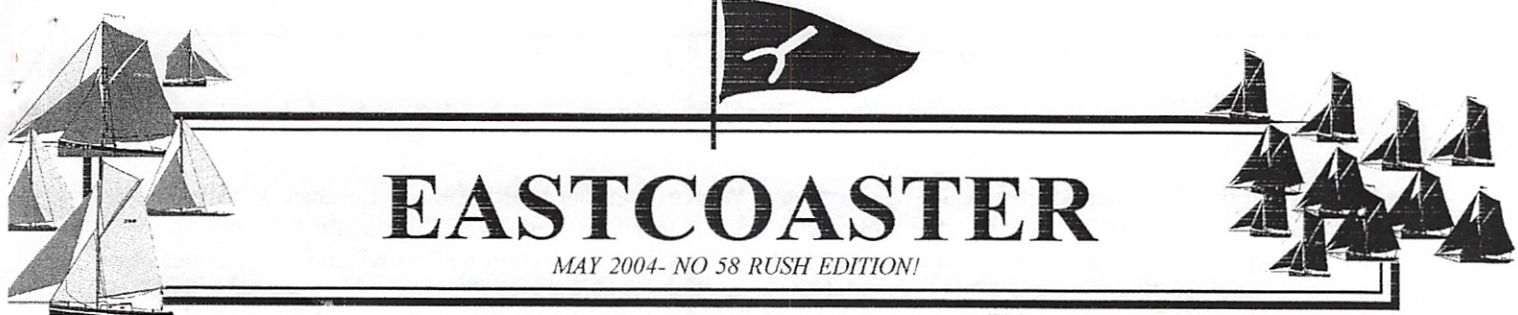




# EASTCOASTER

MAY 2004- NO 58 RUSH EDITION!

## THE SEASON HAS STARTED!

The season has started for gaffers, smackies and classics!

Cast away your cares for another great summer with the OGA, the open season has started! Events have been staged for almost all types of member, racer, cruiser or watcher. Indeed some have already taken place- the Annual Dinner, the Frostbite, and the Easter Egg Rally.

Next event is the rally at North Fambridge and Foulness Island on 1/2 May, followed by the Whitsun Regatta/ OGA Crouch Rally 28-31 May- *details in this issue*. In June/ early July, we have a huge series of events, starting with BRIGAFF, then the EAST COAST CLASSICS, finishing with SOUTHWOLD OLD GAFFERS FESTIVAL OF THE SEA. (*Details next issue and on [eastcoastclassics.co.uk](http://eastcoastclassics.co.uk)*) You can enter these individually or the whole lot, so everyone can take part somewhere.

On 17/18 July we have our open boat weekend with Arthur Ransome at Walton (Swamazons!), which has been very successful in recent years.

Send your entries in as soon as you can, check out what is happening by reading the articles or consulting your web site [eastcoastclassics.co.uk](http://eastcoastclassics.co.uk) for the very latest situation!

### IN THIS ISSUE

FOULNESS & CROUCH  
RALLY DETAILS

FROSTBITE REPORT

HANDICAP COMMITTEE  
GETS TOUGH

BURNHAM DINNER

EAST COAST AREA  
CASH CRISIS ETC

### LINNAEA SAVED!

Linnaea, that intrepid star of TV, the favourite Dauntless of the East Coast, and the love of Lena Reekie, our favourite Swede, suffered a major collision on the Frostbite Race- see report. Five planks were broken just above the waterline, just abaft the shrouds. The hole was over a foot square. However, after some amazing temporary repairs afloat in Limehouse Dock involving five plywood planks and some expanding pvc foam, she made the journey back to Faversham. Noorderzon towed her to Queenborough, and she made it through the Swale and up to Faversham. She is now in a boat yard with permanent repairs imminent, Lena standing by with paint pot to restore the immaculate interior.

