

# DAYBOAT NOTES

News from the Yachting World Dayboat Association

DECEMBER 2012

*Merry Christmas*

*and a Happy New Year*

A photograph of a red dayboat hull, likely a dinghy, positioned in a workshop or storage area. The hull is the central focus, showing its curved shape and bright red finish. In the background, a Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments and lights, adding a festive touch to the scene. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Mould News - see Page 14

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Is this what climate change is bringing? There seems to have been a really bizarre mixture of weather this summer. At Poole, as you will see in their note, they had the largest number of weather-related cancellations. At Bosham we had no cancellations but, what seemed to your ageing Chairman to be an awful lot of races in just short of 20 knots – Chairmen, as has been scientifically proved, do not go out in anything above 15 knots.

Nonetheless, the Class seems to be in a pretty healthy state. Open meetings were held at Poole, Gravesend and Bosham. Dayboat Week at Fishguard was great fun for the 15 boats who were able to face the tow to the edge of the known world. If you haven't been before, you should really try. Pembrokeshire generally and North Pembrokeshire in particular is one of the magical parts of our islands; accurately described as being like Cornwall but without the crowds.

As you will see in the piece about the new hull Mould by Pete Hewitt and Bob Davis, work goes forward encouragingly. We are very appreciative of the work done by Pete and Bob on this project and also on the really constructive co-operation of Chris Somner and his team. Nor should we forget that the plug for the mould will become the pride and joy of yet another member of what can only be described as a Dayboat Dynasty – someone should do a trawl through the records to discover just how many Dayboats have gone through their hands!

Looking ahead, then: there is Ally Pally at the beginning of March, where we will look forward to meeting as many Dayboaters, past present and hopefully future, as possible. Dayboat Week 2013 will be at Torbay – details are enclosed with this issue of Dayboat Notes. There will be Open Meetings at Gravesend, Poole and Bosham. And of course, your Committee has arranged for the weather to be unremitting sunshine with 10-15 knot winds, blowing exclusively and steadily from our favourite directions – now that will be the influence of Don Young's piece on his visit to Schull.

My thanks to all who have, yet again, made sailing a Dayboat such fun. Have a Great Christmas and a Good New Year

Iain Macpherson DB614 Doubloon

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All contributions to DB Notes welcome.

Please email the editor : [kathdavis@btinternet.com](mailto:kathdavis@btinternet.com)

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### *Cover Picture*

*Thanks to Chris Somner for this picture of the hull 'plug', ready for laminating the new mould - see page 14*

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# DAYBOAT NOTES

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**Website : [www.ywdb](http://www.ywdb)**

## THE COMMITTEE

|                  |           |           |              |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Iain Macpherson  | Chairman  | Bosham    | 01242 575652 |
| Cass Macpherson  | Secretary | Bosham    | 01243 575652 |
| Bob Davis        | Treasurer | Poole     | 01794 368118 |
| Tim Parkinson    | Webmaster | Thornbury | 01295 811585 |
| David Cake       |           | Poole     | 01202 762775 |
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| John Lokier      |           | Poole     | 01202 698584 |
| Phil Lokier      |           | Poole     | 01202 698584 |
| Paul Winterflood |           | Gravesend | 01322 384090 |

Please contact any Committee member for advice or information

## Welcome to new members

James Heffer, DB360 Andromeda., Overy Staithe Sailing Club, Norfolk.

Congratulations to Family Hewitt – Peter and Sally (DB669 Merlin) have 2, yes 2 new grandsons, born within a week - Stanley, parents Andrew and Camilla., and Henry, parents James and Jo.

## We are on Facebook!

The Dayboat may be over 60 (as are a good number of Dayboaters) but we move with the times! Thanks to David Cake for getting us 'connected.'



Register (easy) and then search for 'Yachting World Day Boat' and ask to join - its free

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

### Thornbury SC – The Pill Challenge

Avocet , sailed by Tim Parkinson and Dave Allen, won the Midweek Handicap Series in convincing manner. Two DBs, Avocet and Attila (Jeff Stott), achieved 4th & 5th in the intriguing Sharpness Long Distance Race in which competitors decide their own start time so that they arrive at the upstream turning mark as the tide turns.

