

(Foot)

CHICHESTER CRUISER RACING CLUB

RACE REPORT

18th June.

Dear Aunt Ethel,

Today was race 11 to Newtown. The weather forecast was NE force 3. The sky is a little overcast, but sun was promised for later. Red Cloud's crew of cousins Dot, Marian and their spouses arrived at 10.30. By 11.00 we were motoring down the harbour. Out in the bay, we had an hour to spare before the start at 13.00 so we put in some much needed practice. John my navigator was below with his rubber and pencils, Dick was on the winches. The ladies, being new grandmothers, were left to themselves as I felt sailing couldn't come before baby news, you know what they're like.

CCRC boats were gradually emerging from the harbour, but where was the committee boat Caragh? Brown Bomber was at anchor, is he going to do it? No, he's weighed. At 12.50 a horn was heard, as Caragh was spotted heading out at full speed, was that the 10 minute signal for the Betas? If so, are we going to have a running start like they use in Stock Car Racing? Just in case we chase after her. All is well, Caragh has anchored, start proceeding normally - if late.

Now for the first shock of the day. Apparition comes alongside and Andy Reynolds asks if I would write a report of the race. Me, who never writes anything down if I can help it, except for my letters to you. Still, I'll have a go.

Apparition, Penrose II and The Advocate are milling about close by and Belle Ecume astern. With a minute to go we are sailing down the line on starboard with Penrose on our starboard quarter, she passes astern of us and at the gun leads us over the line. Now for a broad reach to the Dolphins. Penrose has problems hoisting her cruising chute and we start to catch her. Belle Ecume under her red spinnaker tries to pass to leeward of us and her spinnaker collapses, much to my amusement. Fleet spreading out now and both Penrose and Belle Ecume drawing ahead.

Now, probably from Dick (an ex-RAF man), a cry is heard, "Aircraft coming in low on the starboard quarter". Red Cloud's course became somewhat erratic as we all took evasive action from a large Bumble Bee.

We pass the Dolphins with only one of the Beta fleet behind us, it looks like Ard Righ. Up ahead Penrose seems to be flying multicoloured washing from her masthead. Is that noise Bill blessing his crew? No, it's only the wind.

Penrose is now round Browndown, so we now know where it is, it has its advantages being at the back. We arrive at the said mark just ahead of Lynx. There must be a rule about giving way to Commodores so we move over as Lynx passes to port of us still flying his spinnaker. Brown Bomber followed by Gunshot and Anna Louise were next round the mark without their kites. Gunshot's spinnaker broke out O.K., Roger on Anna Louise seemed to be doing a little dance with the pole. On Brown Bomber they hoisted their spinnaker inside the genny. Now even I know that you should wear your trousers over your shorts.

P.T.O.

By 15.10 when we rounded Motherbank, we were in our usual position, last, time for a sherry. No sooner had I the glass in my hand when a gust appeared and the liquid disappeared into the cockpit as Red Cloud heeled.

South Bramble was now ahead, found we hadn't allowed enough for the tide and had to throw in a tack. At this point I discovered the lost sherry as both feet were welded to the cockpit grating, making life difficult for a moment.

Rounded South Bramble and on to Frigate. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the mark an Apparition appeared astern. What's he doing back there? We should be last. We'll try and stay ahead of her to the mark, check the sail trim. Looks unlikely by the size of her bow wave. Made it, rounded Frigate ahead of Andy Reynolds' boat.

The next bit is a little hazy but it appears that my lily-white navigator now decides he should get a sun-tan and my brain clicks into fast forward wind. So we anchored at Newtown beach amongst the rest of the CCRC fleet completely neglecting to go to the finish line at Saltmead. Never mind, there's always another day.

Such is the view from the rear.

Yours,

Alan (Froom)

---

Please add the following names to your Crew Register:

Mr. and Mrs. Barnby,  
86 Cherry Way,  
Alton,  
Hants.

Tel. 0420-888854

Mrs. Barnby has extensive experience  
of sailing, from dinghies to 72ft. boats.

Such is the view from the rear.

Yours

(Froom)