NEXT ISSUE IN MAY,  
FOR BRIGAFF, CLASSICS  
SOUTHWOLD &  
SWAMAZONS

### SAILING EVENTS 2004

1/2 MAY

FOULNESS

15 MAY -

ENKHUIZEN

28/31 MAY

CROUCH RALLY

14 JUNE

MNK. OGA ANNUAL RACE  
QUEENBOROUGH

17-21 JUNE -

BRIGAFF

22-28 JUNE-

EAST COAST CLASSICS

30 JUNE-5 JULY-

SOUTHWOLD OLD GAFFERS  
FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

17-18 JULY -

SWAMZONS

28 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER -  
AUGUST CRUISE (RUBY  
RALLY MK 2!)

17 SEPTEMBER-

OGA ANNIVERSARY  
RALLY AND MALDON  
TOWN REGATTA\*

*[eastcoastclassics.co.uk](http://eastcoastclassics.co.uk) - it's eastcoaster on line!*



## REPORT ON THE ANNUAL DINNER

by Denise "Fred" Rawlinson

On 13th March the OGA started their year with the Annual Winter Meet dinner at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club, of which 84 members and guests attended. We had representatives from our Kent Area OGA and 6 from our Holland Classic section. We even had OGA members arrive by boat from Ipswich - Noordezon - which is now under new ownership, is a relatively new vessel. She is Dutch-built in steel along pilot cutter lines and has just recently had her entire bottom replaced. Noordezon looked a most impressive sight tied up at the end of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club's pontoon.

Our entertainers for the evening, Derek, Dwilia, Jeane and Claudia, calling themselves 'The RB Lit Wits', gave us an hour's entertainment of absolutely wonderful and hilarious sea sketches in between courses, which had their audience in stitches, tears rolling down their faces and much clapping. They were brilliant!

Chef Carol did us proud with the dinner and even Jon Wainwright was happy when he received his double issue of the sticky toffee pudding. Not an easy task for chef catering for 84 and another private party of 23 in the club's library; having two starters, two main courses and two desserts. Well done Chef Carol!

Our Godfather, Ray Austen, wasn't able to attend the dinner owing to a prior engagement, so a toast was made by a Crouch Mafia member to our Godfather, in his absence.

Our Dutch representatives thought it was a wonderful club and were made very welcome by everyone.

My thanks to Claudia Myatt for her artistic talent in doing the menu covers and the table plan board. We shall miss her terribly when she moves to Wales shortly. To all at the club behind the scenes, who helped to make the evening run so smoothly, thank you very much. To 'The RB Lit Wits', many, many thanks to you all for making the evening such a success.

The feedback I have received - everyone thought it was the best Annual Dinner we have had so far.

What more can I say, the food was wonderful, the entertainment superb and the last thank you goes to you, the member who attended, because without you, there would be no event.

A great time was had by all.

### *From the Hon. Secretary*

The season is under way and we are all finalising plans for the summer ahead. Some will head off down Channel to the fleshpots of Brest to join the big party. Others may choose to have a quieter time cruising the wonderful maze of creeks and rivers we are blessed with on the East Coast. Whatever you decide to do there is something of interest available. A look at the current Classic Boat Magazine will il-

### **"JUMPING ON OUR BANDWAGON!"**

lustrate this, although I have to say there are some serious omissions. Why did they not include details of the East Coast Old Gaffers Race for instance? Before all these Johnny -come -lately festivals were even being thought of, we were running a proper race for 80 -100 vessels on the Blackwater, the spectacle of which inspired many others to jump on our bandwagon.

### **"WE RELY ON YOUR ENTRY FEES"**

A big problem on the East Coast has been for the Old Gaffers to stay in the running in this much expanded classic boat/ traditional craft circus. We don't have the environment or location which lends itself to major sponsorship deals. We can only rely on

entry fees to fund events- your subscription to the OGA does not come back to the East Coast in a very great form. And this year we have been put in a very difficult position by not having mailshot and non- event costs covered by Central

### **"SHORTFALL ON CENTRAL FUNDING"**

as we had anticipated. We hope to achieve this through negotiation, and we have had some money refunded, but we are very short on resources to stage our big programme, with no flexibility to underwrite the inevitable disasters which nature puts upon us. The upshot is that you will have to pay more to enter events and we won't be able to take risks like booking up meals or moorings to the same

### **"COULD ANYONE SPONSOR EASTCOASTER?"**

extent. I am sorry about this, I hope you will continue to support events despite the extra cost, otherwise the area may fold. If any of you know of anyone who might be able to help out with sponsorship or patronage of some of our operation, such as the newsletter (costs £300-350 at time with a 500 member circulation) please get in touch.