On the question of the challenge, readers need to know that the local terminology for creek is 'pill'. Hence we sail out of Oldbury Pill and there are a number of pills on the Severn from Chepstow Pill between the Severn bridges to Bullo Pill below Newnham where the estuary narrows to a river. This is where the Severn Bore becomes visible. The challenge is to sail to them all and get back on the same tide. The two most difficult pills to reach and return successfully on the same tide are Chepstow Pill ,which is four miles downstream, and Bullo Pill which is about 15 nm upstream. I have reached Brims Pill which is 11.5 nm upstream and got back onto the mooring successfully. But the problem with reaching Bullo is that the flood tide speeds up as the river narrows and turns progressively later the further upriver you are!



Here is a view taken in Brims Pill showing how calm and peaceful it is when the tide is in.

Tim Parkinson DB 565 Avocet

**Is your club represented here?**

**Even if you are the only Dayboater at your club, we would still like to hear from you.**

**Please email editor: [kathdavis@btinternet.com](mailto:kathdavis@btinternet.com)**



# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Poole YC

2012 produced a remarkable sailing season – for all the wrong reasons. We don't remember ever having so many races abandoned because of the strong winds. The Dayboat Open weekend in July was also disrupted by the weather with the Saturday 'Round the Islands Races' cancelled because of Force 5+ winds, driving rain and poor visibility. However, the social with Carvery dinner on Saturday evening was enjoyed by all. Conditions on the Sunday were much better, although turnout (15) was well down on previous years. Several crews had anticipated unkind weather and made other arrangements, and we were missing regulars Colin Blewitt and Pete Hewitt (in Gibraltar attending Colin's daughter's wedding - bad timing!) and Ron Lovett (waiting for a new mast following the exciting evening reported by Phil Lokier in the last 'Notes'). The event was won by Bob and Margaret Clewer in Déjà Vu (670)



Seven boats from Poole travelled to Fishguard for Dayboat Week in August and filled five of the first six places (see Report in this issue).

Evening racing at the Club continued into September, and the October series on Saturday afternoons provided some of the best sailing weather of the season and attracted 17 Dayboats. At the Annual Prizegiving and Dinner, trophies and prizes were distributed through the fleet although Bob and Margaret Clewer (670) went home with most of the silverware.

Bob Davis DB641 Lucky/Pete Hewitt DB669 Merlin

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Bosham Dayboats

A very good season at Bosham, despite the peculiarities of the weather. The Classic Dayboat series was completed without a single cancellation and the YW Dayboats acquitted themselves very creditably in the Medium Division. First place went to David and Fiona Macfarlane in Yellow Peril (DB597), in second place was Sophie Boo (DB652) helmed by Ian Norman with Steve Robson in the front seat. Mark and Shirley Stanton came fourth in Scaup (DB533) and newcomers Alastair and Jacqui Seaton were fifth with Debutant (DB616). There will, of course, be the usual lobbying for handicaps in the close season and no doubt the Handicap Committee will consider carefully the various, and sometimes unheralded, gear upgrades and sail renewals that have occurred. In the parallel "Scratch" series for which the Galatea Cup was competed for the first time, the top four boats were the same as in the personal handicap competition – it looks like all the churning will be lower down; it was ever thus.

Bosham sent three boats to Dayboat Week at Fishguard. The Fishguard welcome was as warm as ever, Pembrokeshire was as beautiful and a good time was had by all. And, to top it all, Barry and Jan Colgate brought home one of the coveted Bobble Hat Trophies\*, which they will be defending fiercely at Torbay next year!



In September, Bosham SC put on its second Classic Boat Revival meeting. In all, 77 boats were entered, coming from all over the UK and Ireland. YW Dayboats were represented by five boats from the Bosham fleet in the Medium (based on PY numbers) division. On this occasion, Fiona Macfarlane sailed Yellow Peril into second place, David being otherwise engaged giving demonstrations of upsidedown sailing in his Streaker.

The Bosham "Three Day Week", which is possibly better described as "Not for Juniors", produced another YW Dayboat triumph with Barry and Jan Colgate winning the CDB Medium Division in Piu Mosso (DB634). And finally in the Bosham Sailing Club Regatta, in which the YW Dayboats were grouped in the CDB Fast Division we had Yellow Peril and Sophie Boo coming 6th and 7th behind a quartet of 18s and Piranha, a Torbay Minnow.

