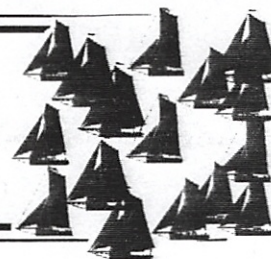


01413 424448

EASTCOASTER

NO 43 November 2000



PARTY & AGM!

The End-of- Season Social and AGM is all set for the 11 November at the Schooner Bar, Woolverstone Marina. A number of vessels are expected to attend, including Airlie, Bona, Maryll, Tarka, Sunlight etc. There are hot meals available, but as it is out of season, the caterers do really need to have an idea of numbers, so please let the OGA 01206 393537/ 396066 or the Schooner Bar 01473 780886 know by Monday 6th November to make ABSOLUTELY sure of your meal. Also at the AGM the famous OGA Peripatetic Membership Booth and Regalia Booth will be on display- Buy your OGA ties and jumpers, or books cards and calenders for Christmas!

There's a big programme of events planned- it's your chance to have your say before they are finalised. The Meeting starts at 1830, to finish by 2000, and then the social can begin. The Lowestoft Band Brickabrac will be entertaining us. It will be a good evening, and it is FREE to come along!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

AGM PAPERS

Inside this issue there are details of our proposed 2001 programme, which we want to discuss at the AGM. If your sailing club or you have any ideas on a rally or race, let's hear about it. If you have any ideas how an event might be improved, again we want to know.

The Minutes of last year's meeting were craftily published last January, and the Secretary's report was in the previous Eastcoaster. At the meeting itself the Treasurer will have copies of the annual accounts. Don't forget time is getting very short indeed to get your Logs in for the Francis B Cooke Trophy- just send your deck log in if you don't have time for presentation. Also if you want to serve on our delightful committee, please let me know.

IN THIS ISSUE:

*DON'S DO**DD'S DO**MALDON TOWN REGATTA & OGA ANNIVERSARY**BOATS FOR SALE**2001 PROGRAMME**TRAWLING ON LETITIA*

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

CALLING ALL SMACKIES!

PRIZE FOR THE BEST COD END KNOT DEMONSTRATION AT AGM

1st Prize One fishing trip on Letitia

2nd Prize Two Trips on Letitia (you clearly need the practice!)

(Kindly sponsored by Pete the Knife - well he "tied the knot" earlier in the year!)

2001 SAILING & SOCIAL EVENTS

DINNER AT ROYAL BURNHAM 17 FEBRUARY

SHANTY EVENING MALDON TBA

FOULNESS RALLY 5/6 MAY

MANNINGTREE RALLY 12 MAY

CROUCH RALLY 26 MAY

MNKOGA & MEDWAY RACE 17 JUNE

EAST COAST CLASSICS 20-30 JUNE

ARTHUR RANSOME WEEKEND 7/8 JULY

EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE 14 JULY

VKSJ CLASSICS RACE 14 JULY

NORTH SEA CLASSIC PASSAGE RACE 22 JULY

DUTCH CRUISE IN COMPANY 23-26 JULY

DUTCH CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA 26-29 JULY

(WHITSTABLE MATCH 4 AUGUST)

(SWALE MATCH 11 AUGUST)

WALTON & WOOLVERSTONE 25/26 AUGUST

MALDON RALLY TBA

(LAYING UP RACE 6 OCTOBER)

The East Coast OGA is planning another prolific calendar of social, cruising and racing events which should cater for most tastes. They are not set in tablets of stone- if you have an idea for a rally could you please let us know. The other issue is that we do need to know when there are events staged by other organisations suitable for our type of boats- We are here to publicise all events, not just our own.

The year will start with our *Annual Dinner at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club on 17 February*. This is an excellent social occasion and a superb location. Details will be published in the January Eastcoaster. In March it is likely there will be a Shanty evening in Maldon, to raise money for the Maldon Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally. If anyone has any ideas for other winter meetings, please let me know. The Colne Smack Preservation Society, which is affiliated to the OGA, will be having some talks in the New Year, as soon as I have details, I will pass them on. Their AGM is at 2pm 25 November, Brightlingsea Community Centre.

Assuming no-one other than me is up for a Frostbite Rally, the first sailing meeting is the **Foulness Rally 5/6 May**. Up the other end of our territory, there will be a Gaffers rally at Stour Sailing Club Manningtree, with food and jazz band. A date has yet to be fixed, but it is likely to be 12 May weekend. Mooring is alongside **Manningtree Quay**. The next event planned for May is the **Crouch Rally w/e 26 May**. Watch out for major changes in format.

