



Shrimper Owners Association
South-West Area
(Falmouth)



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2007

Falmouth Week..... I am delighted to hear that the new courses, which gave the Race Officer the option to send the Shrimpers a short distance out into the Bay, received overall approval from this year's racers. On the other hand I was disappointed to hear that our start line approach was not better. I am sure Martin Pumphrey from Rock who has sailed his Shrimper at Falmouth Week for as long as I can remember and whose name frequently appears on our trophies will not mind me quoting from his feedback report on the week. Martin says "We must improve the fleet's knowledge of how to approach a start without boats barging in from a windward position. There was some really dangerous behaviour of boats running down the line in front of close hauled starboard tack boats and appearing to think it was a correct thing to do." This is a subject that I have been verbally complaining about for a number of years.

The below picture was taken by Lee Whitehead (Photolounge). Perhaps it would have told the full story if it had been taken one minute earlier.



It is some time now since we last held a Race Training day. We want to encourage owners to race but many of us only race from club lines which are not necessarily up wind. At the AGM we will discuss whether we you would like a Training Day next year. The Ajax class at St Mawes even paid a World Champion to come down to instruct them for a weekend. It cost about £80 per boat, and perhaps we don't want to go that far and could find someone in house to run through Racing Rules and give us a

few tips. We don't want to make racing too competitive, it must be fun but a bit of advice from those with more experience will avoid being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Back to Falmouth Week I personally have never been to the official briefing before but was surprised how professionally it was organised. Several Shrimper Owners were present. With 25 boats entered we were not quite the biggest class, the Ajax class had just one more boat. The week provided some great racing, one day was cancelled with gusts measured at 47 knots but in general the week was much better than 2006. Congratulations to Chris Creak in *Bonnie* (333), a visitor from Rock, for five straight wins. Chris did not race on Sunday. 2007 is the first year to my knowledge that the Top Yacht award for the Drambuie Cup has been awarded to a Shrimper Owner. If you see Chris in £300 worth of Henri-Lloyd kit next year you will know why. He left the prize giving with his wallet bulging!

National matters..... The National Shrimper Week is due to be held in Plymouth in 2008. It would be great for the organisers if a good number of Falmouth boats were to take part. The dates are fixed for 7th-14th June. This year four SOA SW Falmouth boats attended France. See our AGM agenda enclosed, we will need to decide whether to hold a Fun Week at Falmouth in 2008. One option would be to hold our week the week before and have a feeder cruise to Plymouth. The choice is yours!

More national matters include sail makers / size of sails. I understand the Poole area insist that those taking part in racing have their sails measured by their own official SOA sail measuring team. I think that will be considered a bit OTT by Shrimper racer down in Falmouth but perhaps if we wanted a voluntary measuring system when new sails are delivered this would be a way of making sure the suppliers are making them to size. They would soon do so if sails were returned. Again racing should be fun and hopefully our self policing system will hold us in good hands for many years to come. Remember "fast but fair" and I am confident the helmsman's experience is the vital factor. It was only a few years ago that Ross Bell won Falmouth Week overall in an inboard, yes an inboard with old sails.

Creek Crawls..... Our attendance figures have not been great, but for those of you who have missed them for whatever reason you have missed some great trips. Unfortunately a big cloud came over at just the time we went up the Ruan River. It was not warm but by the time we had picked a mooring up for supper the sun was out again. We had a lovely wind for the Penryn trip, sailing both ways. Our last trip was up the Percuil River, a windy evening so we motored up and sailed back on jib alone. We also went up Froe creek that night, completely sheltered (I will be going up there more, total quiet, beautiful).



Sunday Winter Lunches.... Yes, it is that time of year again and Barbara and Graham Elliott have come up with some new venues with a few of the old favourites thrown in. Please ring Barbara and Graham on 01326 340741 to book a place. Each location needs about a fortnight's notice so don't leave ringing to the last moment.

Oct 28th Trengilly Wartha Inn, Nancenoy near Constantine

Nov 25th Royal Duchy Hotel, Falmouth

Jan 27th Maltsters Arms, Chapel Amble

Feb 24th Treslissick

Mar 30th Pier House Hotel, Charlestown... We do hope some of our Fowey owners will be able to join us at Charlestown and for that matter any other venue. For those who have never visited the Coastguard Station at Falmouth we are trying to arrange a trip before lunch on the 25th November (speak to Graham). We meet at each venue at 12 noon and often go for a walk afterwards, so bring your boots.

Annual General Meeting1100hrs Saturday 29th December 2007 on the Bridge Deck at St Mawes Sailing Club. We do hope as many people as possible will attend. A light lunch will be served after the meeting and the bar will be open.

Agenda:-

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Approve and sign minutes of last AGM 29th Dec 2006
- 3) Chairman's Report
- 4) Treasurer's Report, Approve Accounts and appoint Auditor for 2008
- 5) Election of 2008 Committee
- 6) Discussion on Programme for 2008
- 7) Any other business.....Class rules, Sails

The success of any organisation depends on its members. Your committee meets about four times a year and would welcome new blood, new ideas. If you would like to join please let us know.

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM.....**MARK OSBORN**