As always at Bosham, one of the last events of the season is the Trafalgar Cup in October. This has teams of three CDBs sailing around the top end of the Bosham Channel chasing orange pick-up buoys attached to buckets by a short

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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line. The less said about the 2012 event the better. The wind speed was nought, gusting zero from any direction at all. A number of Dayboats took part, some more successfully than others.

Now for a rest until 2013. A bit of 'refurbing' here and there; I hear Piu Mosso is all fixed up and ready to go already. Doubloon will have its state-of-the-art carbon fibre fly-away jibstick, at present shrouded in the utmost secrecy. The Bosham Open will be on 13th and 14th July and we very much hope to be able to welcome as many visitors as possible.

Iain Macpherson DB614 *Doubloon*

\* *'Bobble Hat Trophies'* - see page 15

## DB news from Gravesend SC

Well once again not a lot to report from the Thames - the season was a mixed bag here as it appeared to be elsewhere. One of the season's highlights was Steve, Penny, Adam and John taking one of our safety boats up river to participate in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant, which turned out to be an extremely long day on the water in an open boat during some appalling weather,



but I'm assured by Penny that it was all worthwhile...

Penny was also instrumental in leading a trio of Dayboats on the English Raid , a cruise in company with a collection of other boats up the east coast, sailing from port to port and camping overnight.

Now with the season well and truly over the thoughts turn to next season with the provisional date for the GSC Open weekend being the 10/11 August.

We hope to have the usual number of boats at Torbay in the spring, so we will see you there

Geoff Honey DB636 Phoenix



# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Family Fun

Back in July we had set aside one week for some family cruising in West Cork aboard my father-in-law's Smuggler 25. On arriving in Schull we were greeted by Dave Heart and all the guys at the water sports centre asking us Where was our Yachting World Dayboat? We ha no idea but the end of our week's cruising the guys had organised the first Classic Dinghy regatta to be held in Schull.

At first we dismissed the regatta as I was off-duty with the family for the week, no racing allowed! But as the days passed it became clear the weather for the first day of the regatta would be perfect for sailing with my two boys, aged 6 and 10. This would be their first taste of racing and as they seemed to be getting keener on the idea the more we talked about it we decided to enter.



A two hour drive back to Cork on the Friday night, collect the boat from storage and drive back for first thing Saturday morning. A quick rig up, briefing in the club house and then onto the water for two races and then lunch followed by another two races. Conditions could not have been better, - flat water, bright sunshine and warm.....rare conditions in Ireland during 2012!



# DAYBOAT NOTES

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There was a big mix of dinghies taking part, the main qualification for entry (I think) was that the boat design had to be from before 1950 . So we just scraped in as I believe the YW Dayboat was designed in 1949.

The light winds suited our crew combination with Dad as starting and upwind helmsman and Jack my eldest son as off-wind helm and tactician. I got the surprise of my life when Jack told me in no uncertain terms; "We can make that Dad" as we approached the starboard layline in race one!! I nearly fell out of the boat, as he had never raced before his layline calls were better than his father's!

The next surprise came when I asked him did he know what I was doing when I was looking at the start line transit. His answer was short and sweet! "Yes Dad" So I answered.....you know then that I am taking a transit? Yes Dad.....I told you already! Ok I said so what is it? The answer came in a very matter of fact way! It's the right hand window of the yellow house!

Now if the layline advice took me by surprise, the idea that he even knew about start line transits, and actually took one when I was taking mine, seemed a little hard to believe! Remember this is his first race ever!!

So we tacked back to check his transit and I guess you know by now.....of course it was the right hand window of the yellow house! Amazing what you can pick up reading a book! So after four races with Jack helming all the off-wind legs we had four wins in the bag. To say I had a happy crew on my hands was an understatement!

Dinner and prize giving followed that night and a small trophy for the boys! Day two was windy and I drafted in a good friend Conor Miller from Schull to drive for me, and I crewed. Two more race wins secured the regatta and we all went home smiling.....

A great event and more importantly than that one of the most enjoyable of 2012 for obvious reasons. This one is for all sailing Dads or soon-to- be- sailing Dads out there, a very proud moment for our family.