Over in North Kent on 17 June there will be the MNK OGA and Medway Smack Race, Gillingham - Queenborough.

In June our big event- possibly the longest event in the OGA- is the East Coast Classics, which will run from 20-30 June. This will start with a passage race from Harwich to Southwold, where we will stay

for 3 nights, with a regatta day and the Sole Bay Race. Then we sail up to the Lowestoft Fish Fayre, before retiring in the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk YC. Then it's back down the coast to Orford, then Walton, then Mistley, Wrabness, Levington, a night in the Deben at Ramsholt. We finish by sailing over the Deben Bar and racing up to Ipswich. We lock into the Wet Dock Friday night, for Maritime Ipswich. There is a lot of detail work to do on this event yet, any suggestions welcome at this stage.

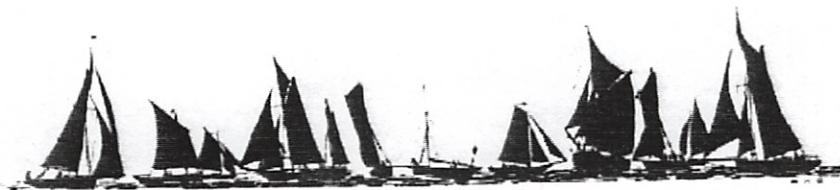
Because of tidal situations we have not been able to include the Arthur Ransome weekend at Walton in the East Coast Classics. However we are planning to hold a separate weekend at Walton & Frinton YC, with racing and picnic cruises for the open boats, and a rally for big boats/ mother boats on 7/8 July.

14 July is the date we have for the *East Coast Old Gaffers Race* at West Mersea, we await confirmation on arrangements. Classic Marine have indicated they will support the event again. The Committee are proposing a separate *classic bermudan race* on the same weekend- possibly on behalf of the VKSJ. Your views on how we might still further improve this excellent event are sought.

21/22 July will be the **North Sea Classic Passage Race** from Harwich to Roompot. This is more a timed cruise-in- company than a serious offshore race, ideal for those sailing across to Holland for their holidays and the Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta. Once at Roompot, we make for Zerkzee, Steenberg, Willemstadt and Hellevoetsluis for the DCYR 26-29 July.

After the Whitstable Match on 4 August, the Kentish Sail Association will be staging the Swale Match on 11 August, and the OGA will no doubt stage the **Vodka Rally at Walton and Woolverstone on 25/6 August**. There is also the IFOS at Portsmouth that weekend- I have not heard if the OGA are going to be involved. In September there will be the Maldon Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally, date not known yet, but tides are right on 22 September. DD's Laying Up Race is 6 October.





Maldon Town Regatta & OGA Anniversary Rally 2000

The day dawned wet and windy as forecast and a good selection of boats made their way out towards the Nass. Quite why so many crew seemed willing to forsake their warm bunks on such a foul day is still a mystery – are their skippers such tyrants, is there some great blackmailing ring or are they just plain masochistic?

The number of entries had been good, but the Friday night had not been kindly to little boats hoping to make passage to the Blackwater. One absence was especially notable, that jolly laugh, the skipper of game prawners, the master of the tops'l and back eddies. Indeed, hell and high water had never been known to keep Jon Wainwright away, but a hernia operation, that was another matter, and on that wet windy morning he was ashore, recuperating from a nasty operation and a week without beer.

The wind was a steady five from the NW, and the game band of smacks, yachts and racers flew down river from the Nass. The first buoy was a gybe mark, and it was given a good wide berth by most. For many of the smaller boats the challenge was to survive in the wind, and so to complete the course. Airlie and Widgeon fought around the mark, Widgeon just creeping ahead as they raced back towards the Dengie shallows.

The fleet was already shrinking, as to retire seemed the sensible option to many. Even the large smacks suffered losses, Ellen re-broke her boom, which had been initially damaged on her way down to Brest, and Sunbeam was a little over optimistic on the depth of water over the flats. As the fleet turned up river, close reaching up to Osea they made a wonderful site, the smacks leading the way, driving through the water under their low, powerful rig. It was proving to be a great deck washing day.

SeaEagle was out for her first race with her new skipper, she was well up the fleet and going like the clappers, when her gaff jaws failed and the main became a wild mass of canvas – Eric reported later that he almost cried! About fifteen boats made it up to Osea for lunch, twelve of which had completed the race – quite an achievement. It was quickly agreed that the second race would be cancelled, racing to windward up to the quay in those conditions was not an attractive prospect.

