



POOLE SHRIMPERS

Dear all,

Surfing down the front of waves isn't a normal pastime of Shrimper owners, but there were a couple of occasions last Saturday on the sail over to Christchurch when there were some exciting moments. The westerly F.4-5 blew up and was gusting to a F.6 as we crossed Poole Bay, but with 2 reefs in the main and being on a run, made the sail over fairly comfortable. The best advice was not to look astern, especially when you heard the noise of an approaching express train from behind. When we reached calmer waters off Christchurch Entrance, I noticed that Peter Bryan (173 Kathleen) was the only skipper brave enough to jibe (I wonder if he meant to!) whilst the rest of us preferred to tack through the wind. Christchurch Sailing Club looked after us very well and 27 Shrimper folk sat down in the evening to a really tasty supper with lively conversation. After supper some crews disappeared home to the comfort of their own bed, whilst the remaining crews roughed it by sleeping on board.

Next morning 7 boats headed back to Poole in very much calmer conditions, whilst 5 Shrimpers headed for the Solent and rendezvoused at Keyhaven for lunch, before sailing on to Lymington for an overnight stay. After drinks in the Royal Lymington Y C, a very good supper was enjoyed at a local pub. The plan was to stay in the Solent for a few days if the weather held, but although the forecast was good for Monday, it was not so good for Tuesday/Wednesday. So after a 'full English' at a nearby café, we all set off from Lymington mid-morning in hot sunshine and light airs. The forecast was NE F.3/4 so of course we found the usual

SW wind. Must have been a Michael Fish forecast. Hurst Point was interesting as we drifted through in a flat sea with not a breath of wind and spun around under full sail through 360 degrees, before the tide spat us out into the North Channel. However we managed to sail from Lyminster to at least Branksome, before light wind and a foul tide got the better of us and the engines started.

Now a reminder of some forthcoming delights, which I'm sending out early as I shall be on holiday:-

River Piddle raft-up - Sunday 7th August

The flood tide will take you up the Wareham Channel to the confluence of the Rivers Frome and Piddle. The plan is to arrive for 1300 hours and to raft-up at anchor out of the main channel in the entrance to the River Piddle. After a picnic lunch, there is plenty of time should you wish, to climb aboard dinghies and head up the Piddle. Some years ago we managed to reach North Bridge, Wareham, although the dinghy outboard props had to be frequently de-weeded. Even if you do not intend to entrust your dry trousers to the dinghy, do come along if the weather is at all fine.

Peveril Point Chase - Saturday 13th August

A regular feature of our summer programme is an informal "cruise in company with a competitive edge", to quote the Chichester Harbourmaster a few years back when he told us that Shrimpers couldn't race in the harbour but could cruise. Most important, this event is open to all Shrimpers, not just those that race and we try to encourage all Poole Shrimpers to come along. However, the event does form part of the Parkstone Y C series of Saturday races organised by John Tanner and for that reason could I suggest that if you're just sailing for pleasure, please try to keep out of the way of the Saturday racers at the start line. The race (or cruise) will start at 1500 hours from the RMYC start line with a 5 minute gun at 1455 hours. The course is simply through the Haven Gate - Peveril Ledge buoy to starboard - Haven Gate and finish at the red port

hand buoy NC2 off the RMYC. Any last minute instructions will be passed via VHF Ch 37 (Channel M).

Yours aye,

Trevor Heritage
Poole SOA Hon Sec.