PS The boat was built by my Father as a sailing training boat for the boys, it seems to be working. Thanks Dad

Don Young DB657 PaPa II

*Pa Pa II is a cold-moulded wooden "smoothy" (or is it "smoothie"?) built by Nigel Young. Nigel is quite a prolific builder of wooden Dayboats (his fifth is probably on the water by now) and Fiona and Nigel won Dayboat Week at Fishguard in 2004 sailing Pa Pa (DB 654). Ed.*

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Early Dayboat Sailing

The first Dayboat week as we all know (*well, perhaps not quite all! - Ed*) was held at Weston Super Mare in 1957. 23 Boats took part of which 9 were from Weston Bay Yacht Club. The event was won by John Harrison of Largs (Scotland!) in DB32, a beautiful spruce boat he built himself and later sold to my dad Eric Cake in Poole. Unfortunately this boat was one of many wrecked in gales against the Harbour wall of the first port expansion.

It was during 1957 that Poole Yacht Club had decided to adopt a racing dinghy, which due to lack of yard space at the time had to be capable of laying on a mooring. We already had one such boat, DB 5 (later renumbered DB65) belonging to Lesley Tozer, a retired bank manager, so that the choice of the Dayboat was fairly easy as his boat had already shown itself capable of sitting on a mooring in a gale. Things moved with some speed then and by the end of 1957 there were about 15 boats bought or being built for Poole members, at a cost of £100 complete but unpainted!

When the Dayboat Association got to hear what was happening at Poole they at once asked if we would host the next Nationals, which we were pleased to do.

A total of 36 boats came for the 1958 event and it was so successful that the Association asked to come back the following year when the fleet numbered 40 boats. By then Poole had about 30 boats and in the coming years reached a peak of 45 boats, or thereabouts, all on moorings off the club. Not all survived, as I have mentioned above.

When it was decided that Poole could not host the Nationals forever, Brixham was chosen for the 1960 event, partly, I think, because they had room, when many clubs would struggle to accommodate as many as 50 boats on moorings. This presented a bit of a problem for the Poole owners as at that time very few of us had road trailers. The drill in those days was to ring up Keith Short when your boat was ready after the winter and Keith, who had a trailer, would turn up with a few club members and take your boat to the club. Simple!

So how to get our boats to Brixham? Well, Bob Newton was commodore of Poole at the time and also as the commanding officer of the Royal Marines at Hamworthy was an honorary member of the club. The solution was obvious: Bob persuaded the marines that what they really needed to do was to carry out an exercise in boat transport by taking a secret cargo (13 Dayboats and the club launch) along the coast to Brixham. Such an easy solution! So at 6am on a foggy August morning, we set sail from our moorings to join the tank landing craft moored in the main channel just off the club. On arrival (see photo) it transpired that much to our surprise there was a gantry across the stern of the

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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ship, too low for us to negotiate with our masts up, so down they had to come, much more of a performance than now I can assure you, what with taped up bottle screws and split pins. However, with all safely stowed aboard the ship sailed for Brixham and we all got in our cars the following day to meet her on arrival in Torbay, where the process was reversed.



It's worth noting that some of our members sailed with the ship, Bob Newton for one, Roy Bowyer (future commodore) and (strictly against all navy regulations at the time) his wife Steff. So far as I recall the week was a success and was won by Poole member Peter Boon, the first of his three Nationals wins. Other notable members from Poole sailing, aside from those already mentioned were Keith Short (he of the road trailer) Jim and Peter Proctor (both airline pilots) and one Don Tanner in his first nationals. My brother John (later to represent us at the Munich Olympic games in Germany) and I were also there in the first of many Nationals all of which were

special but this one was memorable for the transport arrangements alone, that's for sure.

Richard Cake DB 583 *Instant Sunshine*

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## **Dayboat Week 1013**

**Torbay Yacht Club, Torquay**

**25 to 30 May**

Sorry - boats will have to be towed this time!

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## The RYA Dinghy Show 2013 – Alexandra Palace

Where did the year go?



The next Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace (March 2/3) is on the horizon and approaching fast. The Association is again exhibiting, and offers to help on the Stand, even for a short time, are always welcome. The Show is a good day out, with plenty to see (and buy, if you are so inclined). And it gives us an opportunity to show other dinghy sailors why they really should be sailing a Dayboat.

Contact me for more details *Bob Davis DB 641 Lucky*

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## Dayboat Week 2012 at Fishguard

Fishguard is a fantastic sailing venue and our hosts at the very cosy Fishguard Bay Yacht Club 'pull out all the stops' to make us welcome. The only downside is that it is a long way to travel for most of us, which probably explains the below-average numbers – a fleet of 15 boats from Bosham, Gravesend, Poole and Thornbury. Crews and family members had a great week, with plenty of time for walking and socialising. The weather was variable (as ever) but all races were run on schedule, although the conditions were somewhat marginal for the Thursday points race (ask Wendy and Roy Davies!) and only 6 boats finished out of 9 starters.