And so it was that a reduced fleet headed up to the quay, Merlin and Avanta, the line boat, led the way, creeping in over the mud, closely followed by Sea Eagle, Jacqueline, Airlie, Noorderzon and Juanita, all to be welcomed by Les, Mike Emmett and a great local band – Legacy. As the boats tied up the sun came out, and gradually pint glasses replaced oil skins, cold, wet crew danced and Maldon quay was ready to party. Prize giving was held in the Maldon Little Ship Club, and full glasses were raised, first to Jon our absent leader, and then as is the custom, to the OGA on this their anniversary.

The prizes, as ever, were numerous, this occasion being a joint Town Regatta for the smacks and the OGA anniversary rally. We also had the honour of awarding a new cup and glass tankards for the East Coast One Designs from the Bright family, to commemorate Danny Bright who died tragically earlier this year. The prizes awarded:

Primrose 1st Smack Town Cup & Pennant

Peace 2nd Smack FH Bright knot

Martha 3rd Smack Oyster Trophy

Rhythm 1st ECOD Danny Bright Memorial & tankard

Nancy 2nd ECOD Old Gaffers Cup & tankard

Widgeon 3rd ECOD Tankard

Ma Solitude 1st Bermudan Chamber of Trade

Airlie 1st Old Gaffer Yacht Old Gaffers Shield

Ariel 2nd Old Gaffer Yacht Maldon Borough Arms

Dorothy, Boadicea and Hyacinth also completed the race.

And so the night continued in time honoured style, dancing, drinking and singing until the tide returned to lure the more adventurous down stream.

Your intrepid correspondent,

Tessa of Merlin

A day's trawlin' wi' "Lettuce"

"Lettuce" originally being an ex Leigh Bawley motor cockler, then a Dunkirk little ship and now the pride of Mike & Sue Feather who recently restored her to her present condition complete with trawl beam and associated derricks and taickles which conveniently provide her with a very pretty and pleasing GAFF RIG with which to sail her into the 21st century.

"LETITIA" MN19

Date : 14.10.00,LW Harwich:0651B-ST,HW Manningtree 1355 BST, Joining Instructions:0900 New Harwich pontoon and Letitia will be there !

So the day began by catching the 0840 train from Manningtree, due Harwich town 0900 (in the days when we knew the arrival times of trains !!)

Arrived Harwich town pontoon 0910 , singled up and slip away 0930. Weather: still, little wind, slight swell, clear sky with a nip in the air of " the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness ", and so we motored, bound away for the trawlin' grounds as told to the skipper by a local Foxy character lock-keeper by the banks of the Stotly Shour, only the night before as they supped, parleyed and enjoyed the hospitality of that well known fuelling stop both for the inner man and his inboard engine as only that place can offer! (sorry Ed ,that's the end of the artistic bitt o.k.?)

We found what we thought was the "spot"; had a hell of a job finding the leading transit of the pier end and the Peter's ice-cream hut, turned in a reasonable circle so as not to entangle our gear in the prop

And shot the gear, taking care to inform other sea users that we "were a vessel engaged in trawlin' " by way of the black bucket hung from the signal halliard !

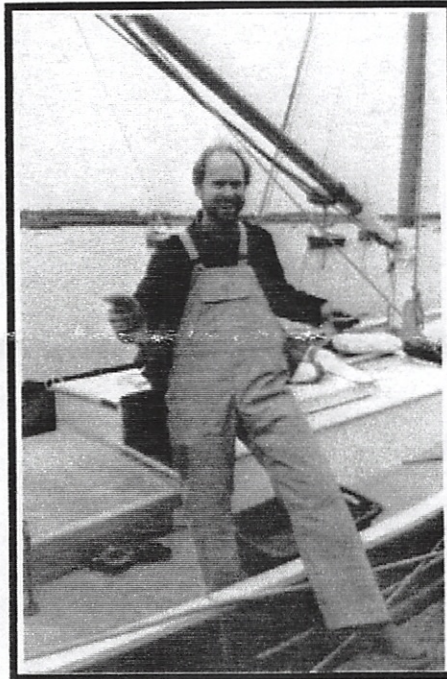
Well, after streaming the lot for what was in reality 20 mins but; like the " riverbank fisherman's one that got away " we felt we had trawled through shoal upon shoal, been brought up on submarines and so on, we hauled the gear or more to the point I did (well what is a crew for?) , hand over hand with the engine in neutral so she came beam to her beam which helped in the haul on board of the catch----such as it was, we could not see anything but some old jellies !! So, after checking that all gear was safe and onboard we steamed back to the fishin' grounds for another drag.

