

DAYBOAT WEEK 1979 - SALCOMBE, DEVON

May 27th - June 1st

This report is being written shortly after returning from one of the most enjoyable -and variable - Dayboat Championships ever. Personally I'm sunburned at one end, web-footed at the other, bruised over the bits in between and smiling all over. Which just goes to show we had it rough and we had it smooth, but enjoyed it all.

Most of the 37 competitors arrived on the Saturday, having driven anything up to 300 miles in pouring rain to be met by friendly park attendants and scrutineers. Then followed a fairly hair raising sail for first timers through the yacht moorings to a special Dayboat trot laid by the harbour master just off the yacht club. Here all 37 boats lay in a line, quite an impressive sight.

Sunday saw sunshine, blue skies and a S W wind blowing not more than force 3. We had the added attraction of a first mark over the dreaded bar, which gave competitors a roller coaster ride over the swell, before running in a tide cheating procession past the sandy beaches of East Portlemouth and up to one of the elusive turning marks.

The results of this first race provided a few surprises. Only won by Dave Williams in 'Paddington Bear' after Jim McGreagor in 'Tattie Bogle' had torn a jib on a moored bowsprit, this race saw the debut of Richard Cake's brand new boat 'Instant Sunshine' which he brought in second, just ahead of Buzz England in 'Galatea'. John Lewis in an unaccustomed fourth and the reigning champion, Don Tanner, was almost out of sight in sixth place.

So all the portents were there for a pleasant and interesting weeks sailing, but the balmy weather on Sunday only flattered to deceive, for it was blowing a gale in the early hours of Monday morning, causing some boats to be moved off the trots to safer moorings. The wind had moderated to force 4 or 5 by the time of the start and there were even some flat calm patches up in the moorings later on. But in general it was a cold and wet race, won in determined fashion by Richard Cake in 'Instant Sunshine' with Don Tanner up into second place and Brian Marden in 'Skeena' breaking the Poole monopoly coming in third.

Because of the forecast, all the boats were moved up onto safer moorings, at least one boat being sailed up under bare poles. Which just goes to show what you can do with a Dayboat when you've got a strong following wind (and it's not your boat!). In fact, Tuesday turned out to be quite a pleasant day with a little sun and a nice sailing breeze. Which was just as well because crews embarked on the trot boats just after 9 a.m. and, apart from a break for lunch, didn't get ashore

again until 5 p.m. Don Tanner was in his element at last and won both races after some close racing with Richard Cake. Third place was filled in the first race by John Lewis and in the second by ex-Thames sailor Ken Peck.

Just to remind us that the Salcombe weather still had some variations to display, it turned on a North wind and continuous rain for Wednesday's Long Distance race. Twenty three crews ventured out, including it was rumoured, Paddington Bear in DB 580. However, I can assure you it was only your editor under his newly acquired sou' wester. The wind swinging round to the North meant creeping up the shore, trying to cheat the ebb by tacking as close to the beach as possible. Not the most entertaining racing in the prevailing downpour and crews dropped out one by one until there were only twelve finishers. Heading the heroes was Don Tanner, with Brian Marden second and Eddie Hind in 'Umphey' third.

After Wednesday's soaking, Thursday couldn't have been more of a contrast. Blue skies, a sea breeze filling in to give a good beat out to the sea mark over the bar. It really was a day to be remembered, especially by Richard Cake who made sure of the Championship by winning this final points race after a tussle with John Lewis in 'Prudence' who finished second. Don Tanner filled third place, but this was enough to give him second place overall, ahead of John Lewis.

Friday, the last day, was another superb day for the combined ladies and Cadets race. The latter was won by Caroline Owers in 'Up An' Over' with Mike Candy in 'Shenstone' second and nine year old Alan McGreagor easily taking the under 15 title by finishing third. The results of the ladies race is still subject to protest, so I can't give you their results. To ward off the feeling of anti-climax for the rest of the fleet, Barry Leat and Hu Small organised a pursuit race which would have been even more fun if the breeze had held up and the race run its full course. However, it provided Peter Mason with a surprisewin in his 21 year old smoothie 'Kim'. Second was Hu Small in his newly aquired 'The Keys' ex-Ron Moody, showing how fast he can go once he learns which piece of string to pull, while third were Dave and Sandra Shakespear in 'Drambuie', after working hard for their 25p prize money.

So it was all over for another year, bar the prize giving, at which Richard Cake must have been pleased to take the Championship in a brand new boat, previously unraced. He was hardpushed by Don Tanner, who had to be content with second place, just ahead of John and Vera Lewis in an unusual third place, which I'm sure had more to do with having to sail a boat unexpectedly modified in a mid race plank transplant a couple of weeks before, than by any lack of trying on their part.

A new trophy has been donated by Judith Penny in memory of Graham, to be awarded to the helmsman with the highest aggregate placing in two successive Championships, but who has not finished in the first five in either year. The

trophy, for trying rather than winning, was won, much to his astonishment, by Bernard Patrick, your humble Editor, in his ninth successive Championship, ably crewed by his wife, in her first.

Thank you Salcombe, for laying on a good and varied week. The organisation was impeccable, the trot boat service fantastic, the Club officers friendly and the bar had "E" on tap. What more can a man want ? (Replies will be treated in strict confidence).

DB 580

DAYBOAT WEEK 1979 - SALCOMBE YACHT CLUB

Championship Points Races

<u>Sail</u> <u>No</u>	<u>Boat</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Helm</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Final</u> <u>Position</u>
583	Instant Sunshine	R. Cake	P.Y.C.	1
550	Damon II	D. Tanner	P.Y.C.	2
1	Prudence	J. Lewis	P.Y.C.	3
523	Paddington Bare	D. Williams	P.Y.C.	4
486	Skeena	B. Marden	T.S.C.	5
208	Galatea	M. England	P.Y.C.	6

LONG DISTANCE RACE

550	Damon II	D. Tanner	P.Y.C.	1
486	Skeena	B. Marden	T.S.C.	2
544	Umphrey	E. Hind	P.Y.C.	3
344	Paddy Burns	K. Peck	P.Y.C.	4
477	Julie	P. Whittingham	T.S.C.	5
565		J. Parkinson	T.S.C.	6