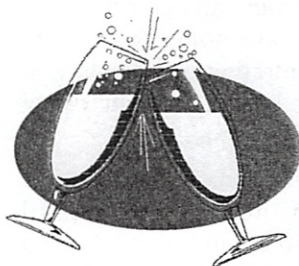




EASTCOASTER

No 62 February 2005

Old Gaffers Association



ANNUAL DINNER AT THE ROYAL BURNHAM YACHT CLUB

SATURDAY 5TH March 2005

The Royal Burnham Yacht Club is the prestigious setting for the East Coast's Annual Dinner and signals the start of a new season. A four course dinner at £21 will be served in the sumptuous dining room followed by toasts and a couple of light hearted speeches.

It will be a great evening, ideal for meeting up with old friends or, if you have just joined the OGA, a chance to find out what sort of organisation you have joined! Denise (Fred) Rawlinson will be only too happy to introduce you to other members and make sure you are made welcome.

For those who wish to stay overnight, there are various pubs in the town that do accommodation:

Anchor (01621 782117), White Hart (01621 782106), Star (01621 782010) on the quay; Ship (01621 785057) on the High Street, The Railway (01621 786868) or Oyster Smack (01621 782141) on Station Road.

Please could you return the booking form and menu choice in Eastcoaster (on page 10) by 1st March. If you need further information contact Fred on 01621 783969

Dress code for men is jacket and tie. Dark glasses for Crouch Mafia.

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EAST COAST PRESIDENT RUSHED TO HOSPITAL! (AND JOINS THE ZIPPER CLUB)

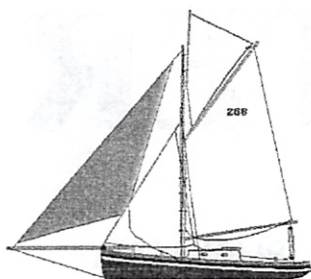


I have to report that the East Coast President Brian Hammett has had to go in for an emergency re-fit. He suffered a heart attack in mid January, a time when he runs the Cruising Association stand at the London Boatshow. Fortunately the ambulance got him to hospital in time.

The hospital specialist survey showed that he required heart bypass surgery, and this has been recently undertaken. He has had some complications, which is not unusual after such major work. However, he is now making a splendid recovery, and has been released from hospital. It will take a little time for him to get over the operation, but with his ticker now firing on all four cylinders there may be no stopping him- (beware of Avola's wake!)

(cont. next page)

Old Gaffers Association



Time for OGA to raise its perspective

So easy for committees to get bogged down

Takes a good chairman to see we stick to the job!

Good committee on East Coast

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Now the AGM season is over, perhaps it is time for the OGA to raise its perspective and concentrate on sailing! It is so easy for committees to get bogged down in politics and administration, that they forget why the organisation was formed in the first place. The OGA is not a global plc, or the European Commission. Having said that, there is a awful lot of legislation and onus on best practice put on voluntary committees, which does deflect their aim on core objectives. It takes a good chairman to ensure we stick to the job, and I use this opportunity to praise Brian Hammett (while he is laid up and can't say anything to stop me!) in this respect. We have a good committee on the East Coast, charged with a lot of work to do by the membership on primarily the sailing side of things. We have had this all this

business of area funding to deal with, and all the politics that go with it, and people have been pretty fired up about it. However all the time this was going on, Brian made sure the committee did not spend all evening on it, and moved the next business of sailing, made sure we kept on course. Rather than dominating from the chair with his own opinions, he encourages the individual members to contribute, charges them with their tasks and moves on.

Of course crisis in such an active organisation will happen. People get their noses put out of joint for all sorts of reasons. The amount of repair work Brian has put in on people's feelings is nobody's business! Most of you see Brian active on the PA system at our various events, with his sense of humour and banter, when all is disaster around with the weather or something, making sure we keep on smiling. And what you have seen to

date you have to remember he has only been firing on two cylinders- now he has been re-plumbed, expect even more!

We leave the FGP charged with the responsibility to sort out area funding. They were well charged, not just by the East Coast, and we will be keeping an eye on it. But we are going to be concentrating on sailing, and we have a very interesting programme.

I hope to see more of you on the water soon, if I don't, can I wish you all a most enjoyable season in your lovely vessels.

Jon Wainwright

Secretary

Portview, New Road,

Mistley CO112AE

Email

JRWainwright@aol.com

Presidential Re-tubing (cont.)

It's been a big shock for all of us, also compounded by the fact that Lorna has had to have hospital treatment too.

Our thoughts go out to Lorna and daughters especially. We wish Brian and Lorna a speedy recovery, and hope to see them sailing again in the Spring.

In the meantime Peter Elliston, the vice - president of the Area Committee, will be standing in for Brian.

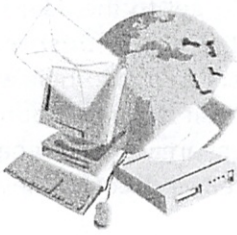
AVOLA



HOWARD & SUE WEDDED

We are pleased to report that Howard and Sue of Bonify were married in Ipswich, just after Christmas. Several OGA members were present, including the President and First Lady, and the Vice President. Some came by Secretarial Cutter too! We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them in Bonify.

Old Gaffers Association



COMMUNICATION!

