



# Emsworth Cruising Association

cruising for fun

## Newsletter

**June 2019**

### Commodore's Chat

Hi Everyone,

We are now into June and as I sit writing this the weather has become somewhat cooler and damper than we have been used to. I thought it was getting towards summer! We managed to squeeze in an impromptu few days in *Koto* in the first week of June, going up to Town Quay and then on to Bucklers Hard (both TransEurope), along with John and Julie in *Carina*. We had a cracking few sails and only used the engine to get in and out of the marinas (and up/down the Beaulieu River). There was a rally of 16 Dutch motorboats in Beaulieu, which we happened to follow in. It was quite a sight watching them all turn in a row into the river entrance in front of us.

May was a busy month with cruises to Bembridge and Littlehampton respectively. A full write up on Bembridge appeared in the last newsletter so I won't say any more here. We would love to have some articles, no matter how short, from those of you who attend the rallies to put a varied perspective on things. In fact anything on anything vaguely 'boaty' I am sure would be well received by Charles and Nicky. The rally to Littlehampton took place over the May spring bank holiday weekend, ably led by Tony in *Elwing II*.

It was the first ECA foray eastwards from the harbour for several years so it was a little disappointing that only 3 boats made the trip. It was the first time I had turned East at the entrance, and the first time I had been to Littlehampton for some time, so it was interesting to see the changes made to my old home town. Again I won't say more here as there will be an article covering the rally in detail later.

By the time you read this, the rally to Gunwharf Quays will have taken place (at time of writing 9 boats were coming), which is the last before the summer hiatus when we leave a break until the August bank holidays, so you can all get away on your summer holidays.

So far I have not had any direct responses to my query as to whether you would like us to arrange any formal or even informal rallies outside of weekends. From what limited feedback I have had from a small number of conversations, an option would be to have members who are going out during the week and don't mind having company come along, to create a post with details on the website. Any interested parties could then make contact and use something like WhatsApp to keep in touch about what is happening. I suggest it would be for individual boats to make any arrangements regarding marina berths etc. so there is no responsibility for anyone to act as an OOD.

Well I think that's everything for this month. If you want to contact me regarding anything to do with the ECA then please do not hesitate to do so at any time. It's your Association so if there is anything we can do better or you want to see us do then let us know. My contact, and other members of the committee are in the ECA Yearbook either as generic position addresses (e.g. [commodore@emsworthcruisingassociation.co.uk](mailto:commodore@emsworthcruisingassociation.co.uk)) or under individual members Details. We always want to hear from you.

Happy Sailing and Motoring

**Neil Fuller**

*ECA Commodore*

[commodore@emsworthcruisingassociation.co.uk](mailto:commodore@emsworthcruisingassociation.co.uk)

## Littlehampton May Rally

*Neil Fuller has an exciting ride to the east.*

With the tides as they were this rally was going to be more challenging than some in getting out and back to EYH. It was closing to neaps and the times were not conducive to morning lay-ins.

*Koto* left EYH at 05:15 and tied up to the Emsworth visitor pontoon to await the end of the ebb. After a cup of tea it was snooze time until 09:00 when a full English was the order of the day. We left the pontoon at ~10:15 and immediately had the sails up as the wind was roughly SW and around 10 knots. We managed to sail directly out of Chichester although I did cheat with the engine for a couple of minutes to head enough to get past HISC (I was too lazy to tack).

Once out to West Pole to clear the shallows it was a direct course to go between Street and Boulder buoys. It was a cracking sail on a tight reach. With the wind now around 13kn we were doing 6.5 kn through the water which was quite smooth. The Looe channel proved uneventful and we were soon

past the Mixon cardinal (which looks quite ominous) on a run. There were quite a lot of lobster pots around and at one point we diverted a few hundred yards to pass round what looked like a long line of joined pots just in case there were lines just below the water between them.

As we neared Littlehampton the wind gained in strength gusting up to 28 kn so we were crashing along under full sail. At this point we could see *Bob* ahead. Around Littlehampton entrance was a minefield of lobster pots so when it came to rounding up to take down sails it was a case of picking your spot carefully. It is when you head to wind that the full force of the wind and waves hits you and I hate the crashing and flogging of the sails. Mercifully that was over very quickly and we motored the last few cables into the entrance.

Along with the wind the sea had picked up, so we had 1m waves on the port side and a cross current from the starboard side as we approached the entrance. There was also a definite slope on the water as the cross-current then surged into the river around the East pier. As we had made such good progress we had arrived much earlier than planned and were at least two hours before HW. This meant we had about 3 kn of current going up the river. This made for a very speedy entrance and quick prayers that the engine would not decide now was a good time to play up.



The view upriver

We had radioed ahead as we came in to check arrangements and were met with a very friendly and polite voice on the radio giving us instructions. The harbour master had 3 very friendly and keen staff working the pontoons which made berthing on the visitor pontoon quite straightforward. In fact it was quite easy as in that sort of river flow ferry gliding into the current was very responsive and simple but you did need to keep position with the engine until the ropes were in place.