On a lighter note, you will see elsewhere that we are going to adjust some handi-

caps so the same boats don't keep winning, and give the slower boats greater chance. You will also see what pathetic influence I have on the handicap committee! When you overtake Deva, just remember she is actually 15 per cent further behind than you think she is! Unfortunately she has consistently outperformed her rating in a whole variety of conditions and race locations, and now has a

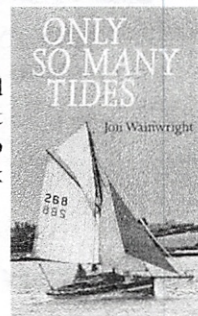
### **"BEWARE OF DEVA'S WASH!"**

rating higher than any boat of her size in the whole of the OGA! But Crouch Mafia, don't worry, I will continue to sail slowly on your river to avoid my wash damaging the river bank!

This handicap change should also give me a chance to clear some space at home currently taken up by the alleged vast numbers of trophies, as I am closing my office at Mistley Quay. So the East Coast Secretariat moves back to Portview, New Road, Mistley, Essex, CO11 2AE, telephone 01206 393537, fax 390253. Email remains [JRWainwright@aol.com](mailto:JRWainwright@aol.com).

Happy Sailing this year, and don't forget to make the best of it, as there are "Only So Many Tides" (read the book yet?)

Jon Wainwright





## LONDON FROSTBITE RACE 7 MARCH 2004



Although some of us had to make the passage up to London in a blizzard, the weekend of the Frostbite Race was actually quite benign. Some 27 yachts were on the line off the prospect of Whitby pub near Wapping, including the Presidential hoy Avola- she is a "hoy" because she sets a square sail off the wind, and presidential because she carries the President of the East Coast Old Gaffers!

Sailing London River in the smallest boat in the fleet- Deva is only 18ft on the waterline- has its difficulties. Only the topsail senses the slightest of breezes, while the big modern yachts with their marconi masts and spinnakers speed off into the distance.

But a mile or so on there is a gap in the buildings and we set the "Bastard", a strange beast of doubtful parentage, neither spinnaker nor jib, but when it draws, the other yachts slip by. By the time we are through the barrier, the leaders are in sight, and with only low lying sewage farms to break the wind (in more ways than one). Deva has a real bone in her teeth, reminiscent of the days when boats like her used to race back to Lancashire resorts with their catches of boiled shrimps.

The finish line at Erith is passed, with Avola hard on our heels, her square sail having caught the breeze too. Both of us have sailed really well, surely up with the leaders on rating. We are invited on board for a Presidential supper, cooked by the First lady, while her daughter and the First Lady's assistant entertain us. A bell is rung for every score in the banter.

The return leg early next morning finds Deva's skipper communing with nature on the mooring when the ten minute gun goes, so the start is not to Olympic standard. It is going to be a beat all the way back too. But not to worry, we will take the tide while the others point and pinch round every bend to assert their modernity over the outdated old gaffer. We sail full and bye, a good 10 or more degrees lower than the bermudans, but the lee bow wave builds and resting our shallow hull on that we get there just the same. Who says weather helm isn't good for you!

There is one other old gaffer in the fleet ahead, a big pilot cutter type, the mighty Noorderzon. She makes the error of cutting in behind a moored ferry at Woolwich. In previous years we have seen boats go in there and never come out again. But not so Noorderzon. A huge black cloud of smoke is seen, then Noorderzon re-appears going hard astern, but all sails still drawing!

To add to the confusion, the fleet is told to disperse as a freighter is coming through the barrier. But her skipper is known to my President on Avola, who announces on the VHF that if he had known Kees was driving a freighter, he would have been keeping his wife Anneka company... The freighter shows remarkably good manners to the yachts, especially the gaff rigged ones!