I suppose the two main features a member expects from the OGA are sailing events and communication

OGA depends heavily on communication

A wide spread organisation like the OGA depends heavily on communication, mostly in the written word. A local club can get by with word of mouth at the bar, or a poster on the noticeboard. We can't. We started off with the OGA Gaffers Log, but that can only give a very general overview of what is happening. So areas have started their own local newsletters like this. The "information super-highway" came about, and we have websites and email too. I did suggest, with some support, at the main association committee that the OGA looked at this whole business holistically (dreadful word, sorry!), but I somehow doubt that will ever happen. But really there does need to be a Central Policy which draws together the various facets of website, email and hardcopy information.

Majority of members still want a local newsletter

Arising from the AGM, and many letters received since then, there is absolutely no doubt that the majority of members want a local newsletter. Even many of those who have internet access still want to receive their manila C5 envelope with the "wonky" stamp and label through their letter box. And quite a lot of them sent money to make sure it still happens, so strong is their feeling. It is very much appreciated, thanks from all the committee. It is the same in most other areas, and like the East Coast, they expect this type of expenditure to be covered by subscription.

Website there for you to share information

However, the website and email can be of great use. The space restriction on the website is not so limiting, so we can, as well as news, have articles and members' logs, adverts and things like that. The site, eastcoastclassics.co.uk is updated regularly, sailing instructions, race entry forms and other information can be printed off. Some work is needed on the front page, which belies the effort beneath. But it is there for you to share information on boat repair and sailing exploits etc., so do send information to me.

Please send me your email address ASAP!

Email is the other medium you should be making more use of. I plan to have as many members as possible on my "ecoga" list. This can be used for telling people about possible informal gatherings and cruises which don't make the Eastcoaster, or local navigation information, or an enquiry about a boat whereabouts- I am sure you can think of many other uses too. Eastcoaster, hopefully will be prepared in a format which can be put into "pdf", so those who would prefer to receive Eastcoaster in that way can do so.

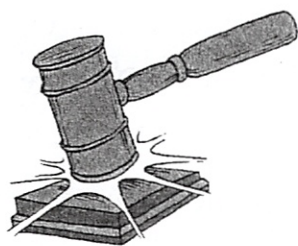
So PLEASE could you send me your email address as soon as possible! Mail me at JRWainwright@aol.com

If you have any contacts or sponsors

All communication costs money. Whilst we will not let up on the fight for area funding, any money we can save or bring in through sponsorship or advertising will always be needed. So if you have any contacts or are in a position to help in this way let me know, please.

Log on eastcoastclassics.co.uk - the website for East Coast OGA !

Old Gaffers Association



THAT AGM!

First of all I would like to thank all those who managed to get to the AGM in London. One of the problems with the OGA is that it is a widespread organisation, and it is not easy for the majority of members to make their way to London for a meeting. It costs money and who wants to sit through a boring meeting? Many more make the effort to come to their local area AGM to have their input on how the OGA should be run, both at area and central level. That should really be enough, but it is not.

Thank you too, to all those who asked me to take a proxy vote for them. Unfortunately the meeting decided not to accept proxy votes on this occasion. There is nothing in the rules against proxy votes, but on the other hand there is no agreed machinery for incorporating them.

Why not proxy votes?

Herein lies the problem- how do we make the OGA more accountable to the wishes of its members, who pay their subs for the existence of the organisation? How do 50 Dutch members reasonably make their views count, for example. Even from the East Coast it is the best part of £20 for a round trip to London. It's a lot worse for many of the others.

If we were a trade union, perhaps we would have a block vote system for area reps., bringing in mandates and composites from area general meetings. But that system has its problems. So why not proxy votes, so that at least you have a chance to cast your vote without having to spend the value of your subscription, perhaps many times over, never mind the time?

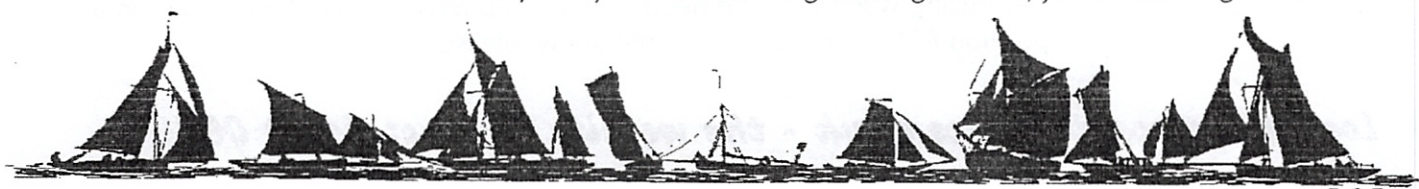
Mandate for proposal that a proportion of subs be returned to areas

At the East Coast AGM we had a mandate from the members to put forward a proposal to the Central AGM that a proportion of the subs you pay are returned to the areas as a matter of course. Brian Hammet, the official proposer, unfortunately was, through illness, unable to present this. However Rob Williamson did so very well on his behalf. The broad theme has the support of some other areas, including the Solent, so that is what members must want in general terms. In terms of what actually was agreed, we talked about a review of finances, which embodied the proposal. This has to be translated into a subscription level not exceeding 25% increase. But considering the requirements of the Central administration in terms of a membership book, enhanced full colour Log, insurance and other things, "there may not be anything to give to areas". So the concept of a proportion of subs back to the areas may be lost, despite it being the wishes of the membership as a whole. We have to be vigilant on this one.