Murray and Teresa Glenister went out on a 'high' by winning the final race, which made up (a bit) for their 'low' in Race 1, when they sailed outside the finish line (taking Sue Clayton and Tim Parkinson with them) after having a comfortable lead. But in all the other races the top two places were shared between Colin and Chrissie Blewett (653) and Pete Hewitt with Chris Lockett (669), with Colin and Chrissie emerging the clear winners with three firsts. Tim Parkinson (565) showed (again) that a older wooden boat ('Avocet' dates from 1975) can still be competitive, coming 5th overall counting a third and a fourth.

Full results of the Championship series and the Ladies, Crews' and Cadets' Races are on the Association website.





# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Images of Fishguard

more on the website - [www.ywdb.co.uk](http://www.ywdb.co.uk)



Activity (?) in the dinghy park



Vantage point for spectators



Perhaps the mark was a bit close to the cliff?

# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## New Hull Mould Goes Ahead

The Association has now commissioned Chris Somner to make a new hull mould. James Davies has kindly allowed the Association to use the hull of his new boat as a 'plug' to produce our mould, so many thanks to him. This hull has been made from the old moulds, and has been faired and sprayed to a fine finish (see the front cover photo) by the team at Chris Somner Dinghy Services, including Poole Dayboat sailor Murray Glenister, who has a long background in vehicle body repair, so this hull and the mould taken from it will be super-smooth and free of blemishes. Mould making is a bit like painting – the secret of a good finish is in the preparation. So how about a new Dayboat for 2013?

The mould is in two parts, split down the centreline. The photographs (right and on the cover) show the temporary flanges attached to the hull on the centreline and at the sheer line for the gunwhales and transom. The second half of the mould will be built against the centre flange to ensure the two parts fit together perfectly.

The Association has been able to meet the cost of the new mould (around £13,000) because following the article in the July edition of 'Notes', nine members have offered to provide loans of £500 each, and the Poole Dayboat fleet has generously made a donation of £500. Together with the Mould Fund the Association has built up over many years and supplemented by recent donations, these loans have allowed us to go ahead with the new mould now, rather than wait for several more years for the Fund to build, whilst the cost of materials and labour moved ever upwards.

Obviously the loans have to be repaid. Based on the current income and expenditure, we are expecting to be able to repay two loans in full each year. However, the sooner we can clear the debt the better, and any further donations to the Mould Fund would help us to speed up the process and would be greatly appreciated. Members donated over £500 with their subscriptions in early 2012. The Poole Class has again kindly given the proceeds of the Raffle at their Annual Prizegiving Dinner in November (in addition to the donation mentioned above), and we hope that this generous spirit will continue.

If you would like to make a donation to the Mould Fund, there is a 'tick box' on the Membership Renewal Form you will have received with this mailing.

Pete Hewitt/Bob Davis





# DAYBOAT NOTES

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## Sailing a Dayboat across the Channel

After a great deal of restoration by the Boatyard at Beer our family Dayboat, 371 (Shorehugger) is approaching the condition she would have been in when first built in 1964. We found her in a deserted Exmoor barn several years ago and her seaworthiness represents quite a transformation. To put it to the test I plan to sail her across the English Channel in May, with the bowler-hatted mariner Mr Martin Thomas. We are hoping that, in addition to a bit of an adventure and a good meal on the other side, we will be able to raise some money to put towards the new mould.



Rob Williams DB 371 Shorehugger

*We wish them “bon voyage”. Any volunteers to join them? Further details will appear on the Association website and (of course) on Facebook!.*

