

Chichester Cruiser Racing Club

Forty Years On

Special Commemorative Race

*"It's always nice to see new members and competitive boats in the club," announced Peter Wallace at the H.I.S.C. dinner for the C.C.R.C. "and second place went to **THE ADVOCATE**". I was both delighted and surprised at this result as we had had our fair share of traumas during the day, and I had mentally put us further down the placings. (Unfortunately, and apologies have been proffered by Peter, there was a miscalculation of **DUCHESS'S** timings, and she has now been placed first with **La Primeur** pushed back to second, and **The Advocate** down to third).*

Friday's forecast for Saturday, I remember, was Force 2 to 3, sunshine and hazy. In reality, the day broke overcast with winds around twenty knots! When Charles asked me to write a race report for this special event I groaned inwardly as I anticipated writing about broken kicking straps, split spinnakers, and wild broaches, particularly as I had two new members of crew totally unknown to me.

The Course

The course was a winner including a spinnaker run from the start, a beat, two reaches, and a stiff beat home to the finish. Well set Dennis, or should I say Peter and Charles!

A Word for the O.O.D.

A particular mention for Dennis and Judith Coates with assorted crew on **Fohn Wind**, who must have had an uncomfortable time bobbing at anchor on O.O.D. duty. Knowing them as well as I do, I can, however, assure other members that between starting the races, and taking the finishing times Judith probably knocked up a light snack or two. I did hear mention of Bacon and Mushroom Sandwiches, Prawn Cocktail, Duck a L'Orange, etc. etc. over dinner that evening. I raced with Dennis for several seasons before buying **The Advocate**, and can assure you all that this is standard fare on a Coates boat. My only reason for getting my own boat again was in order to reduce my waist line!

Starting with a flap.

What of the race. Well, we started badly when the sheet parted company with the spinnaker right on the line in full view of the O.O.D.. The delight on the faces of the Coates family was most evident as they all reached for cameras (I have been assured the evidence will be held against me, and is even now being prepared for this year's Christmas Cards). When we got it back together there were boats to the right of us, boats to the left of us, all ahead! Ronnie had

CRISS CROSS moving well and was also breaking out his spinnaker, **SWIFT** had the genny poled out to starboard, **LA PRIMEUR** and **DUCHESS** also going well over on our port side, and Alan Froom's **RED CLOUD** was in close proximity.

The long run down to **HORSE ELBOW** gave us plenty of time to settle the spinnaker down and after some wild rock 'n rolling sessions the big coloured hanky showed its advantage as we pulled clear of **Duchess** and **Vernon Foale** in **La Primeur**. At the mark **Criss Cross** rounded first, and we just pipped **Swift**. To be honest I didn't see who came next I was too busy trying to stave off **Swift's** constant attacks under our lee rail.

I decided to go for a change up to No 1 genoa for the third leg reach and had the crew prepare accordingly, unfortunately, ill judged tacks and a hasty re-rig of No. 2 left the starboard genny sheets inside the shrouds. In the confusion this caused we lost several hundred yards on **Swift**, and also found both **Duchess** and **La Primeur** had sailed considerably higher than us to get ahead at Langstone Fairway.

A last mistake?

Our final mistake, (at least the obvious one to which I will admit) was to fly the kite on the reach out to DEAN TAIL. The blame for this I will lay on Peter Wallace, as he chose this leg to come flying past, all gun's blazing, in close attendance with **BROWN BOMBER**, **MAJOR GAMBLE** and **ANNA LOUISE**. As **GUNSHOT**'s kite took to the air I felt I had to reassert my self-confidence in the eye's of my new crew and show sufficient bottle to order our's to be hoisted in answer. Ten banging bumping "blue" minutes later and several hundred yards further back down the field I admitted defeat and the crew, with silent accusing glances cast aft, lowered the sod-

den spinnaker to the saloon floor.

During all this I saw little of what was happening elsewhere, but I was aware of **La Primeur** some way ahead, **Duchess** had disappeared into the mass of boats on the distant horizon, **Swift** was a hundred yards ahead. Where was **CRISS CROSS** I hear you cry? Somewhere something had gone wrong as there she was some distance back and fighting to get back on terms.

What happened, Ronnie? I knew I would get my revenge for your reporting my friendly activities with **SALTMEAD** last weekend!

The final leg was a stiff beat in 20 to 24 knots of wind. Superb

mainsheet handling by one of my new crew members and slick genoa tacking by the rest allowed us to make up ground on and ultimately overtake **Swift** giving us a hundred yard advantage on the line with **Criss Cross** a similar distance further back. **La Primeur** was several minutes ahead, and **Duchess** was already berthed with her sail covers in place!

Thank you H.I.S.C.

It was an altogether most enjoyable event rounded by an excellent evening meal at the H.I.S.C. club house. Thanks to the catering staff at the club, the lunches after the winter series races were always great value, and this evening's meal was superb.

Report by Brian Dandridge
(THE ADVOCATE)

Final Results

ALPHA

- 1 **BROWN BOMBER**
- 2 **GUNSHOT**
- 3 **ANNA LOUISE IV**
- 4 **LEACAROLA**
- 5 **MAJOR GAMBLE**
- 6 **CARAGH**
- 7 **BANSHEE** (ne **DOUBLE TROUBLE**)

Paul Chivers
Peter Wallace
Roger Morris
T G Rose
Mike Smith
Jim Lang
Tim Cooper

BETA

- 1 **DUCHESS**
- 2 **LA PRIMEUR**
- 3 **THE ADVOCATE**
- 4 **RED CLOUD**
- 5 **CRISS CROSS**
- 6 **SWIFT**

D A George
Vernon Foale
Brian Dandridge
Alan Froom
Ronnie Crosthwaite
S P Coles

(Provisional Results courtesy Peter Wallace)