Nominations or offers for World President urgently required!

However, we have a new Association Treasurer on board, who has promised to talk to area treasurers as a priority, which makes a refreshing change. Getting people to do this sort of job is very difficult, so the OGA is lucky. The current Association President is in his last year- we do need to find a replacement for him as a matter of urgency- Nominations or offers ASAP please!

One sometimes looks out to sea, and there is a beautiful sight of a fleet of traditional gaff rigged vessels under way in a race or some rally. So peaceful, so natural, so uncomplicated. But for that to have happened, behind the scenes much blood and tears in meetings will have been given, entirely voluntarily! Why the hell do we go through all this, just to have a good time!



Old Gaffers Association



*Section on the web
where cruising ac-
counts can be pub-
lished*

*We still have videos for
sale, by the way!*

END OF SEASON RALLY, AGM & PARTY 6 NOVEMBER 2004

The combination of the three aspects to this event has made it a very pleasant occasion over the last few years. Although the venue is not that easy to access from the southern extremities of our region, it is very popular, and we have getting on for a hundred people turning up. The best way of course is to turn up by boat, and we had about dozen boat attending the rally. Noorderzon, Transcur, Bona, Deva, Margaret Jay, Plum, just to name a few.

The business side was well chaired by Brian in the circumstances. The area had received a lot of flack from on high regarding its (legitimate) 2003 claim for Central funding, and there were suggestions that the East Coast should cut its cloth accordingly. But the financial facts for 2004, as presented by our lovely Fred (who is now, incidentally, the Company Secretary for the Royal Burnham Yacht Club), do not support this thesis, and the committee were left in no doubt that we ant more of the same! We had the more pleasurable side of the business in presenting the Cruising Log trophies. There was increased interest in this, and Brian also presented a new Cup towards the competition. This went to Graham Jenkins, whilst Peter Butler won the Francis B Cooke Trophy. For all those who can submit their cruising accounts, we have a section on the web where these can be published. This is useful information for those planning cruises. The Points Series prizes were awarded (see report elsewhere) and we had a power point presentation on the handicap system, and how it had worked over the season.

Brian closed the meeting, on schedule, in readiness for the social, where everyone could have a chat, a bite to eat and a beer or two. The OGA film, produced very kindly by Peter Clarke for free, was given its UK premiere- we still have videos for sale by the way.

It was a lovely way to end the season, just rather sad the next morning when we realised it was all over.

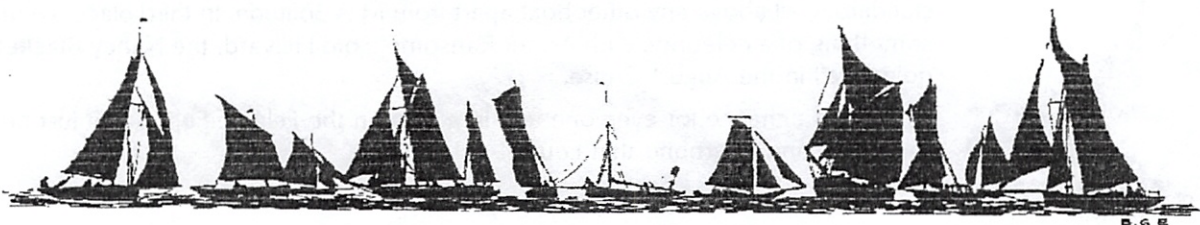
The Minutes of the AGM will be published next issue. Brian has been given them to edit as part of his recovery therapy!

THAT CLAIM!

Some of you may have heard or read various asides and comments about the East Coast Area claim from Central finances, which was made in late 2003 and eventually settled in 2004. Members will recall from the November 2003 AGM our reserves were on the low side. We therefore called in various unpaid debts from Central and also claimed, as is any area prerogative, support for local newsletter costs. It was not "beer for the band" as one source said in high places or anything like that. Members see our accounts at the AGM. They are well detailed, and have been in the approved format as inherited by our Treasurer. They have always been independently checked.

A letter has been sent by our President to the Association Secretary to put matters right.

If anyone requires further information on the above, please could they contact me.



Old Gaffers Association



2004 TOM FELGATE MEORIAL POINTS SERIES

The East Coast Area is the only area of the OGA which runs, or indeed can run, a Points Series, because we actually have enough sailing events. The basis of a Points Series is to reward those who turn up and who put in a steady performance throughout the season. Because of the variety of conditions and locations we sail in, all round performance of crew and boat is important. In 2004 the sailing sub committee restricted the number of races to count. For the most part the eligible races were at a weekend, so even if you could not take the holiday, you could still take part. The races which counted were Crouch Rally, East Coast Old Gaffers Race, Sole Bay Race, Pennyhole Bay Race, August Cruise and Maldon.

2004 was probably one of the more difficult years for racing, with strong winds and bad weather discouraging entries generally, and for those who did turn up, forcing many retirements.

RYA Negative Points System was used. For those who did not take part or finish you would score the number of entrants. If you were first you would score one point. The handicap system used was the performance related one (for the few boats that was used on), except the East Coast Old Gaffers Race, where the standard one was used.

