

## **East Coast Shrimper and Dragonfly Week**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

### **A view from the Shrimper Fleet**

With the demise of Deben Week (hopefully temporary) there has been a keen interest amongst the Shrimper and Dragonfly fleets to provide some continuity for this family event which had become a well loved tradition over the last half century. The Dragonfly fleet have taken part in Deben Week since its inception, but the Shrimper fleet was a recent addition of only five years ago, although some of its sailors had progressed from the dinghy fleets of Deben Week.

The intention for the week was to include sailing and racing on all parts of the river together with some sea sailing and to involve all three clubs - Deben Yacht Club, Waldringfield Sailing Club and Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club. This has been achieved with much fun and enthusiasm.

The key to success has been the willingness of everyone to contribute. Those responsible for organising the details have been well supported by all the participants.

This year there were additional arrangements for the Shrimper fleet which spent a very enjoyable three day cruise to Southwold/Walberswick, returning via the River Butley. It is considered important for this fleet to combine the racing with some form of cruising/picnics/ exploring and next year the cruising/exploring will be confined to the River Deben.

The format for racing has been based largely on previous Deben Weeks, combining the week's points racing with special trophy races and an Adnams Trophy day. This year there were a number of social events including Supper at FFSC, a visit to the Radar station at Bawdsey with lunch at the café at Bawdsey quayside, a picnic tea at Ramsholt Rocks (tea provided by the Shrimpers and cakes provided by the Dragonflies), a Pimms evening at WSC, a 'Skippers Kippers' breakfast with a Fleet Blessing from the Rev John Waller together with an issue of tots of rum at WSC. The week ended with a final barbecue at WSC.

This year there were a record number of entries for both fleets – 9 No Shrimpers and 11 No Dragonflies. The racing was very competitive with the Shrimpers competing for a FFSC Trophy (from the first three races), a Points Trophy (from all five races) and an Adnams Trophy (from the last two races). The Dragonflies managed to pack in twelve races within the full week. Prize giving took place soon after the second race on the final day, presented by Roger Stollery and the fleets are very grateful to Adnams for the kind donation of liquid prizes and especial thanks go to Rob Breakwell of Adnams for his enthusiasm and support.

Many thanks also go to Roger Lewis, Race Officer at the Ferry, who provided some perfect sea courses for the Shrimpers, to Kathy Parks, who provided support at the Ferry, and to Lance Cooper and John Smith with their team from WSC who provided support for the whole week.

Special polo-shirts were provided for the competitors and every competitor was presented with a glass tumbler suitably engraved.

It is hoped that following the success of this week that more of the original components of Deben Week can be added in future years. This could include shore events at Waldringfield on the first Saturday and a Yacht procession from Ramsholt to Waldringfield on the first Sunday finishing up with a short service opposite the club.

The immediate feedback from many of the participants has been 'a fantastic week!'. It was helped by wonderful weather.

**Fleet Captains:** Shrimpers (East Coast Region) - John Clogg  
Dragonflies - Derek Jacobs  
**Event Organisers:** Shrimpers - Robin Whittle  
Dragonflies - Neil Cawthorne