Meanwhile, the kettle was on and the crew was on the wheel! Mike was look-

ing at the cod end (as he did later) when Lo! And Behold! "There is a Plaice in the net ! There's a Dab too !" He hollered over the roar of the seas and the crashing of the square cut stem into---- oh! o.k Jon. So the cod end was released and the fishes flipped and flopped in R.Haward's placky skip !

We, or rather Letitia had her first catch for many years !!

Flushed with success we set the gear again taking care to stream cod end;



dan and line, marking cod end in case of a foul up; girth line , in order to make the bringing up of the huge cod end (should we hit upon the bigtime) with the taickle on the end of the gaff which was set as a derrick; beam and bridle; and then the warp, through a snatch lashed to a Maldon cleat in order to keep it from snagging the coachroof and the bitter end made to the tabernacle (as fishermen always go fishin' with a Priest as well) with the checking turn on the Samson post. The whole lot was fetched to the stern through a roller crutch on the port quarter.

Twenty minutes later and we were getting dangerously close to the pot mark-

ers.

We decided (or rather Mike did as that is what skippers are for !) to haul ,so hand over hand.....

The gear was back onboard as last time but with no fish or jellies.We began to doubt if the gear had been the right way up or on the bottom or we'd just plain scared the leeetle feeeshes away with the great orange tasselly cod end, so much binder twine had gone into it !!Or what.

Time and tide not waiting for man (or woman) we decided to head for the Stour and on to Manningtree but we might have a drag on the way up. Just after seeing the lovely Duet at Ewarton we set the gear yet again complete with the bucket up the mizzen (probably not correct) but alas this time the gear was definitely not on the bottom.

It was clear that by now fishin' was done and we were bound for Mistley to pick up deck cargo of sweatshirts for the S.S.C. Here we were greeted by the Marine Chickens that frequent the mudflats off that shore and like the geese at the citadel, ward us away from danger and moreover embarrassment on our own grounds !

We had, by a stroke of luck picked up a female pilot, at this point although the correct flag was not displayed, which "made passage to Manningtree" so much easier.

We settled onto the quay by 1410 to land the cargo and the catch ashore, have breakfast and pay our harbour dues in the bar of the Stour Sailing Club Which took its toll later!!

Pete the Knife

P.S. Dinner was held at 2 Railway Street where we ate the fillets of Dab with Goujons of Plaice as a starter followed by Choux-crouste (Sauerkraut and smoked pork loin) with blackberry and apple crumble with custard as a sweet and copious bottles of wine so as to celebrate the "Day Trawlin' Wi' LETITIA"

"ALABAMA ROLL" BACK TO UNCLE SAM

The East Coast OGA sadly has to say cheerio to Eric Husher (Eric the Yank) and Caroline, as Eric has landed a new job back in USA. Eric and Caroline, who used to sail USS Ammonite, have been tremendous company on the East Coast Classics particularly. Eric's rendition of "Roll Alabama" and talent on blues harmonica really helped our parties swing. Eric also put me right on who won the Battle of Sole Bay and beat me on my own river on the Mistle Race. But I'll forgive him that as he is such a nice chap, and join with the rest of the OGA in wishing him all the best in his new venture as a yacht broker and his plans for new class of 7 metre gaff cutter.

23' Falmouth Workboat For Sale

'AMMONITE'

Specifications:

Construction: GRP Hull, Plywood decks sheathed in GRP, built in 1992 by Gaffers & Luggers, Tregatreath Cornwall.

Length: 23' LW, 24' LOD

Beam: 8'

Draft: 4'6"

Displacement: 11,000 lbs.

Accommodations: Full width double berth forward, one full length berth in saloon, one settee, all with storage below. All upholstery new (1999) in royal blue velour. White TIG panelling, with mahogany trim interior, American white oak cabin floor. Heavy brass barometer and chronometer on forward bulkhead. Saloon table slides down mast compression post, may be secured to deckhead when underway. Separate heads compartment with marine toilet. Two burner gas cooker with grill in galley, with storage below. Brass hand water pump.

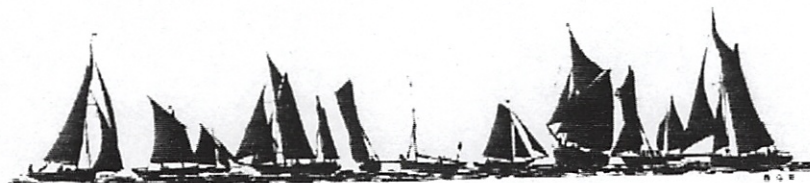
Cockpit new with teak decked cockpit locker seats framed in mahogany. Compass, depth sounder, anemometer/wind direction indicator mounted in cockpit, VHF radio located above galley.