In the Gaffers class, despite the best efforts of the loaded/ performance related handicap, the little nobby Deva won the Gaff Points Trophy. In the Crouch Rally, the Crouch Mafia's usual trick of all astern retiring backfired on them. It was an average performance in the East Coast Race and Pennyhole. A lot of boats retired behind her due to conditions on the Sole Bay and at Maldon. So a boat, which stood little chance of winning a single race with her increased handicap, but was able to get to most of the venues, had a crew who survived the on-board conditions, and could slog round the course in almost any conditions, won the series!

By contrast, the schooner rigged 6 metre rocket Eileen had such a good performance in just two of the races, East Coast and Maldon, that she was able to haul ahead of most of the field, although fair bit short on Deva. She was awarded the Runner-up Trophy. Winning third prize was the Dutch owned Falmouth Work Boat Ragamuufin. Although unfamiliar with the waters, her huge efficient sail plan gave her a reasonable result in the East Coast Old Gaffers Race. Ragamuufin suffered a knockdown in both Pennyhole and Sole Bay Races, but her skipper held on with presidential determination to do very well in both races!

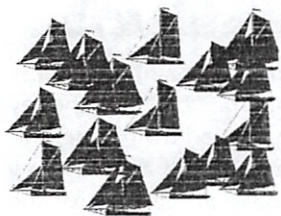
There were good performances lower down the big field from the smack Sunbeam, cutter yscht Kestrel, the Memories Letty May and Greensleaves, the Falmouth Gromit, the ECOD Wizard (who won the East Coast Race) and the Tosher (and 2003 Points winner) Molly Cobbler.

In the Bermudians, M A Solitude was almost bound to win, with her speed, all round performance and skilful crewing. She might take the undersea route on occasions, but that doesn't slow her down much! For second place you have to congratulate Random. She is a sturdy cruiser, but she was sailed to a very high standard, well above any other boat apart from M A Solitude. In third place, we had something of a celebrity, with Arthur Ransome's old Hillyard, the Nancy Blackette doing well in the August Cruise.

So there's a chance for everyone to win a prize in the Felgate Series- you just need to turn up and get round that course!



Old Gaffers Association



*There's a lot more for
open boats*

*Time-warp at Foulness
Island*



*Why not take your
holiday in Holland
this year?*

*Ben, give Victoria a
run out,*

*First official Dutch Old
Gaffers Race 30 July*

2005 SAILING PROGRAMME

I seem to say it every year, but yes, again we have a lot planned for the area in 2005!

But not that much! (only about 40 days if you throw in the Dutch Trip!) We have spread the days more evenly, and more of the events are in holiday times. It is just possible that you don't have to be on a private income or retired to do the whole programme! There's a lot more for open boats, with specific events at Wrabness (Easter Bunny), Brightlingsea (evening series) and of course Swamanzons- about 10 days, apart from what might be done in the August Classics, and other events which may occur during the season.

For the cruisers we start with Foulness on the first weekend in May. There is something very special about anchoring off the Island and walking through the fields to the little pub. It's like being in a time warp, the East Coast of fifty years or more ago, when it was just where plough met sail. This event is followed by the Crouch Rally at the end of May, as part of the Royal Burnham Whitsun Regatta. The Royal Burnham always give us a very warm welcome, and the racing with the Crouch Mafia is probably the most challenging we have on the East Coast!

Then we have Brigaff, which with the help of some special funding is now being extended by a week into the Colne and Blackwater Festival of the Sea! The first part will follow the lines of last year's Brigaff, followed by an evening series for open boats etc. More details later on.

Southwold Festival of the Sea is a stand alone event this year, running July 14-17. See elsewhere for more details.

Although it does not get the outside recognition it deserves, the "Swamanzons" event is the OGA event for open boats. Based on the Walton Backwaters made famous by Arthur Ransome, Saturday 23rd July is the day for the "Round the Islands" race for open boats, and on Sunday there is always a special event, often involving Treasure Hunts or hunting pirates. The shore base for this is the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club, where we also have the use of the "Pool" for paper boat competitions and mooring mother ships. Facilities for launching, camping and B & B are all readily available for the trailer sailors, and the whole event is wonderfully run for the benefit of old and young gaffers by Tessa and Stuart.

Now it's time for your summer holidays. Why not take them in Holland this year? Nice people, lots of sheltered water to sail on, plenty of attractive towns to visit by boat. Good transport for crew changes and cheap mooring. And the Shipmate (Dutch) Classic Yacht Regatta has a nice event laid on for you. Starting with the North Sea Classic Passage Race on 24th July, we sail to Roompot. Then there is a nice little cruise through South Holland or Zeeland. Zerkzee for the mussels, then up the canal to Steenberg for the last time for a fantastic shore side party. North up the Volkerak to Willemstadt, a 16th Century fortified town, before the Passage down the Haringvliet to Hellevoetsluis on 28th July, where we have a civic reception. One of the three days of racing, 30 July is the first official Open International Dutch Old Gaffers Race (under OGA rules). There's a very fast Belgian who has been showing us up for the last few years. It's about time one of our speedy gaffers took her on- how about it Ben, give Victoria a run out, and get her name on the European Challenge Cup too! Then you can have a nice cruise home, through Veere and Middleburg, down to Ostend and back to Blighty in daylight. By the way Bonify, don't forget to allow a week for getting back after Hellevoetsluis.

