



# Solent Soundings



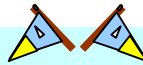
## Issue No. 18- July 2006

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Why not join the <http://groups.msn.com/MICROCRUISERSUK> website so you can share South Coast rally photos and general discussion?

### Editorial



Just another shorty this time so I can include some information from Cliff for his *Cruising with Cliff* week. I am pleased to reported a little progress with my varnishing work, but the garden still has to take priority, so the anniversary of Cobnor Week will be spent waging war on my hedges!

Liz

### Notes from Len

#### RALLIES CORRECTION

Sept 16/17 rally was incorrectly listed in the DCA Bulletin as Snowhill Creek, but the venue had been changed to Ashlett Creek as announced in Solent Soundings. As it was too late to change the bulletin entry the only option has been to run both rallies on the same date. Ashlett Creek (Sept 16/17) will be hosted by Chris Jenkins - Home 02392 601779 Mobile 07766 73357. Please support this rally if you can. Snowhill Creek will go ahead on the same date with Len Wingfield hosting as listed in the Bulletin.

Many thanks Chris Jenkins for turning up at the Piddle rally venue and camping in Force 9 and rain in case anyone arrived!

Len

### Notes from Cliff

The *Cruise with Cliff* week came about as there was no DCA Summer Holiday in the Solent area this year. It was conceived by someone (*me*) who really didn't know what he was doing and will probably rely quite heavily on others for passage plans and choosing anchorages. As the rally follows on from the Ashlett festival of Sail, my plan is to use Ashlett for anchoring on Saturday and Sunday nights. The plan so far:

**Sunday**, 16/7, sail up the Hamble to the Horse and Jockey for lunch – HW 1632 BST.

**Monday**, 17/7, cruise to the Medina, visit Cowes, the Folly or Newport – HW 1722 BST.

**Tuesday**, 18/7 - Hope that someone who actually knows the area might have arrived and come-up with a sensible suggestion. - HW 1814 BST.



**Wednesday**, 19/7, HW 0638 BST

**Thursday**, 20/7, HW 0743 BST

**Friday**, 21/7, HW 0903 BST

Newtown Creek rally follows, Sat 22/7, hosted by David Jones.

All plans subject to change. I will take mobile phone and GPS so I can give a

location for anyone trying to find me (us?) so long as the batteries last.

All tide times Chichester Harbour entrance.  
*Cliff Martin*

Tel: 01420 476608  
Mobile 07724108672

### Rally Reports



**Bembridge**– 24/25 June – David Jones

This rally was dominated by spring tidal streams and weak breezes that seemed to fail when most needed. Bravo! to the crews who, knowing these conditions were to be expected, made long passages without engine backup. The weather was fair until



Monday when Cliff and David sailed from Langstone to Chichester in heavy rain. Five DCA boats, all having sailed from Chichester Harbour, assembled on Saturday on the beach inside Bembridge harbour entrance:

Steve Skinner and Michael Dunbavin	Wayfarer	<i>Perlin Two</i>
Cliff Martin	Mirror	<i>Daydream</i>
Len Wingfield	Woodnut	<i>Bluey</i>
Steve Bradwell	Enterprise	
David Jones	Beaufort	<i>Speedy</i>

We also had the company of non-member Dick Pizey in Drascombe Lugger *Chloe*.

Cliff, Steve/Michael, and David launched on Friday to spend the night in Snowhill Creek for an early start on Saturday so had an advantage over Len and Steve who launched on Saturday at Worblington Road. Passage times to Bembridge were in the 4 to 8 hours range, compared to the 2 or 3 hours possible in favourable conditions! The beach was crowded with oversize yachts but we had space to anchor in a group and the dune behind was beautified by lovely yellow flowers later identified by Len as Rock Roses. A good supper was eaten in the "Pilot Boat Inn" nearby for under £10 a head. and Cliff

then entertained us using his pocket sized tender to get back on board "Daydream".



On Sunday morning we had all departed from Bembridge by 9 o'clock aiming for



Chichester, except Cliff and myself who decided to prolong the rally by going to Langstone for the night. Conditions were like Saturday's with some crews having to row for long spells and then missing tidal gates. On Monday the wind was good from Langstone into Chichester but died as we worked our way towards Emsworth hoping to get lunch there. But the calm brought the bonus of a close encounter with (I think a lone male) seal near

Marker Point which twice surfaced for breath just behind my rudder. By now the tide was ebbing so Cliff accepted a tow from me to the Emsworth pontoon. Even so we were too late for any food at the pubs so had to do with coffee, cocoa, and filled bread buns from the bakery café. Then we separated, I to recover at Northney Marina and Cliff to East Head for another night.

DJ

*... and Cliff Martin's version:*

Friday 23 June: Launched at Itchenor, sailed to East Head and found David's Beaufort. We chatted, then sailed to Hayling Island Sailing Club in a F3. While there I rigged my new home-made storm jib and found how important the jib is on a Mirror. The jury's still out on how it will cope in strong conditions. Back at East Head we concocted a barbeque and ate hot dogs while watching a white sail tack backwards and forwards across Chichester Channel and decided only DCA members would do this against a strong flood in light conditions.

