4:32:34	4:06:57	4.63	
41 Blackbird	0.989	11:42:46	4:12:46	4:09:59	5.00	
31 God Intenti,	1.026	11:33:46	4:03:46	4:10:06	5.19	
37 Nightingale	0.982	12:00:50	4:30:50	4:25:58	4.67	
68 Greenshank	0.895	12:33:01	5:03:01	4:31:12	4.16	
62 Alice & Flores	0.997	12:02:44	4:32:44	4:31:55	4.63	
73 Dorana	1.045	11:54:49	4:24:49	4:36:44	4.77	
50 Mudskipper	0.809	14:16:14	6:46:14	5:28:39	3.10	Old Harry Trophy
44 Crangon	0.850					RTD
Jacqueline	0.997					DNS
84 Letitia	0.777					DNF
83 Margaret C	0.933					DNS
30 Patience	0.913					RTD
34 Quinque	0.954					RTD

x
x

East Coast Old Gaffers Race 2000 - 22nd July (

CLASS 3

Start 12:15 results
No. Vessel TCF ATA ATE Tc VMG

"Alpha" Group (Long Course)

26	First of May	0.825	13:56:14	1:41:14	1:23:31	6.53	3 Place Penalty - Line infringement
28	Ula	0.845	13:55:47	1:40:47	1:25:10	6.60	Zetland Trophy
6	Tern	0.794	14:06:52	1:51:52	1:28:49	5.95	Cockleshell Trophy
41	Native	0.774	14:16:42	2:01:42	1:34:12	5.45	
	Froggy	0.795	14:16:58	2:01:58	1:36:58	5.45	
50	Ally Lump	0.766	14:24:18	2:09:18	1:39:03	5.12	
45	Jack	0.798	14:24:23	2:09:23	1:43:15	5.12	
40	Blamey	0.805	14:24:15	2:09:15	1:44:03	5.12	
33	Razorbill	0.834	14:22:40	2:07:40	1:46:28	5.20	
36	Ellen	0.771	14:35:23	2:20:23	1:48:14	4.71	

"Beta" Group (Shorter course)

Swallow 14:51:25 2:36:25 0:00:00 4.23

Alpha Pitt, Little Gaff
and Plodders Pot

EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE REPORT

The 35th and first of the Millennium East Coast Old Gaffers Race was started very early in the morning to catch the ebb out to the Wallet Spitway. The brisk NNE wind made the start rather hairy, but fortunately skill outwitted bravado, and there were no injuries. The Morecambe Prawner **Laura** quickly established her traditional place chased by the smack **Ethel Alice**, **Asti** 6metre, Pilot Cutter **Noorderzon** and lean yacht like smack **Lizzie Annie**. Apart from the Bench Head slop, which put paid to those who started on the leeward end of the line, such as **Blackbird**, **Maryll** and **Prawner**, it was a very straight forward race based almost entirely on boatspeed, no opportunity for those who like to cheat tide and shoal for tactical gain! It was very pleasing to see young helms competing for the new Privateer Trophy- **Rainbow** and **Sheila** particularly. And despite the conditions, smackie brawn did not overawe lighter crewed boats- Canoe Yawl **Snippet** had the race of her life not only to win the Titheridge Trophy (man & woman partners) but also to be well up the field of finishers.

There were some good average times on course- over 6.5 knots by Laura of course, but also several others over 6. The only real test of navigation was long cross tide leg from Wallet Spitway to Jaywick, otherwise it was follow my leader, most boats finishing well under four hours. The results were quickly worked out by Paul Wright, and the corrected time order really reflected performance against THCF for the given condition. Those who did not submit declaration forms were not recorded as competing, and indeed because **Primrose's** form got stuck to another one, she nearly missed out, many apologies.

The Class III race for open boats was not as well supported as in the past (only 11boats), although they didn't start until midday. **First of May**, an Orwell Corinthian OD considered to be an "extreme design" by the Solent Area at YOGAF because she beat everything in sight, should have been an easy winner, but for a line infringement, leaving the way clear for 12sq metre Sharpie **Ula** to take the Zetland Trophy, followed by MFOB **Tern**.

The prizegiving went on schedule, the sun shone, the OGA Booth prospered, one of the best organised ECR's we've ad. Regrettably, it was the last ECR for WM Rep **Sue Taylor**. She has put a tremendous amount of work in since the race moved to West Mersea, so thank her when you see her.

With decreasing entries and increasing costs, the viability of this once profitable operation was in question. However, Classic Marine of Woodbridge stepped at the 11th hour, and provided pennants for all the 70 entrants. We thank also West Mersea Yacht Club for letting us use their premises, and providing start party and safety boat coverage.