## The ‘Bobble Hat’ trophies (see Bosham Report)



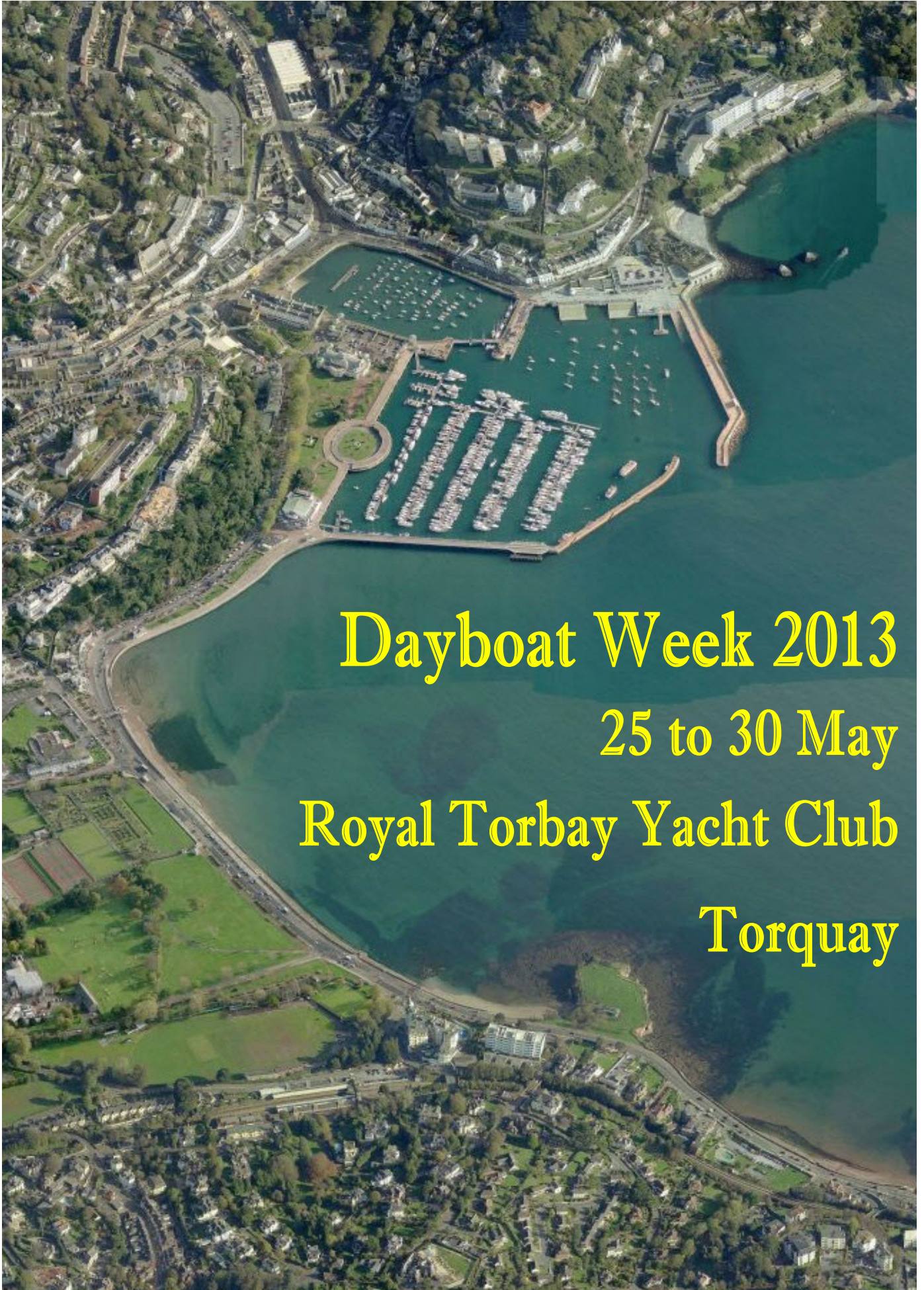
There are two ‘Bobble Hat’ trophies, awarded to married couples at Dayboat Week.

As you can see, these trophies date from the days before the likes of Musto and Gill tempted us with bespoke sailing gear (and emptied our wallets in the process), when most of us sailed in anoraks and (yes) woolly hats with ‘bobbles’ on top. Things move on, but the Dayboat is alive and well and our trophies, and the names engraved on them, remind us of the long and successful history of the Class.

The ‘Married Couple’ trophy - presented to the Association by Sheila Anderson in 1957, is awarded in Dayboat Week to the first married helm/crew in the Championship Series. The ‘Husband and Wife’ Trophy, presented by Gordon Anderson in 1960 is awarded to the first couple in the Long Distance Race.

*So now you know!*





Dayboat Week 2013  
25 to 30 May  
Royal Torbay Yacht Club  
Torquay