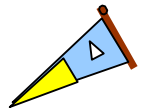


Dinghy Cruising Association



South Coast News



Issue No. 1 - Spring/Summer 2002

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Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of South Coast News. I have decided to produce this to provide a link between members who come to, or show interest in, south coast rallies. Some areas have wonderful web sites, but unfortunately the equipment at my disposal doesn't permit me to create one of these; so this magazine is my attempt, in a small way, to fill the void. It will be sent out at irregular intervals whenever I have something to say, so if you want to organise a rally or other activity at short notice, please either e-mail me the details or give me a ring at home and I'll get one out straight away, or as soon as I'm next in the office.

However, this edition will probably be delivered by the postman. If you'd like subsequent editions, **please provide me with either a largish (f/c or A5) sae or an e-mail address.**

I intend to send a copy of this magazine to Johnny Adams to put on the SE section of the DCA website so anyone with access to the internet can read it.

I have found that people change their e-mail addresses rather more frequently than they move house, so if your computer crashes or you change your e-mail address for any other reason, please send me the new one. Likewise, if you no longer wish to receive the magazine, please also tell me so I can delete you from my mailing list.

I don't know how my careful positioning of text and graphics will appear on your personal computers, so a posted version might be a better bet for some of you.

Liz Baker



Vanessa Bird, who works for Orbit Productions, is producing a 15-part documentary series for the Discovery Home & Leisure Channel called "Getting Afloat". She is keen to include a section on dinghy cruising, and would like to film a group of dinghy cruising enthusiasts moored-up together in a creek and talk to them about how we get involved, what boats/equipment we need, where we can cruise and what the DCA is all about. The Kench rally on 14/15 September fits well with her schedule. To give me an idea of numbers, could you let me know, please, if you will be coming to this rally and whether you would be willing to be filmed.

Liz Baker



Rally News

Fowley Island - 27/28 April - David Sumner

In the weeks leading up to the date we had fair weather and the first anticyclone for months. Several sailors contacted me about attending and we had high hopes of a bumper rally. These were:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| George Strubby | (Drascombe) |
| Duncan Gillcrist | (whose boat I apologise for not recording) |
| Roland Hunt | (Mirror) |
| David Jones | (Beaufort) |

Colin Newnes would have attended if the weather was better and Len Wingfield was going to crew for me.

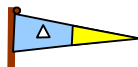
I was also contacted by Phil Weston of the Shipmate Owners Club, who were likely to meet up with us at the island (maybe another time).

Unluckily, weather systems started moving in the day before, bringing gales. Saturday was a little better, but the forecast was for cold weather with winds up to F6, and the weather station on Chichester Bar Beacon recorded winds of 25 knots gusting to 30 knots and waves of 1m.

Both Len and I visited Northney Marina, from where we could see the island with binoculars, but no boats were visible. Later, Liz Baker told me that Tom Hart (Fabian Bush ketch) had set off from Southsea but was unable to control the boat for the row through Langstone Bridge due to the strong wind.

There was a lot of interest in the rally and it would be very nice to meet everyone at other events during the season. Maybe we need a few more easy-to-reach venues to encourage new dinghy cruisers.

(Liz Baker would be interested to hear if anyone did get to the island)



Shipstall Point, Poole Harbour - 4-6 May - Alan Glanville

This was a most enjoyable rally attended by seven members and seven boats on Saturday night, with five returning for the Sunday night. Members and boats were:

Saturday Night Only:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| George Strube | Drascombe Peter Duck | <i>Golden Eye</i> |
| Keith Holdsworth | Own design yawl | <i>Flying Pig</i> |

Saturday & Sunday Nights:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Steve Bradwell | Enterprise | |
| Derek 'J' Milbourne | Dodnor Star Trekka | <i>Ka Lae</i> |



Len Wingfield
Dave Sumner
Alan Glanville

Leader
Mirror
Ness Yawl

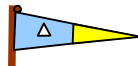
Rebel
Curlew
Lowly Worm III

Saturday and Sunday were fine with broken sunshine and a cool northerly wind. Monday dawned grey, drizzly and cold.

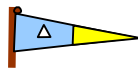
With Shipstall Point being a lee shore, we camped off the sandy beach on Long Island and were completely sheltered by a low cliff and trees. The nights were cold; one member who shall remain nameless resorted to full dress, two sleeping bags and a hot water bottle on Saturday night!