2005 PROGRAMME (cont)



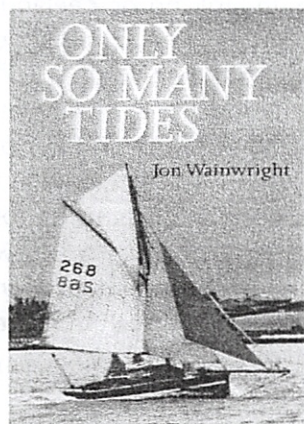
About a fortnight later you will be itching to get back to gaffing again! And guess what, we have the August East Coast Classics, 21-28 August. The "Not the Shotley Classic Boat Festival but the East Coast Classics" has been moved from June into August. There are several big trophies for races to be handed out, but as you know the Classics is essentially a touring festival. We do touch base at marinas for the occasional scrub up of the crew and replenish supplies, but it is also rallying at some of the very pleasant anchorages in our rivers, mucking about in dinghies and barbecues, something for everybody, whatever their nautical persuasion, whatever their ages.

As the racing season comes to a close, we go back to our OGA roots at Maldon for the Town Regatta and OGA Anniversary Rally on 24th September. There is a race in the Blackwater Estuary, which finishes at Osea Island, then we regroup to have a Parade of Sail up to Hythe Quay. This is one of the nicest approaches to any East Anglian port, and ashore we gather for the Crew's Party in Taylor's Yard before adjourning to the Maldon Little Ship Club, where the OGA was formed on 23rd September 1963!

The final rally is at Woolverstone in November, date to be advised. This is also our Annual General Meeting where prizes for Cruising Logs and the Annual Points Series are awarded. And of course our "End of Season" Party. It's always been a good do since we moved there, very well attended. The atmosphere captures what the OGA should be about, having fun, being positive, taking part and looking forward to 2006.

*Details and updates on
 website
eastcoastclassics.co.uk*

*Watch the 2004 OGA
 video or read the
 manual! Details on
 website.*



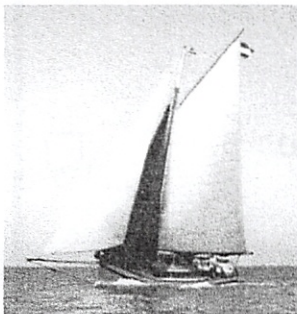
2005 Diary Dates East Coast Area

5 March	Annual Dinner Royal Burnham Yacht Club (01621 783969)
26-28 March	Easter Bunny Rally Wrabness (01473 681229)
23 April	St George's Day Rally (01206 391870)
1-2 May	Foulness Rally (01621 783969)
14/15 May	Enkhuizen (oldgaffers.nl)
28-30 May	Crouch Rally/ Whitsun Regatta (01621 783969)
10-18 June	Brigaff 05 (incl. East Coast Old Gaffers Race) & Colne and Blackwater Festival (01206 393537/ 308420)
14-16 July	Southwold Festival of the Sea (01206 393537)
23-24 July	Swamazons (open boats) (01629 540601)
24-31 July	North Sea Passage, Zeeland Cruise, DCYR Hellevoetsluis (01206 393537)
30 July	Dutch Old Gaffers Race Hellevoetsluis (oga.nl)
21- 28 Aug.	August East Coast Classics (01473 832 808 / 01206 391870)
24 Sept	OGA Anniversary Rally and Maldon Town Regatta (01621 852808)
November	Woolverstone Rally, AGM & Party

Dutch Report



Oldgaffers.nl



Presidential Ragamuffin

Enkhuizen 14/15 May

Dutch OG Race 30 July

**Dutch refused export
licence for PITA Trophy**

**Muschka's skipper re-
membered**

**Tini Homan remem-
bered**

The East Coast has always had a strong affiliation with the Netherlands, and with 2005 being a Hellevoetsluis Year, we hope to see many UK OGA boats over there.

For a few years now I have based half my fleet in Enkhuizen in the IJsselmeer- currently Maryll is there. In the winter season it is cold but nice and quiet, and it's lovely to take a short cruise to one of the many lovely little ports around the Lake. Although I do get complaints from the locals about spoiling their skating, the people are generally very friendly and tolerant. From the East Coast we have the Stena high speed ferry, and it is not too expensive to go over, an Apex return, including travel to any Dutch Railway station being £46. With mooring generally being cheaper than the UK, it is worth considering basing your boat over there for a period. Apart from one or two months a year in the winter, it is normally possible to always be able to do some kind of sailing, and the shore leave is very good too! Let me know if you are thinking of doing this.

It's been very useful being a member of the OGA, especially now we have a thriving Dutch organisation. At 50 members in its first year it's already larger than some established UK areas. This new network does make it much easier for the UK visitor to get advice on moorings and other marine services, as well as meet up with some nice people. I have had a lot of help from Joachim (Dutch President) this winter.

By coincidence I happened to be at the Presidential Residence when there was a meeting between Dutch OGA, the VKSJ (Classic yachts) and the Kotter Club (North Sea Fishing Boats). Although my understanding of spoken Dutch was little better than Bess' (Presidential House Rabbit), it was wonderful to

see the three organisations working together. Out of that meeting we had agreement to hold the Dutch Old Gaffers Race at Hellevoetsluis (you can enter that without having to take part in the Classic Yacht Regatta) and a joint event in September in Enkhuizen. So it should be quite a sight to see the three fleets filling the old harbour.

I hope to get some information from the Kotter club to do an article for Gaffer's Log about their boats.