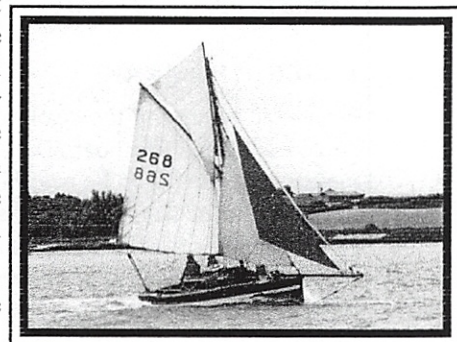
As we round the Millennium Dome the wind becomes very fluky. Noorderzon thinks she is around safely, but touches on a spit we managed to find last year. We have a brief run up to the Greenwich landing stage, and then the wind suddenly heads, then dies away. Every puff Deva gets we use to stay in the middle of the river. I apologise to the crew about the number of tacks. I hear on the radio that Lena in her beautiful little Dauntless has collided with Greenwich Pier and is holed badly. Apart from Rob her other crew is little Matey, her sweet little dog, and we are very worried. Another yacht abandons the race to take her in tow. The hole is a foot square, taken out five planks, and only an inch above the water line. The Environmental Agency vessel Londinium comes to her aid and deliberately puts herself between the wash making tripper boats and Linnaea, forcing them to change course.

Off Limehouse we are forced to tack to avoid a tripper boat on the wrong side of the river, and Noorderzon seizes her chance to cut through on the inside, but falls into worse current. However her topsail catches wind where we have nothing on Deva, just slatting about in the wash of tripper boats. Fortunately a slight puff catches Deva and gives her steerage way to cross the line ahead, and another Frostbite Race is over for us.



My recollection of the rest of the day at the Cruising Association Headquarters is slightly impaired, but I do recall the results of the race being read out in reverse order and Deva's name being last. I sent one of my crew, Pete the Knife, up to collect the Cup and a lovely decanter. There were some very strange looks from my fellow competitors with bermudan rigged yachts. But the handicap used is based on displacement, length and sail area. Deva has a lot of displacement for her size and not much length! I may be biased but if such a system was used more generally it would encourage more boats to be designed in a more sea kindly way and more appropriate for use by their owners. The Presidential Hoy Avola was similarly placed third on handicap. Avola is a real cruiser sailed really well- she deserved her placing, especially as she suffered a broken windscreen wiper on her wheel house!

Our thanks go to the organisers of the event, especially the OOD Stuart!

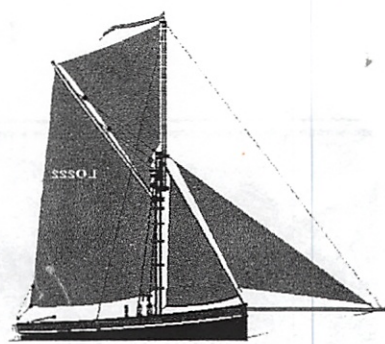






# FOULNESS RALLY

1-3 MAY



Our "May Day" rally takes us to some very unusual parts of our coast. Foulness especially, where the Ministry of Defence's occupation has ensured that this remote island in Essex has remained in a time-warp, virtually free of the motor car or modern development. This is how the country used to be like, with its farming community and its wildlife. This is a rally not to be missed.

Because of problems making arrangements, there has been no time to provide early information, so if you decide to come, just ring Denise on 0162 783969, mobile 07850287035.

On Saturday 1st May, owing to awkward tides, we are unable to go to Brandy Hole Yacht Club so instead it is planned that we all sail to North Fambridge, pick up a mooring and proceed to the Ferry Boat pub for the Saturday night get-together, where bar food will be available for all. Then on the Sunday it is proposed that we have a leisurely sail to Burnham for lunch and the amber nectar in the Royal Burnham Yacht Club or various pubs and eating-houses along the quay. Launch service will be available either by the club or Prior's boatyard. Late afternoon, we will leave Burnham and proceed down the Crouch to the river Roach, dropping the hook at the Anchor Steps on Foulness Island. We will proceed ashore in our dinghies for our mile walk to the George and Dragon pub, with mine host, Fred Farrenden, awaiting our arrival.

