



The Never Setting Sun

Smack Dock Soundings



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Detail of a photo sent in by Tony Lumley; taken by his father, a professional photographer, it is believed to be of a Blackwater Match in the 1960s. If anyone has any clues to the identity of boat, man or event, please write in.

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From the editor...

Apologies for this issue being later getting to you than it should have been- believe it or not I haven't been skiving off sailing (well, not very much...)! This is the busiest time of the boating year, both for those of us in marine trades and anybody who wants to make the most of the summer weather by getting out on the water. Already the Rowhedge Regatta has come and gone, and nearly every weekend from now until September has some sort of sailing event from the Pin Mill smack race to the Mersea Dredging Match. The smacks have a great range of events to choose from, and thanks are due to those who put the effort into organising things for us to turn up to and enjoy, either as participants or spectators.



From the Chair...

As I write this it feels like summer is really here. The smack is sitting on her mooring and my muscles are feeling the effect of the first sail of the year. The film show and the Shanty Night that Judy organised were both a great success.

We have a good full calendar of races and other events for 2014. It will be interesting to see how the Blessing and Opening of the waters ceremony goes. Fingers crossed for good weather. We have been told that up to 138 dignitaries and VIP guests will be attending. Other events that are coming up include the Sail and Picnic, which is scheduled for the 29th June. Last year the turn out for boats and guests was low, it is a wonderful fun day and I hope that it is better supported this year. The Colne Match is taking place on the 13th September; we are planning to have a

chase boat this time- we have the boat organised, but are still looking for a competent skipper. There is also the possibility of a spectator boat, which would be ideal for photographers; this will be a charter if there is sufficient interest.

The dock and hut are recovering from the ordeal of the tidal surge and things are almost back to normal now. We were all surprised to see how long it took for the hut to dry out. Some patches of floor are still damp nearly 6 months later. I must give a big thanks to all of those who saved the hut helped to dry it out. Work is due to start soon on the lower staging and pontoon; this work will improve access and make the pontoon more securely moored. We have a good strong committee and are looking forward to another fun year.
Robin Page

Subscriptions

A note that subs will be increased this year from £10 to £12.50, from November 1st. Please could those of you who pay by standing order revise it in time.

Smack Dock News – Judy Lawrence

Archive Film Night

James and I were uncertain how popular a Wine and Cheese Evening would be, but the interest of seeing nostalgic films drew the members and friends. Seventy tickets were sold for the event on 1st March and everyone said how much they enjoyed the evening. I hadn't realised until afterwards when James mentioned that two of the films had lain hidden in a barn for about thirty years before being handed to him in as they might have been of interest. They again lay dormant in his garage until they finally saw daylight and were converted to DVD to reveal an historic treasure. Thank goodness they were.

The evening raised £258 towards the upkeep of the Smack Dock. A big Thank-You to everyone who came and to those who provided raffle prizes. With more film of hidden treasures to be revealed by James, I hope there will be a repeat in the future.

Shanty Night, Colne Yacht Club

As usual the Shanty Night, held on the 10th May, was a great success; the "Verrier Four" as some called them, Penny, Mike, and their son

and daughter, gave us some great music. During the interval James Lawrence entertained us with his usual flair, with Sue Moyes, Richard Pattison and Gerry McGandy all giving us an enjoyable performance. It was a really nice atmosphere. Once again the CYC chef provided us with a lovely meal. It was nice to have visitors from Rowhedge and Wivenhoe, quite a few of whom decided to become members. After costs, the evening raised £214 to support local charities.

Sail and Picnic 29th June

Meet up at 10.30 on the Town Hard for members and friends; any friends warmly welcomed as new members (membership forms will be available on the day). Bring your own picnic! Please book your places as soon as possible with Jim Lawrence on 01206 304204.

Smack Dock Hut

Grateful thanks from the Society to Peter Allen, who donated a second-hand fridge for the 'Smacksman's Return' to replace the one damaged in the tidal surge. We are still looking for a small vacuum cleaner to replace another casualty, can you help?



How I met the *Boadicea*- David Chandler



In January 2008 I went to the Excel Boat Show with my son-in-law, more to keep him company than because I was desperate to see the latest in luxury yachts. Much to my surprise we came across the smack *Boadicea*, there because she was celebrating her 200th birthday. We got into conversation with her owner, Reuben Frost, who invited us to come for a sail in her at some point in the future.

Thus, a year and a half later, I found myself aboard *Boadicea*, heading out of West Mersea

at 5.30 in the morning, about to take part in the 2009 Colne Match- a first for me! After a hectic start the early moderate breeze allowed the larger smacks gradually to draw away, so that it became impossible to have an overview of the race's progress. Judging from my photographs we spent much of the time in the company of *Pioneer*, *Mary Amelia*, *Electron* and *William*.



I'm afraid I was no help at all with the sailing, but first-rate at getting in the way! Reuben was extremely patient as he tried to curb my enthusiasm for dodging about in my quest for the master shot! In the end we finished a creditable 13th out of 20. All in all a day to remember, a sail in the oldest of all smacks, and I shall always be grateful to Reuben for giving me such an opportunity.

Here are a few of my photos of *Boadicea* in action over the last five years...





2014 Events Calendar

Blackwater Match	21st June
CSPS Sail and Picnic	29 th June
OGA Brightlingsea race	5 th July
Pin Mill Barge Match	5 th July
Pin Mill Smack Race	12th July
OGA Swallows and Amazons	12 th -13 th July
Swale Match	2nd August
Wivenhoe Regatta	2nd August
Mersea Week	10 th -15 th August
Southend Barge Match	24 th August
Mersea Town Regatta	30th August
Colne Match	13th September
Mersea Dredging Match	14th September
Maldon Town Regatta	27th September
Tollesbury Regatta	11th October

Photo: *Iris Mary* and *Maria* wafting down-river, Colne Match 2012

Dates believed to be correct at the time of going to press.
Please notify the Editor with any corrections (contact details on front page).
Next issue of Smack Dock Soundings is Sept/Oct.