In terms of the boats joining the Dutch OGA, initially they seem to be of English style or origin- There's a pilot bawley relation of Bona's, there is steel Essex smack, a Deben Cherub, for instance, as well as quite a few GRP and steel gaffers. Of the more local designs there is of course a huge fleet. If they ever decided to join the OGA, we would have to have the Main Association AGM in Amsterdam instead of London! There are a large number of specialist organisations to cater for local types of boat, but there is nothing quite like the OGA. The chance to meet up with like minds in an enjoyable, not too heavy, environment is our appeal, and Joachim seems to be steering the right course.

The Dutch OGA will be holding their first event of the year on 14/15 May in Enkhuizen. Part of the Quayside in the Old Harbour has been reserved for the gaffers. It will be quite a busy weekend there, as it's a public holiday on 16th May. The harbour authorities were a bit worried about our bowsprits running amok with the Pink Sail Fleet, who will also be there, but I think that's OK now. Very tolerant country! More details will be published on the website as they are received. The Dutch Old Gaffers Race is on 30 July. Those who were at East Coast Classics last year will remember that Joachim was awarded the PITA trophy, because we wanted to get the damn trophy out of the

country. With his Presidential position it is now in his gift to award it. But don't let that stop you going to Holland. There is an import ban to stop it ever returning to the East Coast of England.

Frans van Leeuwen

Some of you will know of Muschka, a 75 square meter from Hellevoetsluis (current holder of the VKSJ Challenge Cup). Her skipper Frans van Leeuwen died recently, and Joachim had to give an address at his funeral, just before coming to the London AGM. Frans was one of the founders of the Dutch VKSJ, the serious association for classic sharp yachts. But Frans was also very friendly to little old gaffers (even let Deva tie alongside!), and was often to be seen socialising with some of our Dutch OGA members like Molly and others at her base in Maudhaven off the IJ in Amsterdam.

Tini Homan

It is with deep regret I have to report the death of Tini in the Netherlands. Her husband Rik and her kept a Cornish Crabber called Otter at Heybridge Basin, which they shared with Hans and Wanda Weehuizen. They were often seen at OGA Rallies, or cruising the East Coast. We also used to meet up with Rik at Tini at Hellevoetsluis, sailing in their "Dutch" boat. Tini had been very ill for some time, and failed to recover from complications from a last - chance operation. Our deepest sympathies go to Rik, her husband of 35 years, and friends and family. The funeral was held on 12 February in Gouda.



Please indicate your choice from the menu by writing the amount of each choice in the box next to each item. Wine to be ordered on arrival

East Coast OGA Dinner 2005

Royal Burnham Yacht Club Saturday March 5, 2005

MENU

North Atlantic Prawns ☐

Coated with Marie Rose Sauce and garnished with Sweet Cherry Tomatoes and Dill

Rack of Lamb ☐

Marinated in Rosemary and Thyme and placed on a bed of Spring

OR

Poached Scottish Salmon ☐

Served with a Spring Onion Champ and coated with a Lemon Parsley Butter

Sticky Toffee Pudding and Custard ☐

OR

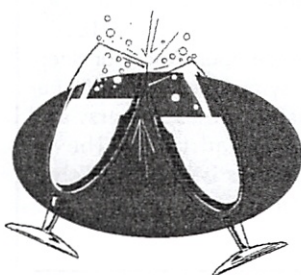
Fresh Fruit Salad and Creme ☐

*Cheeseplate with Grapes and Celery
Coffee and Mints*

Name.....

Guests.....

Contact Telephone Number.....



Please complete this form and send with your cheque for £21.00 per head to Mrs D Rawlinson 24 Russet Way Burnham on Crouch, Essex, CM0 8RB before 1st March 2005. Cheques payable to OGA

Old Gaffers Association



EASTER BUNNY RALLY

Wrabness 25-28th March

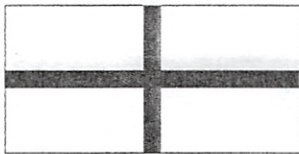
Once again Melvyn Fox has kindly offered to stage our first sailing rally of the season. Basically we are gathering at Wrabness, where we have the use of Peter Elliston's "shore based smack" (beach residence really!) as headquarters. The sailing side is for open boats, smack's boats or any sailing dinghy. There could be a race round Holbrook Bay, or a foray ashore in Suffolk. There could be a beach party round a fire. There certainly will be fun, whatever happens, for all ages! Mother ships and other cruisers are also very welcome, there are normally lots of mooring available. So whether you tow your skiff round to Wrabness, or bring her by road, we should be able to deal with it. If you are not sailing, you can even come by train (Direct services from London now!)

Contact Melvyn on 01473-681229 or email melvyn.fox@btinternet.com for details.



St Georges Day Stour Rally! 23rd April

Actually it is due the Irish that we are having a rally on St George's Day! The Irish East Coast is making a visit to the English East Coast. Those who went to the AGM in London will recall what a musical gang our friends from Northern Ireland are, and this rally is by way of payback of hospitality shown to East Coast members in previous years.



The Irish come over to Wrabness on Friday evening, where they will stay in Peter Elliston's, shore based smack. You are welcome to sail to Wrabness for the party on Friday, plenty of moorings available. On Saturday, by car, train or boat, we make our way to Stour Sailing Club for a lunch time session with Irish Music (And I hope a rendition or two of Jerusalem!), then return for a beach party at Wrabness. The Irish return home on Sunday.