Just a couple of points:

- no food has been arranged this year
- you will need to bring a dinghy to get ashore at North Fambridge and Foulness Island
- sorry, no dogs are allowed on Foulness Island

## OBITUARIES

### 'DOOLEY' (CEDRIC) TUE

Died: 21.02.2004

Age: 54

For many years sailed on smacks and racers. Was a good all-round seaman. Sadly, Dooley's last race was the Burnham Town Cup, racing in Burnham Week. The unique thing was, Dooley organised the making of his own coffin, which was to be in the shape of a boat, before departing from this life. Dooley will be sadly missed by all his friends and family. He was a very popular and talented sailor.

### RON PIPE

Died: 21.03.2004

Age: 68

The sudden death of Ron was a great shock to the people of Burham, East Coast and Kent. Was an OGA member, who sailed his boat in many of the Kent races. His passing marks the end of an era and the rivers Crouch and Roach will not be the same without him. He went from fisherman's boy to be a major contractor in the marine industry, ranging from laying moorings, dredging the Burnham marina and installing piles for pontoons for the various yacht clubs and boat yards. Ron will be sadly missed.

### DEREK WHYMARK

Died: 03.04.2004

Age: 62

It was sad to hear of the death of Derek. Was an OGA member who sailed with various members on their boats until he acquired his own boat, Teal, which eventually he sold. Having suffered a stroke a couple of years ago, Derek moved to Cornwall to be with his family, but still kept in contact with his friends on the East Coast. Derek should be remembered for updating the programme for the East Coast race, by putting it on computer for the first time. He will be sadly missed also by those in the Scout Movement in Southend, where he put in a tremendous amount of voluntary work to save a local group going under.



# WHITSUN REGATTA INCORPORATING CROUCH RALLY

## AT THE ROYAL BURNHAM YACHT CLUB 28-31 MAY

This is the sixth Whitsun Regatta the gaffers have done in conjunction with the Royal Burnham Yacht Club as our host, which is always a fun-filled sailing event.

In a nutshell, the weekend starts on Friday 28th May with a warm-up Happy Hour, 7:00-8:00 pm, where drinks are half-price, followed by a bar meal for those who arrive on the Friday. This year a passage race to Burnham is being organised to leave either on the Friday, or Saturday, to make things more interesting. ( Winner is boat with best average speed on passage. Skippers declaration will note distance, time on passage and use of engine. Forms from Denise 01621 783969 Mob 07850287035.

Saturday starts the racing of various classes of boats and a programme of racing times will be issued on the day, together with the courses. Saturday evening, there will be a 4-course Regatta Dinner (blazer and ties) at a cost of £24:00. Our guest speaker for that night will be Roy Hart, who is an OGA member and has the boat, Greensleeves, as well as being the owner of the previous America's Cup Challenge boat, Victory, which looks a most impressive sight on the water.

Sunday is the Crouch Rally Cup race. In the evening will be the prizegiving for the gaffers, followed by an Irish evening with band and buffet dinner at a cost of £20:00 (salmon/Irish stew, Jameson's trifle/Bailey's Irish cream pears and coffee).

Monday will be racing in the morning and prizegiving for the 3 days will take place in the afternoon.

As mentioned above, we propose to have a passage race from your point of set-off to the Royal Burnham Yacht Club.

- Launch service will be available day and evening after the bar shuts
- Use of club's facilities for the weekend
- Moorings provided at a charge of £10:00 for the weekend
- Meals : either in the club or there are various other eating places or pubs in the town

TO Denise Rawlinson 24 Russet Way, Burnham on Crouch, Essex, CMO 8RB tel 01621 783969 mobile 07850287035

PLEASE ENTER MY VESSEL \_\_\_\_\_ LOA \_\_\_\_\_ RIG \_\_\_\_\_ THCF \_\_\_\_\_

HULL COLOUR \_\_\_\_\_ SAIL NO \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE OF VESSEL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME, ADDRESS & TEL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PASSAGE RACE @ £5.00 £

