

'**Shrimper - not small fry**' was the headline in the West Briton newspaper on Thursday 1st April. It was no April Fool's joke but one of three major articles in local publications, including Cornwall Today and the Maritime Guild, that we managed to promote during the year. It is no wonder the number of Shrimpers in the Falmouth area just keeps rising.

As reported in the Spring newsletter, our season started with a talk by Mike Rangecroft entitled "Sea Britain 2005 - Falmouth for orders" at the **Falmouth Maritime Museum**. Falmouth is certainly going to be the place to be in August 2005 when they celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Afterwards fifty members enjoyed the opportunity to see the new "Will to Win" exhibition designed to honour the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Our first **SOA sailing trip** took place on May 21st when six boats sailed to Helford and overnighted at Port Navas Yacht Club. It was the first time some owners had dried out, but the mud was soft and no one fell out of bed! We had an excellent meal and were joined by other owners who came by car. The return trip to the Fal, in a rough easterly sea, proved quite a challenge I hear. I enjoyed my second day in the Port Navas creek in beautiful sun and complete calm, before returning the following day, when the wind and sea had abated.

Falmouth Fun Week started a few days early this year and some of us spent ten enjoyable days living aboard. The weather was really rather good all week. We started with a creek crawl up the Tresillian River, and the following night, twelve boats raced up the Percuil River to Trethem. Although it was a beat most of the way, the wind was perfect for us, and on arrival we rafted up together for the odd glass of wine. Saturday saw a record 23 entries for the Peter Keeling Memorial Trophy race to the Pandora Inn, which was won by Colin and Heather Campbell (767). This year we were a little too late for our usual Cornish Cream Tea, but Bangers and Mash went down just as well. Sunday saw us back in the Helford for drinks at Garry and Sally Alder's followed by supper at Helford Sailing Club. We were pleased to welcome Antonie Mouthaan who sailed direct from Fowey with his son.



Racing to Trethem

On Monday we could not resist a Cream Tea at Smugglers Cottage, Tolverne where it was good to see seventeen boats in attendance. Tuesday saw a new

Shrimpers anchored at Smugglers' Cottage



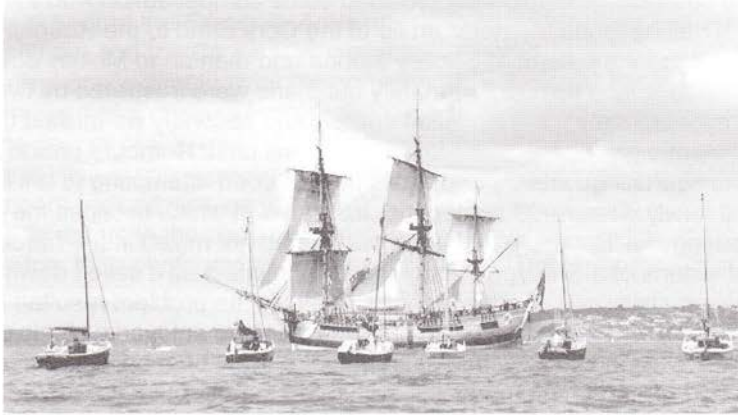
event, an engine race. As often is the case, Wilfred and Peter Coon had read the instructions carefully, and were first to show us what a turn of speed Alba has under engine. Other owners soon joined in the fun. The event will be repeated - thank you Nigel for the idea and the laptop computer needed to arrive at the winner.

This year many more owners were keen on walking. Having already had a walk earlier in the week at Helford, Wednesday saw several crews walking on St. Anthony Head, and later the same day walking from Mylor to Flushing, for supper at the Sticky Prawn. Thursday was Treasure Hunt day - thank you Jane Benge for the clues. It was a shame that I got the St. Mawes clues at the Mylor start and vice versa! It all adds to the fun!! On Friday an Anchors Down race took us to Roundwood Quay for lunchtime BBQ (15 boats) and yet another walk. Later we berthed overnight on the Fal Pontoon for the evening Cooking Competition. Yes, it is true that Sallie Eden made a homemade ice cream for a pudding! The standard of catering gets higher and higher each year.

Falmouth Fun Week was a great success and has now become well established with more boats taking part each year. We would welcome boats from other areas. **Next year's dates are Saturday 4th June to Saturday 11 June** and I look forward to seeing again.

Everyone must have been asking what was happening on Friday, 6th August when 38 Shrimpers anchored off St. Mawes for a quick bite of lunch. The answer was that we had been invited to form the **official welcome for "Endeavour"** as she entered Falmouth. The question was could we keep in formation? The answer was YES, a V at the bows, parallel lines down each side, and enough boats for a line at right angles across the stern. The only problem was Endeavour was late and keeping in formation for so long was hard work. However it was a

great day out, appreciated by the Captain and crew of "Endeavour", and more important it was something new, different and not RACING!!



Formation of Shrimpers advancing towards HM Bark "Endeavour"

Racing started in earnest the following week – **Falmouth Week** with 28 Shrimpers entered. This year our start time moved to the morning, 10:15, much too early for some, but the less crowded waters and the rest of the day for the family was welcomed by others. The one thing we could agree on was that courses were varied and therefore more interesting. We certainly had plenty of wind on occasions, not to mention the rain. There was some close racing but Roger and Claire Wood (133) were the clear overall winners. Two points only split the next four positions, Jim Downie (251) came overall second and Andrew Dines (582) third (and the first inboard). It was very nice to see two boats over from Rock. I hope they went back and encouraged more to come next year. All the social events were well attended throughout the week.

Unfortunately the weather put paid to our planned trip to **Fowey** and only one boat got to Mousehole for the Sea, Salt and Sail Festival. Fowey has now got a much more active Shrimper fleet. Hopefully we will make it up to Fowey in 2005. Regrettably the number of boats racing at both Mylor and St. Mawes' evening races have been rather disappointing this year, but we have had reasonable numbers for the 8 village regattas which are such fun.

At the time of writing this article we have survived three days of gales in the South West. Most of us have our boats on dry land now and I am looking forward to our monthly Sunday lunches with several new, exciting venues this year. SW Falmouth Shrimper Owners: I remind you of our **AGM at St. Mawes Sailing Club** on Thursday 30th December at 11:00. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mark Osborn (245) Hon. Sec. South West Falmouth Tel: 01326 270528