We anchored in Snowhill Creek and the white sail appeared as Steve Skinner with crew (Mike?) in the plywood Wayfarer. Someone snored a lot in the night - it wasn't me. In the



morning David and I rowed out of Snowhill Creek at about 7 am. David Hoisted sail at East Head; I rowed out to the bar beacon and hoisted sail there. There was little wind, so I rowed and sailed, got caught by the tide, and ended up off Seaview. The wind had risen a bit and I managed to cheat the tide by creeping down the shore to Bembridge and dropped sail in the harbour entrance to row in, right in the middle

of the ebb! I then decided to row across the estuary, land and try to walk the boat in. Whilst three quarters of the way across I realised quite a strong current was sweeping me towards a breakwater on the port-hand side. I vaguely remember howling out "NO EBB!" to every oar stroke (very fast, very deep) until an oar tip touched the bottom and I jumped out, trembling like jelly so I could have a little rest before walking the boat in.

Steve and Crew had overtaken me en route by motor-sailing, and Steve Bradwell had also arrived. A guy in a Drascombe was also camping under a boom tent and he later joined us for our meal. Len arrived in the Woodnut about an hour after me.

The meal in the Pub was followed by the "getting back into boat ceremony" near high water, for which I had brought my new light-weight tender. It didn't take long to blow-up



by mouth and provided entertainment for everyone else as it was not big enough! Valuable lessons were learned in an on-going experiment at finding the ideal sized toy inflatable for the 13 stone Dinghy cruiser.



On Sunday I rowed out of Bembridge, sailed a bit, rowed a bit, refused three offers of tows and ended up being swept by the tide between the forts. David Jones had been close-by on the whole crossing but he managed to stem the tide back to Langstone while I sat like a lemon for two hours off Portsmouth, aiming the boat at the gap in the Submarine barrier which never got any closer. In the end I got sick of the wash from other craft so sailed well clear, hove-to, cooked a tin of gunge for dinner and boiled the kettle.

Shortly after the tide turned the wind got-up and I made good progress back to Langstone and got in through the swirling water by sounding up the edge using the spinnaker pole, with sails goose-winged. I had to sail into deeper water to clear the jetty on the starboard side and was barely moving, but finally

reached The Kench and rowed until I grounded, then walked the boat over the mud until I was just 20ft from David's boat, when could move my boat no further. It had taken seven hours to reach Bembridge, and eight to get back.

The next morning (Monday) David and I set off for Emsworth for lunch, a northerly F4 got us out of Langstone over the flood but shortly after turning east the rain started, although the wind stayed with us to Sandy Point. The rain eventually died off, as did the wind, and I ended-up rowing to catch David up. I conceded a tow from David to Emsworth and we had a big snack in the bakery.

David recovered his boat shortly after but I stayed on another night at Snowhill Creek to recover the next day. *Cliff.*

*For Sale  
Inflatable tender -  
as demonstrated at Bembridge.  
Only used once.  
Cliff Martin - 01420 476608*

### ***Remaining Rallies***

July 15/16 **Ashlett Festival of Sail**. OS ref 196/ 468 033. Events for boats under about 20feet. Details [www.ashlettsc.com](http://www.ashlettsc.com). Ashlett Sailing Club organiser Dawn Minard Tel 02380 899437. *Our 'Cruise with Cliff' week follows:*

July 16/22 DCA **Cruise with Cliff**. Cliff Martin intends stay on after the Ashlett Festival until the Newtown rally the following weekend. Why not join him for a day or for all week? Venues are to be agreed by those taking part, so please phone him beforehand. Cliff Martin, Tel (home) 01420 476 608, (mobile) 07724 108 672. or [dreamingdotcom@talk21.com](mailto:dreamingdotcom@talk21.com).

July 22/23 **Newtown Harbour** (just above Shalfleet Quay, OS ref 196/ 415 903) David Jones Home 01403 266 800 mobile 0781 8845613. Sat HW Portsmouth 10.12 BST

Aug 5/6 **Sinah Warren (The Kench)**. OS ref 197/ 694 999. David Sumner Home 01403 730152 Mobile 0781 880 1657. HW Portsmouth 08.19 BST Discreet camping ashore is possible.

Aug 19/20 **Wootton Creek** (Wootton Bridge) OS ref 196/ 547 921. Liz Baker Home 01323 842124 Mobiles 07957 945523 or 07584 652554 HW Portsmouth 08.59 BST

Sept 2/3 **River Medina** (Folly Inn) OS ref 196/507 930. Liz Baker Home 01323 842 124 Mobiles 07957 945523 or 07854 652554 HW Portsmouth 06.10 BST

Sept 16/17 **Ashlett Creek** OS ref 196/ 468 033. HW Portsmouth 07.20 With sail up to Marchwood or Eling on the Sunday morning? - Chris Jenkins home 02392 601779; mobile 07766 733517.

Oct 7/8 **Fowley Island** ( OS ref 744 044) **lunchtime meet** (Island accessible only within 2 hours of HW) with optional sail down to East Head. (Could overnight there or return to Emsworth pub and overnight on Fowley Island). Len Wingfield Home 01483 563422, mobile 077486 70155. HW Portsmouth 12.04 BST.