☐ MOORING FOR W/E @ £10.00 £

RACE ENTRY FEES-

(Please indicate which races-

1 Race £8.50, 2 Races £15.00, 3 Races £20.00)

☐ Saturday £

☐ Sunday (OGA Race) £

☐ Monday £

☐ MEALS Saturday night - 4 Courses-Speaker @ £24 £

☐ MEALS Sunday night -

Irish Evening with Band and Dinner @ £20.00 £

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

please enter number in box

cheques payable to Old Gaffers Association



## PERFORMANCE ADJUSTED HANDICAPS

We have all known for a long time that the calculated handicap value THCF does not really fit boats accurately. Boats which have light displacement often do much better as do sharp boats. Other factors such as beam draft etc. all play their part. At the early Classics Event held at Shotley Marina a system was tried that would even up the racing. As you should all be aware we have been asking members to send in their boat details including measurements so that we can record and update our records. Many details had changed as owners modified and improved their boats. The Handicap Committee have been working over the past couple of years to update records and to improve the racing that we all enjoy. We would like to see a more even distribution of prizes at our organised events and to give those people with slower boats a better chance of winning. To do this we will need to modify the calculated handicaps for all events other than the main East Coast Race. Some boats will have a higher handicap and others will be lowered. We have looked at members boats performance over the past few years and compared how a boat has performed compared to the race

**AVERAGE CORRECTED TIME.** We have only modified a boats handicap where we have a minimum of 4 race results. The change will be to move the handicap by 2/3 towards the Average Corrected Time(ACT). The committee have decided that the following boats handicaps will be modified. This will be an ongoing process, handicaps will be reviewed at the end of each season. Most sailing clubs that have mixed fleet racing adopt similar systems. Should members feel that their modified handicap is unreasonable then they will need to contact the committee giving details of their objection at least two weeks before the first event The Crouch Rally 28/31 May, so that the matter can be reviewed in detail.

### EAST COAST OGA POINTS SERIES

To make it easier for those whose holiday time is restricted, the qualifying races for the Felgate Points Series have been changed/restricted again. The Races which will be considered are as follows:

**CROUCH RALLY 30 JUNE**

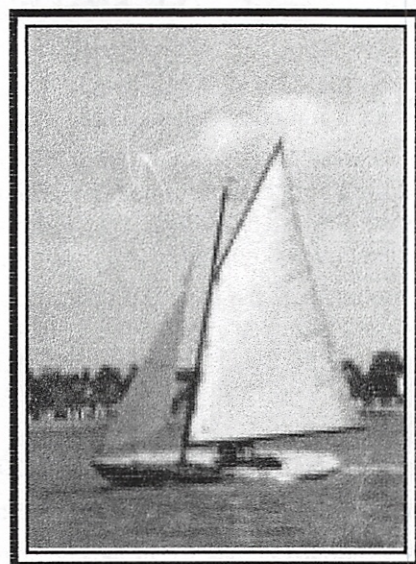
**(BRIGAFF) EAST COAST OLD GAFFERS RACE 19 JUNE**

**(EAST COAST CLASSICS) PENNYHOLE BAY RACE 27 JUNE**

**(SOUTHWOLD FESTIVAL) SOLE BAY RACE 1 JULY**

**(AUGUST CRUISE) RACE ON 29 AUGUST**

**MALDON TOWN REGATTA & OGA ANNIVERSARY RALLY 17 SEPTEMBER**



### LIST OF VESSELS WITH ADJUSTED HANDICAPS

|                   | 2004<br>THCF | 2003<br>THCF |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Spellbound        | 1.153        | 0.988*       |
| Wizzard           | 1.068        | .959*        |
| Airlie            | 1.011        | 0.92*        |
| Deva              | 0.927        | 0.855        |
| Firefly           | 1.040        | .969*        |
| Victoria          | 0.902        | 0.842        |
| Quinque           | 1.013        | 0.954        |
| Cara Cara         | 0.864        | 0.820        |
| Fanny             | 0.928        | 0.892        |
| Touchstone        | 1.055        | 1.02*        |
| Kestrel           | 0.973        | 0.944        |
| Clytie            | 0.882        | 0.91*        |
| Pertwee           | 1.015        | 1.057        |
| Quiz              | 0.876        | 0.999        |
| Masquerade        | 0.879        | 0.919        |
| Bonify            | 0.945        | 1.002        |
| Ariel             | 0.860        | 0.918        |
| Jemma             | 0.773        | 0.835*       |
| Alice and Florrie | 0.906        | 0.997        |
| Doreen C          | 0.705        | 0.78         |
| Katrine           | 1.000        | 1.162*       |