Short sails around the islands, and walks on Brownsea and Long Island were agreeably social. Saturday's winds were variable and often light, whilst Sunday and Monday were exciting, one reef weather. apart from 'J' who was on a mini-cruise from Keyhaven, via Newtown, to Poole, everyone else had launched directly into the harbour. Steve found a good public slip near the Royal Marines base at Hamworthy and parked on the street nearby, all for no charge. Len, Dave and Keith all launched at Red Cliff Farm for a cost of £5 including the first night's parking, and £2 for the second. George and I went in at Rockley Point with a £15 launching fee and £5 a night for parking. The latter was very secure for cars, however.

A personal highlight of the rally was the bluebell glade on Long Island with a proper, dug latrine surmounted by a plastic barrel seat. Sitting *en pleine air* with sunshine and birdsong was memorable - not quite as memorable as the ensuing observations on this by Len - but as this would rightly not get past our editor's blue pencil, you will have to use your imagination.



Wootton Creek - 26/27 May - got blown off. Weather was awful, with heavy rain and near gale force winds, but as a result of Len communicating by e-mail, Len, Liz, Tom Hart and Chris Jenkins met for lunch in the Bluebell Pub in Emsworth. Food was excellent. Nobody launched - not even in Chichester Harbour.



Oxhey Lake - 8/9 June - Liz Baker

Two days before this rally, I returned to work following an enjoyable few days in the Farne Islands to find the following e-mail on my office computer:

"Liz and Len I need your help - I have just returned from an enjoyable but unexpectedly quiet week-end at Oxey Lake. The usually impeccably accurate high water times were mysteriously at odds with the real world, that is until I checked the Bulletin and discovered that I had turned up a week early! Most embarrassingly, I was supposed to be hosting the rally. I'm afraid that I copied the date wrongly into my diary and thinking I had carefully arranged my holiday to avoid the rally, I now find that I will actually be in the USA when the rally takes place. Can anybody help out by swapping rallies with me?"



As "Tessa" was still in trailer mode, I decided to tow to the Hamble and sail from there, but an early start would be needed to catch the tide. In fact I wasn't sailing until 4 pm, and found myself beating against a light SW wind and foul tide. The outboard was needed to maintain forward progress. Off Beaulieu at about 7 pm I was overtaken by Len in his Leader. That boat moves on a zephyr and very soon he was a mere speck in the distance.. Three hours later and still motor/sailing I arrived to find Len alone at the venue.

The forecast next morning was SW 4, increasing 5-7 - and rain - so I resolved to set off as soon as we floated to catch the last two hours of fair tide and get back before it got too rough. Len hadn't heard the forecast until I told him shortly before I set off, double-reefed. It was exciting sailing - surfing at times, but my Cormorant, "Tessa", seems to thrive in these conditions and didn't give any worries., For once, however, I was thankful to be returning to the Hamble and not continuing to Chichester. I passed Warsash at 11 am, three hours after setting-off.

Len set off double-reefed, but off Lymington lowered his main altogether and completed the distance under jib alone. He safely reached Warwash about half-an hour after me.

The rain began as I reached Swanwick, so I had a welcome hot drink and lunch under my fishing umbrella, but all the packing-up had to be done in torrential rain - ugh!

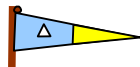
I later learned that "J" had looked into the creek about 3pm, but on seeing nobody, went away again.

. . . and . . .

Len's Version

Starting late from Warsash in my 14 ft "Leader", I anchored for a rest in Beaulieu River entrance, and was tempted to stay there. However, Liz Baker's "Cormorant" was sighted doggedly ploughing on to windward outside, so I joined her. It was almost dark when we entered Oxhey Lake, and I did a circuit of the inlet, but found no-one. Our original landing place had been bulldozed during the sea-wall reconstruction, and the shingle patch is no longer visible at high water. Despite Liz's advice I anchored at the wrong point, and despite her advice too near the sea-wall, so had to get up in the middle of the night to move my boat when it grounded at a horribly steep angle. In the morning Liz left early after warning me of a forecast F7. This time I heeded her advice and got away pronto! After Lymington I dropped the mainsail and sailed all the rest at a good speed under working jib only.

Did anyone else look into Oxhey Lake or go by road to the "The Chequers", only to leave again after finding nobody about?