*Elwing II* and *Bob* had both arrived before us. We rafted outside another boat and then the staff moved *Elwing II* to raft outside us. The pontoon was fully booked out so *Bob* had a boat rafted outside. Everything was handled well by the staff so there were no problems or issues.

Once all was tidied up it was a quick visit to the harbour office to pay and get the facilities code. Facilities are clean but a bit basic and you don't want to be suffering from modesty if you take a shower in the men's facilities. The women's ones are slightly better I am told.



Rafted up on the visitors' pontoon

In the evening drinks and nibbles were taken on *Bob*. Andy (and Max) had been joined aboard by Jane (and Teddy) who, by this time, had driven round to Littlehampton. We were booked into

*The Arun View* pub for dinner so it was a short walk up the river to just by the footbridge. We had a good meal at a table overlooking the river, so it was a very pleasant evening.

Next day we were to be joined by Derek and Sheila who were driving around for mid-morning. Karen and I went for a walk along the beach front whilst waiting, where I checked out what had changed, and what hadn't. Much of the seafront had not changed at all, unlike the river frontage, which was nothing like I remembered it.

Derek and Sheila arrived early as traffic was much lighter than expected. Coffee was taken on *Koto* before we set off in the cars to go and visit Arundel. We parked in the massive carpark opposite the castle. We did a walk around Arundel centre before stopping off for lunch in the *Norfolk Tap* (part of the *Norfolk Arms Hotel*). This describes itself as a craft beer and coffee shop. It is quite unique inside. The staff were friendly and I got to try the beer before ordering. I can say the Tarrant Street table beer is really lovely. The food was very pleasant as well.



Preparing to inspect Arundel

After lunch Derek, Sheila, and Tony visited the castle. There was a re-enactment going on called 15<sup>th</sup> Century Raiders so there was gunfire, swords, and arrows were also flying about for most of the afternoon. Karen and I walked up to and around

the lake where we met up with Andrew and Jane, before retiring to the café by the putting green near the car park. After that we all met up outside the castle to head back to Littlehampton. It was a very pleasant way to spend the day.

Once back to the boats, it was a quick turnaround to head off to the *Dragon Chinese Restaurant* in Rustington. Jane headed off back home so we all piled into Derek's car to get there as it was now threatening to rain. The *Dragon* was really nice inside. It had round tables of various sizes from 4 to 10 seaters all with the appropriately sized lazy Susan in the middle. We ordered one of their set menus so we could all try everything. It was really good food at a reasonable price. After dropping us off after the meal Derek and Sheila headed back home whilst we all went to bed to prepare for getting up to leave around 06:00 next day to get the ebb back.

We all left together. Once out of the entrance *Bob* decided to sail whilst *Koto* and *Elwing II* decided to just punch straight into the 13-15kn winds to make the Looe channel. Again it was a case of dodging the lobster pots up to the Mixon. Once past the Mixon things got a bit interesting! It was wind over tide and winds were now in the 15-25kn area. This makes the Looe channel very confused with waves seeming to come in all directions. It was a bit like being in a washing machine. The waves were not so bad that we took water over the bows but the motion is all over the place. It did not calm down again until we were a couple of nautical miles past Street. The motion then eased up considerably and we were now not directly into the wind so the rest of the journey was ok.

*Koto* went to the Emsworth Visitor pontoon to await high tide. *Bob* went back to their mooring in Emsworth channel and *Elwing II* went on to Gosport. Andy joined us for tea before dinghying back to Emsworth Quay when tide allowed. We got back in before high tide as the tide height was

higher than predicted. I wait until there is 3.7m at Chimet when I have about 10cm to spare at the EYH sill.

All in all it was a great weekend and we all enjoyed it. There is more of a challenge heading East out of Chichester as you need to be going on end of the ebb/start of the flood so have to be out of EYH to do it. Coming back, passing outside the Owers may be a better option, rather than the Looe channel if conditions are not relatively benign but this adds about 10nm to the trip from Littlehampton.

## **Gunwharf Quays Rally 15th - 16th June 2019**

*Paul Bowman anticipates a windy ride to Portsmouth and looks forward to more tranquil times.*

As the time for this rally got closer, so the weather forecast got worse. Five days before the rally there were nine boats registered to attend, but as time went on, three boats cancelled, though not necessarily on account of the weather. Some potential participants might have had to prioritise Fathers Day on the 16th. On Friday, the forecast was SW 18kts, gusting 24, though we thought it could be stronger. With this in mind, I decided to accept Andrew Lane's offer of a ride on his larger boat and Patrick and Judy did the same, leaving *Vol au Vent* at EYH. As it turned out, I was pleased with my decision because the wind was about 25kts on the bow. We managed to get a small angle on the wind and *Mudlark* then surprised me by making 7knts with a reef in and a reduced jib.

We arrived at Gunwharf at about midday, with *Bob* just behind us. Jen was at the marina to welcome us, having travelled by train. Andrew is obviously getting the hang of twin rudders and bow thruster because he did a marvellous job of turning

and reversing in the close confines of the marina. Bob then berthed behind us, with *Koto* and *Elwing II* rafting on us. After a cup of tea we all split up to explore the 'delights' of Gunwharf Quays. Patrick and Judy treated me to lunch at *Loch Fyne* to celebrate my birthday, before catching the train back to Emsworth. I had a quick forage into three shops but managed to avoid buying anything. I then had a wander into Old Portsmouth before returning to *Mudlark*.