If you would like to come along, give Peter Elliston a call on 01206 391870, so we can make sure we have enough of everything at Wrabness. If you can't come by boat, do come by other means, we can sort out local transport.

People are free to join in at any point of this rally as this is a really laid-back event to ease you in gently for the season. If you would like to come please ring Fred on 01621 783969.

FOULNESS RALLY

30 April-2nd May 2005 (May Bank Holiday)

Once again we are planning a rally on the Rivers Crouch and Roach.

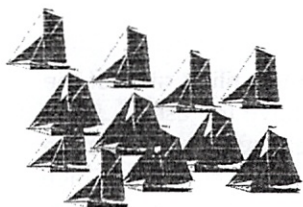
The plan is to sail from your home ports to North Fambridge, pick up a mooring and proceed to the Ferry Boat pub for the Saturday night get-together, where bar food will be available for all. It's a chance to meet everyone and have a good old get together. Then on the Sunday it is proposed that we have 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 hosts, Fred & Reylda Farrenden, awaiting our arrival. Monday we sail for home.

Just a couple of points:

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



Old Gaffers Association



**East Coast Old Gaffers
Race 11 June**



BRIGAFF 05 (COLNE AND BLACKWATER FESTIVAL) 10-18 JUNE

Thanks to some special "MAYA" funding, BRIGAFF is to be considerably enhanced this year, particularly on the public and shore side. There will be a big programme of entertainment, special large vessels in attendance and many other features, aimed at promoting tourism and the local environment. More details on these when available.

From a sailing point of view, we begin with the established Brigaff pattern. There will be a timed passage race from home ports to get us to Brightlingsea on the evening of the 9th June. On Friday 10th June there will be a cruise to Osea Island and a Race back to Brightlingsea. On Saturday 11th of June there will be the East Coast Old Gaffers Race, which has been running continuously since 1963. On Sunday we have the Parade of Sail to Wivenhoe, with a lunchtime party at Wivenhoe Sailing Club. Monday sees a race to West Mersea, followed by a sea-food platter in the Old Oyster Packing Shed.

During the week, in the late afternoon and evening, there will be open boat racing, especially for Fisherman's Open Boats, Smack's Boats and other traditional dinghies.

On Saturday there will be a general regatta by the Colne Yacht Club, who are our hosts for the occasion.

Further details will be published as they become available. The programme is still in development, and the organisers would like to hear from other appropriate societies who would like to be involved. They would also like to hear from potential sponsors who would like their names associated with possibly the largest event on the East Coast this year. Telephone Richard Giles on 01206 308420.

SOUTHWOLD OLD GAFFERS FESTIVAL OF THE SEA 14-17 JULY

Southwold is being run as a stand - alone event this year, but will still have all the wonderful entertainment and fun ashore which has characterised this special event in a special place. It is the last year of the special funding which Waveney District Council found from European coffers to pay for all the shore side and moorings- approximately £9000, so we need to make the best of it- when it is gone it is gone! Hopefully, having got the town and local businesses more involved, we will be able to continue in future years, but I doubt it will be like this!

We hope to have some yachts sailing over from Holland in readiness for the North Sea Race the following weekend.

**Sole Bay Race Saturday
16 July**

We start with the Passage Race on Thursday from Harwich to Southwold. Do bring your alarm clocks, because it is a very early start with the tides as they are. We don't want you punching the flood round Orfordness! Rum Old Boys should be at the Harbour Inn to welcome us.

It was going to be an even earlier start for the Passage Race to Lowestoft, until it was suggested it might be easier to invite Lowestoft to Southwold, rather than vice versa! So Friday is Concourse d'Elegance morning, Jazz at lunch time, a little race for the Nancy Old Field cup in the afternoon, and back in the Harbour for John & Mario in the evening.

Saturday is another easy day! There will be an exhibition on Trafalgar, OGA and other related items on Gun Hill, a lunchtime shanty band and the big Sole Bay race sponsored by Adnams in the afternoon. Then it's back for the Hog Roast at the Southwold Sailing Club followed by the Prize Giving. Just to finish the evening off, we walk to the harbour entrance where there will be a magnificent firework display.

Sunday will be for the Southwold Sailing Club Regatta, and for many of us the start of the passage back southwards. But we hope to have another visit of the Brown Boats and lunchtime Jazz before we go!



Old Gaffers Association



SMACK NEWS



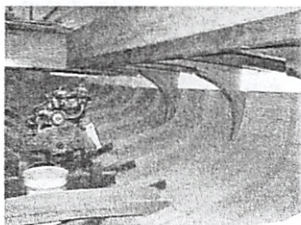
Looking through the latest copy of "Smack Dock Soundings" (Journal of Colne Smack Preservation Society), I see there are several restoration/ potential rebuild projects featured. Brian Kennell and Shaun White are rebuilding the 1926 Leigh Cockler Endeavour. They have also taken into their care the 1884 50ft smack ABC, the 1893 Priscilla MN76 and the big smack yacht Volante, for which they hope to find people to take them over and restore them. Clearly no such project should be taken on unless time and resources are available, but my goodness, what superb vessels they will make. Anyone interested telephone Brian Kennell 01206 331212. The CSPS have a Shanty Night and Sea Food Supper on 12 March in Brightlingsea, (302301) and their big event on the Colne on 10th September.