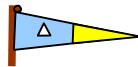
The Folley Inn - 22/23 June - Liz Baker

This rally was a disaster for me as my mast broke out on Chichester Bar. However, I was already returning to the safety of the harbour as I'd found conditions out there too rough to continue and was wondering whether I'd still have time to trail round to Swanwick and try from there when . . . c r a a a c k ! It wasn't so much the weather which caused it, as a design fault in the gooseneck fitting. Having sorted out the



tangle, I was motoring back towards Cobnor when I met David Sumner, so we had a chat and lunch together behind Pilsey Island before he headed off towards East Head and I continued upstream. Just off Cobnor Point I altered course to avoid a rather nice looking cruising dinghy when I suddenly realised it was Len in his "new" fibreglass 14 footer, obviously up there looking for me. Both he and David had likewise decided Chichester Bar wasn't the place to be that morning.

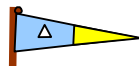
I later learned from "J" by phone that three members had assembled at the Folley Inn, himself with his "Dodnor Star Trekka", Chris Jenkins with his "Potter AX" and Steve Bradbury, who I've yet to meet, with his "Enterprise".



Newtown Harbour – 6/7 July – Len Wingfield

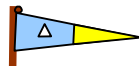
John Stone, the new owner of *Tai Tai*, a cabin-modified Roamer, and I launched from Swanwick because of weed problems at Warsash. Calm conditions soon forced me to accept the kind offer of a tow from John, but fortunately, by early afternoon, the wind picked up and we tacked down the Solent against the ebb. At our venue above Shalfleet Quay we found "J" anchored in his 16 ft, fast cabin bilge-keeler, and Chris Jenkins in his Potter AX who had sailed from Buckler's Hard. John Catlin, who keeps his yacht in Newtown Harbour, met us on shore (John has a 15 ft double-ender on order). As usual the way inshore was thickly in weed. Rowing was useless, but kedging-in with a thrown fisherman anchor worked. The weather had been lovely on Saturday afternoon, but by Sunday morning rain and mist had settled in, with a forecast of strong winds. John Stone left very early to ensure high water for recovering his boat at Swanwick, and Chris sailed for Buckler's Hard later. With the fresh favourable breeze I had no trouble in stemming the ebb stream under small mainsail only, indeed out in the Solent I was tempted to sail on jib only. "J" stayed on since he is almost permanently afloat April-September.

Incidentally, my boat at this rally was my heavily built GRP/timber traditional style 14 ft dayboat **Bluey**, which was based on an as-yet unidentified local class.



Calling VHF Users who Visit Chichester Harbour

New for 2002, Chichester Harbour Office will be issuing information broadcasts on Channel 14 at 9.15 local time, giving details of racing times and locations, weather reports, tide times and navigational warnings. These will be made at week-ends and bank holidays from Easter until the end of October.



FORTHCOMING RALLIES 2002

Apologies for incorrect phone number for Alan Glanville - no, I couldn't get hold of him either. I've now found what I think was the new one he'd given me, inserted in an obscure



page of my diary - 07960 010 857 - but I haven't managed to get him on this one yet, either - perhaps you will have better luck!

Please note Christchurch rally is 3/4 August, **not** 3/4/5th as shown in the Bulletin (my mistake!).

Always check the weather forecast before you sail, and don't set-off across open water unless you are sure you can handle your boat in the prevailing conditions. The DCA does not provide a safety boat and accepts no responsibility for the safety of members attending rallies.

| Date & Approx Sat | Venue | Host |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| HW Portsmouth BST | | |
| 3/4 Aug* | Christchurch Harbour OS 175 911 (Hengistbury Head side) | Liz Baker |
| HW Christchurch approx. 17.00 | | |
| 17/18 August 19.35 | Bembridge OS 642 887 | David Jones 01403 266 800 |
| 31 Aug / 1 September 16.13 | Hurst Point OS 316 904 Meet near black wooden hut on beach Bar-b-Q | Alan Glanville 07960 010 857 |
| 14/15 Sept** 17.52 | The Kench, Langstone Harbour OS 694 999 | Liz Baker |
| 28/29 Sept* 15.40 | Burlesdon - End of season meet at The Jolly Sailor, and up-river cruise to Curbridge/Botley on Sunday. OS 492 093 Camping in boats possible on Lands End Hard, just below pub, or continue up-river beyond bridges for a quieter night. | Liz Baker |

** Accessible by sheltered water

* Suitable venue for families