ECA fleet moored in Gunwharf Quays

We met for a pontoon reception at 1800 but had to commandeer *Mudlark's* cockpit enclosure since it was raining. We were also joined by Jane B and Jane H, who had both driven to Gunwharf. Fortunately, I'd remembered to transfer the drinks and nibbles from my boat and with other offerings, we managed to down a few bottles of wine and beer. My son then phoned and told me that it was a hot, sunny day in Anglesey!

After drinks, we made our way to *Carluccio's* for dinner. The meal was finished off by those around the table singing 'Happy Birthday' to me and the waiter bringing out a cake, complete with candles.

A very nice thought and a big thank you to everyone.



Happy Birthday Paul!

Jen and I accepted a lift back to Emsworth from Jane H, thus ending my rally participation. My daughter and family were arriving back from LA on Sunday, after four months away, so I wanted to be there to greet them. Having risen early, I was in Tunbridge Wells by 0900, whilst those at Gunwharf were probably having breakfast.



Mudlark at sea

The four boats made it safely back to Emsworth, though I later learnt that it had been a rough and windy sail back.



**Tony heading for home...**



**although at times...**



**the sea conditions...**



**made him less visible.**

## Down the Slipway

*Nicky and Charles (and friends) finally take the plunge.*

Every year we swear that, come what may, we are going to get *Witch Hazel* back into the water by the end of April and every year we don't do it.

Finally though, the boat (polished, painted, varnished, rigging-inspected, brand new chain bob-stayed, lubricated, gas checked) slips off the groaning straps of the Sublift and into the pool at Thornham. This year we had company.



**Swan realising that hissing isn't going to make Charles go away.**

A family of swans (perhaps displaced from Dolphin Quay) had ended up in Thornham Marina. The cygnets, still at the greyish duckling stage were very cute. But I have to report that the adults are not the best parents ever!

They had grain, they had water in a bowl misleadingly labelled "Dog". They had an almost empty pool to themselves. So they spent most of the day sitting down and preening. The male by evening had removed enough of his own feathers to stuff a plump pillow. The female, when challenged by two crows and a wood pigeon for a share of the grain, could not even be bothered to stand up to hiss at them. Around 4:30pm, Dad decided it was time to take the kids for a swim, did a slow half-hearted circuit of the pool and flopped down again on the slipway to remove a few more feathers.



**"Mum, Mum there's a giant bird thing chasing us !"**

Only when *Witch Hazel* lumbered into view on the Sublift did they think it necessary to move. The cygnets were a little alarmed at the appearance of a 10 ton boat at their tails and went off into a series of tiny squeaks. It was however left to the humans to make sure that they didn't get turned into swan pate.



O K, *we'll* launch too then.

*Witch Hazel* settled into the water and the female swan went back to her position on the slipway. Meanwhile, her mate started to pull inedible plants from the bank, only to throw them straight into the water with a look of disdain. The cygnets staggered up the slope calling appealingly and finally sat down in the lee of their uninterested mother and fell asleep. At this rate these water birds are really not going to get a part in David Attenborough's next wildlife epic unless they smarten up their act!

## Items to Log

**There won't be a Newsletter in July or August, as the fleet tends to disperse for extended holiday cruises. Watch this space for a bumper (we hope) September edition.**

## Summer Rallies

Don't forget the **Emsworth Yacht Harbour Summer Party** this year is on 13th July. **Lorna Tiffany** is the EYH contact.

**There are then no official ECA rallies until August but this gives plenty of opportunity to meet ECA friends on the water every time the weather plays fair.**

## On the Horizon

We are getting excited about **Paimpol Chants de Marins Festival 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> of August**. The journey there and back gives great opportunities for some real cruising in company (Yay, we're in the Alderney R-a-a-a-a-ce and we're doing 12.5 knots!) or just meeting up in a nice restaurant/bar. We are taking *Witch Hazel* as usual but your intrepid Commodore has a cunning voyage plan taking in such ports as Cherbourg, St Peter Port, St Helier, St Malo, Plouër-sur-Rance, Saint-Cast-le-Guildo, Dahouët, Saint-Quay-Portrieux, Lézardrieux and Pontrieux. So, if interested get in touch.



The Book says that this is an uncrowded anchorage

Don't forget to **save the dates** for the remaining rallies this season.

**24 -26 August: Brighton**

**13-15 September: Cowes & Southampton Boat Show**

**12-13th October: Bembridge (Season Finale)**

*Visit the website for details about all these which will be appearing shortly.*

## Just before we cast off.....

### Notices

1. Don't forget to keep a regular check on the **ECA Website Programme Page** for the full list of **2019 events and rallies**, and details thereof.
2. Please keep content for the website and the newsletter coming so we can share your interests with other members. **NB** It doesn't have to be like the old dreaded school "What we did in our holidays/outing to the box factory" type essay. Snippets, observations, shared boaty problems and images all welcome. Plus plenty of photos please.