Over the Christmas break I was taken over to Dedham to see how Gus was getting on with the 1898 bawley Gladys' rebuild. Gladys was rescued from the Nene, I believe, and kept at Duxford until some one could take her on. Gus has certainly done that. Over the years the whole frame has been replaced, keel, ribs, stempost and everything. She has been replanked and now the deck sheathing is going on. Her hull should be finished this year ready for launching. She feels very much like Bona when you are on board, quite similar dimensions and draft. Obviously at this stage of the project you start to wonder about the sail plan, which is very difficult when there is little to go by in terms of the original boat. So Gus is on the look-out for a second hand suit of sails for a bawley that he can play with. Many of you will know Gus also has a big 1937 Scottish MFV, the Adax, which will be up for sale to the right buyer.

Not far away from Dedham, at Ardliegh, the late Harry Bird's smack Phantom is undergoing major repairs to deck, stern and sundry framing. She should be ready to take to the water later this year.

I have to end this report on rather a sad note. The smack Fly MN17, for many years, has taken part in local smack and gaffer races on the Blackwater. It is with regret that we learnt that he had died whilst on holiday this winter. Our thoughts go to Nick's family and friends.

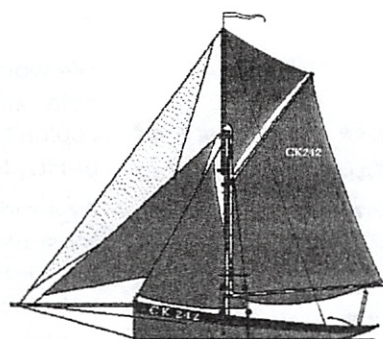
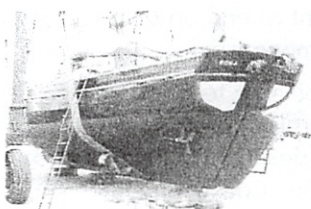


SMACK & BARGE MATCHES

28 May	Medway
25 June	Rowhedge Regatta
25 June	Gravesend Harwich Passage
2 July	Pin Mill Barge Match
9 July	Wivenhoe Town Regatta
16 July	Thames Match
24 July	CPS Sail & Picnic
30 July	Swale Match
13 August	Blackwater Match
27 August	Southend Match
10 Sept	Colne Match

MNK OGA EVENTS

16 April	MNK AGM
11 June	Annual Race
August	Bank Holiday
8 Oct	End of Season



Old Gaffers Association®



**Open to any member
who has something to
offer**

**First Meeting is 19 Feb-
ruary at Warsash**

**Let's be hearing from
you!**

**One good turn deserves
another!**

**Please e-mail me at
JRWainwright@aol.co
m or write to Portview,
New Road Mistley CO71
2AE or telephone 01206
393537**

SAILING SUB COMMITTEE

In an effort, no doubt, to keep me out of mischief, the OGA FGP has asked me to re-form the sailing sub committee. I must admit, after all the politics recently, it's nice to see the OGA getting back to its core value of messing about in old boats (or in their perception of the East Coast vice-versa). Attendance at the committee is open to any member who has something to offer.

Some of the items which are likely to be included on a future agenda are:-

Racing and Racing Rules- e.g. types of sails which should be used, any additional measures we could take in terms of race conduct to avoid damage to our boats

Handicapping- development of the system to try to ensure more equitable rating of boats- performance adjustments etc.

Sailing Programmes- range of events- event format- event enhancement- how to provide for the differing requirements of members

Possibilities of Joint events or timing of programmes to enable members of one area to take part in another.

Possibilities of one area providing support e.g. race officers to another

Safety Issues- risk assessments etc

Cruising Network- could we have a system of HLR's like the Cruising Association which gaffers cruising out of area could call upon (socially / or if in trouble)- could we develop some sort of database of cruising logs and other information useful for those planning their annual cruises?

Open Boats, getting people started in gaffering

Technical Matters- rigging, maintenance, sources of expertise

If you think there are other burning issues the sub committee ought to consider, please do let me know. The first meeting is in the Solent Area on 19 February, and I hope to have another one in the North to pick up Irish, North Wales and North West views.

CRUISING - HARBOUR LOCAL REPS

Although it might take a long time to set up a scheme of HLR's nationally, there's no reason why we should not make a start on the East Coast.

Obviously local pilot guides have a lot of useful information, but it's not quite the same as having someone you can call on. And sometimes the guides are quite erroneous - they are for my river! First thoughts on types of help or advice:

1. Local pilotage and where to moor or anchor
2. local supplies or services (victuals, fuel , repairs)
3. local shore leave- interesting places ashore- pubs- restaurants- walks
4. local transport/ assistance with crew change if feasible
5. boat watch
6. Emergency help
7. Welcome

We wouldn't expect the HLR to actually do all these things himself, but be a contact point and facilitator. There's no reason why two or three people in one location couldn't fulfil the role of HLR between them. What we want to end up with is a list of HLR telephone numbers, which can be issued to all members.

As a wide spread organisation, it's a service we ought to be able to do pretty well. Most of us would benefit from peace of mind when we cruise, and maybe save a bob or two in the process! On the basis of one good turn deserves another it's got to be worthwhile. So let's be hearing from you all, not just East Coast, but Dutch and Kentishmen as well!