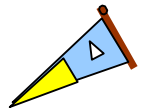


Dinghy Cruising Association



South Coast News



Issue No. 2 - August 2002

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Editorial

Let's assume it's 11 pm on an evening near the end of January and I have to get the rally programme in the morning's post, or I'll miss the deadline for the Spring Bulletin. Various people have phoned during the week agreeing to host a rally, and I seem to have all the information I need - until I come to type it. Oh dear! Once again I've forgotten to ask for rendezvous details. Jim has agreed to host Poole, Jack Bembridge, Harry Christchurch. It's too late now to ring anyone - I'll have to assume Poole will be Shipstall Point, Bembridge the patch of sand just inside the harbour entrance, and Christchurch our usual venue near Hengistbury Head, but you don't have to stick to these - it's YOUR rally - if you have a favourite corner you can rendezvous there. Someone might prefer a more urban venue for Poole, for example, nearer shops and shore facilities, or at a marina with showers, and this will attract others with the same preferences. So, before the Summer ends and while you are still sailing around, make a note of anywhere **YOU** particularly like and offer to host a rally there. Of course the usual venues are fine if you can't think of another.

Liz Baker

Cruise in Company to Bembridge - companion wanted . . .

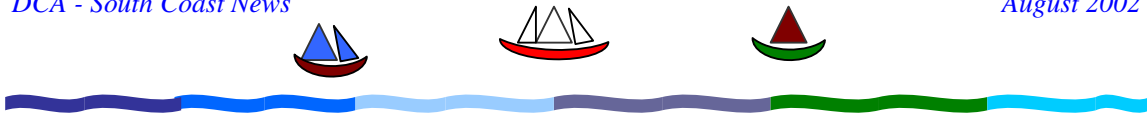
In an e-mail received from Stuart Jones, he writes,

"I am hoping to sail around the back of the Island to the Bembridge rally - weather permitting. If you know of anybody who would like to accompany me in their own boat, a bit of company is always nice. Two years ago Joe Scott and I did it in our two boats, going on from Bembridge to the Folly at Cowes, then through to Totland for a swim before heading back home."

Please contact Stuart direct on 01590 682 797, or e-mail [stuart@westernhaven.fsnet.co.uk] if you are interested.

Rally News

Up-date on the Folley. I learn that David Jones also set off from Chichester on the morning that Len, David and I failed to make it. However, he did better than the rest of us in reaching Bembridge before giving-up. Had we all reached Cowes we'd have had a well attended event.



Pitts Deep - 20/21 July - Liz Baker

This was a very successful rally, with warm, sunny weather and not a threat of rain, although it did blow up to F6 for a while in the afternoon. Six boats assembled at the venue, plus Richard and Vensa Moffat, who came on foot. These were:

Peter Baxter	Drascombe Lugger
Len Wingfield	Leader
Chris Jenkins	Potter AX
Steve Bradwell	Enterprise
"J" Milbourne	Dodnor Star Trekka
Liz Baker	Cormorant

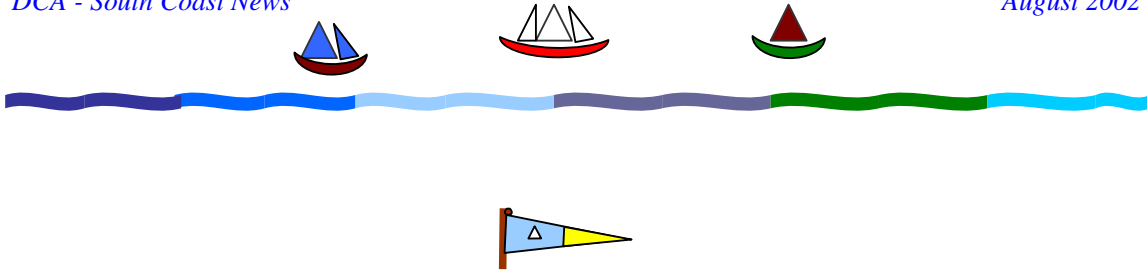
Keith Holdsworth nearly made it, but emerged from Beaulieu entrance at the height of the F6 and sensibly decided to stay where he was.

Oars and outboard had to be the order of the day for myself and *Tessa* as we were still mastless. It would be asking rather a lot of my small 2-stroke to attempt the voyage from Chichester, so I towed to Swanwick on the Friday night. Launching after dark I merely chucked tent and sleeping bag into the boat for the night and finished loading in the morning, then rowed down the Hamble to Warsash, saving the outboard for the harder bits. Although helped by the tide, the Solent was choppy enough to discourage rowing, so I motored all the way from Warsash to Durns Point, where I anchored for lunch. No point in reaching Pitts Deep at low water. As we rocked gently on the swell I watched three ponies, two mares and a foal, galloping along the foreshore - no riders urging them on - just galloping for the sheer joy of being alive on such a beautiful morning.

As I packed away the galley box I noticed that we no longer seemed welcome here - *Tessa* was straining at her anchor warp, and rollers were surging under us with an angry hiss. The westerly wind had increased to F5 or 6. Time to move. I recovered the anchor with difficulty, barking my shins painfully on the c/b case as I struggled for balance. The final two miles suddenly seemed an awfully long way. Painfully slowly, at full throttle, we moseyed our way onwards. At last the two cottages came in site, and not long afterwards a whole flotilla of boats became visible waiting for the tide to fill the creek. Even from here I could see them bouncing about - not much shelter there either.

Len's "Leader" was on the beach so, assuming enough water for him would be sufficient for *Tessa*, we squeezed between the Drascombe and the Potter and, scraping horribly, landed alongside Len. Not happy with the waves buffeting us onto the stones, I donned wetboots and dragged *Tessa* through the mud towards the shelter near the creek entrance where we swung peacefully to the rising tide. The others soon followed and as the water rose we entered the creek. The wind dropped while we cooked aboard our respective boats. Pitts Deep is so beautiful that some were content to remain in their tranquil anchorage, but most of us walked the mile up the leafy lane to the East End Arms.

Sadly the saltings at Pitts Deep are showing serious signs of washing away, and it's debatable how much longer we will be able to come here for shelter. The lady who lives in one of the cottages here has told me these used to extend all the way to Needs Oar near Beaulieu, and the erosion seems to be following a continuing pattern.



REMAINING RALLIES 2002

I still can't raise Alan Glanville by phone. Does anyone know how I can contact him? *Liz*

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 HW Portsmouth BST	Venue	Host
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 Off Sinah Lake, between inshore end of shingle spit and shore. Please come if you can - this could be your chance to appear on TV!	Liz Baker
28/29 Sept* 15.40	Bursledon - 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

. . . and in case anyone is planning the August Bank Holiday in Wales . . .

North West Rally - 24-26 August 2002. This will be based at Y Felinheli (formerly Port Donorwic) on the Menai Straits. HW 24 August mid-day BST. Suggest launch at Dinas Boatyard, map ref. 6702 5101. Contact Joan Abrams 0161 427 1191 (07789 161217 / 07901 911296)