Rig: Gaff cutter with lifting bowsprit. All spars varnished Douglas Fir. Sails include gaff main, staysail, roller-furling jib, and jackyard topsail. Wood (varnished teak) blocks, standing rigging in stainless steel.

Engine: Yanmar 2GM20 18 HP diesel inboard (runs well!). 20 gallon Fuel tank to starboard, 20 gallon water tank to port.

Comments: An outstanding sea-boat, dry, fast and weatherly gaffer.

Price: £20,000 Contact Eric Husher, 01234-721053, or searat@postmaster.co.uk





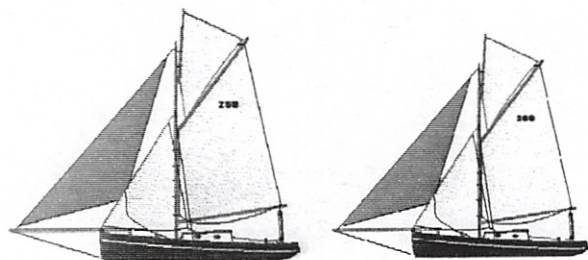
TOM FELGATE MEMORIAL TROPHY

The late Tom Felgate has kindly provided for us in his will a sum of money for a new Trophy on the East Coast. The Committee have decided that this will be a Point Series Trophy for the best overall performance in EC OGA events in the year. Full details have yet to be agreed, but this would for instance cover races at the Crouch Rally, East Coast Classics, East Coast Old Gaffers Race, North Sea Race and Maldon. In addition to this "Victor Ludorum" memorial trophy, there would be cups for second and third. This is to encourage people to take part in more events, and promote our tradition over a wider part of the coast.

How the points series will work will be explained in a subsequent Eastcoaster, but it will be our intention to publish the points series table as it develops through the season!

D.D.'S DO

Over 20 vessels took part in DD's "Not the Osea Island" Laying up Race on the Blackwater. The light winds made it Lizzie Annie's day in the smacks, and Asti V had her way with the racers. Hardy made a magnificent sight as she crossed the Queens Head line at Maldon, in company of several other fine vessels such as Fly, Ariel and Pelican. Regrettably not many of the Tollesbury or Brightlingsea vessels made it up Maldon, Pelican being the only foreigner to stay the night. There was a party afterwards in aid of the 2001 Maldon Town Regatta, with the band Legacy in attendance.



The Secretariat has received a personal challenge to a match race between the two small nobby boats in his fleet, Maryll & Deva. The Secretary will be able to choose his vessel- does he take the smaller one with the luckier streak, Deva. Or does he choose the larger technically faster boat, Crossfields last prawner, the 1937 Maryll? The situation has arisen because I was not fit enough to fit out Deva for the winter, so Maryll (the summer boat) is going to have to substitute till April, when Deva is launched. Maryll will come out in April to fit out for June, so for about six weeks both Deva and Maryll will be in commission in local waters, until Maryll goes to Holland for a year. Meanwhile, if any one would like a sail in Maryll in winter- it's not as hard as you think!- let me know.

LAURA WE'LL MISS YOU!

It is with some sadness that we learn that Gayle Heard's prawner Laura has gone back to her home waters on the Lancashire Coast- apparently to a descendent of her builder, Crossfield of Arneside. Laura was such an incredible sailer after her restoration at Tollesbury, probably the fastest ex working boat we have seen. Good in all weathers, fair or foul, few would ever beat her to windward. Her performance in smack races caused quite a few local rules to be changed, which some might say was sour grapes. It was a combination of man and boat which we are unlikely to see again.

DON'S DO

Woolverstone Schooner Bar was the scene of another great "Don's Do" in October. Started by chance by a group of professional skippers of traditional vessels under charter, who thought it might be a good idea to meet up again next year, this annual party is much the same informal gathering today. People of like minds meet up for a beer, those who can play an instrument bring it along. Quite a few vessels came by sea- USS Ammonite having her last sail under the US Flag, the Baltic Trader Queen Galadrial, Bawlies, Good Intent and Bona, prawner Maryll, Solent Smack Margaret Catchpole, Amberjack with Andrew Osborne, the creator of the "Ticky Tacky", aboard, Paternoster who played sea shanties in stereo on her passage up the Orwell, the Looe Lugger Girl Sybil etc.. Entertaining us ashore we had Suffolk's leading violinist Mario Price accompanied by John Ward, the Vashti Band and Eric the Yank with the last "Roll Alabama". Yes it was some do.

