

DBNOTES



The Newsletter of the YW Dayboat Autumn 2006

Chairman's Ramblings.

Once again it is my job to provide a round up of news from the past few months, and as I look back I realise what a busy season it has been for me.

The sailing highlight for me was the week at Chichester. We had good weather and great hospitality from Chichester Yacht Club. It was very gratifying to have a couple of Dayboaters phone, following the week, to comment on how much they had enjoyed it and to pass on their thanks to the committee for their work in organizing the event. We had an excellent turnout, with three couples making their "Nationals" debut. The overall winners were Bob and Margaret Clewer from Poole.

The AGM at Chichester saw the existing committee re-elected, plus two new volunteers. We are pleased to have James Davies from Gravesend Sailing Club, and Sue Clayton from Poole Yacht Club joining us.

Negotiations to find a builder for Dayboats continued through the spring and summer, and I am pleased to announce that we now have **Chris Somner of Chris Somner Dinghy Services in Parkstone (01202 736704)** on board. He is keen to build the Dayboat and is already building other racing dinghies to a high standard. After a visit to his premises and discussions to safeguard the moulds and ensure that we were satisfied with his workmanship we were pleased to appoint him as builder. He is at present refurbishing the moulds to bring them up to a high standard, and is building the first new Dayboat to be produced for several years. Once he has produced this boat he will be able to provide a full set of specifications and, vitally, a pricelist. I have heard of one or two more people who are seriously interested in having a new boat built, and it would be wonderful if two or three more boats were to be built over the winter. There is also plenty of interest in secondhand grp boats, so do, please, let me know if you are considering selling your boat.

The committee has booked a stand at the Dinghy Exhibition, Alexandra Palace, where, we are most hopeful we shall have a new Dayboat to show off. The dates are 3rd and 4th March 2007 and we hope to see as many of you as can make it coming to support the Association. Chris Somner will also be there.

Our first committee meeting of the new "term" brought us a volunteer to undertake the secretary's duties. Cassie Macpherson from Bosham offered to take on the role, and so has been co-opted to join the committee. Amongst other responsibilities, she will be the first point of contact for people enquiring about Dayboats, and I am sure will be a great ambassadress for us. Thank you Cassie. Whilst I am talking about secretarial roles, I must take the opportunity to thank Phil Lokier, who despite resigning well over a year ago, continued to act as contact. We really appreciate your continuing commitment, Phil, and know you will help ease Cassie into her new role.

It is also time to look forward to next year's sailing. Preparations are well in hand for Rock. Dayboat Week will take place there 26th May to 2nd June. It will be the 50th anniversary of Dayboat Week, the first being held at Weston-Super-Mare in 1957. It is also 25 years since the Dayboats first went to Rock. This has always proved a popular venue and we are hoping for a good entry. If you are planning to participate you would be advised to book accommodation early. Details of the entry fee and sailing and social programme will be sent to you early in the New Year with the subscription request.

All in all, I can look back on a successful and productive year, and look forward to another busy year with the Dayboat Class.

Cheers

Pete Hewitt DB649

DB Week Archive

Tim Parkinson is well on the way to completing compilation of the full weeks results for each of the years since the first week in 1957. He has full entries for every year except the following: -

Year	Place	Full results	Full Entry	Partial Results	Partial Entry
1984	Tamar	1	1	1	9
1987	Southend	1	8	7	
1989	Tamar / Plymouth			1	
1990	Poole			1	
1991	Southend				
1992	Rock	1		11	4
1995	Poole	1	30		
1997	Salcombe			5	5

If anyone who took part in these weeks can contact him with any information it would be of great help. The minimum information that would help is helm, crew and boat. If you can supply overall position at the end of the week it would be super and the icing on the cake would be positions in individual races / log distance / ladies / cadets.

In the same vein David Cake has offered to assemble a calendar of photos based on DB weeks and is looking for some striking photos not featuring yellow hulls! If you can help him in his quest it would be much appreciated.

You can write to Tim at The Old House, Rectory Gardens, Bristol, BS10 7AQ or email him on tim.timparkinson@gmail.com (yes 2 tims in his address!)

Bosham's Classic Dayboats

Dayboats look as though they may be the next big thing at Bosham Sailing Club. For years Dapple (DB513) was the only YWDB there but now gradually the fleet is starting to build. In the 2006 season, we had eight active boats on the strength. Galatea III (DB208) has taken a sabbatical this year, but we hope to see it back on the water in 2007.

The focus for these YWDBs is Bosham's fleet of "Classic Dayboats". The CDBs were started in about 1984 to give a handful of elderly boats and/or helms a revived taste of racing. In the beginning, courses were set within sight of the starting platform on Bosham Quay. Most of the boats, not to mention the helms and crews, were too fragile to be risked very far away and there was no rescue cover since the class was not officially part of BSC. The handicapping method was based on the Portsmouth Yardstick System, but since most of the boats did not have Portsmouth numbers, individual handicaps evolved based on each boat's relative performance against a Salcombe Yawl, the only boat in the fleet at the time with an official number. The Salcombe Yawl has long since departed – probably died of a broken heart as no matter what it did, it never saved its time against the slower boats which followed it, virtually out of sight – but the individual handicapping system lives on. Rather like a golf handicap: each boat, whether it is the sole representative of its class or not, has its own number. The YWDBs race off various numbers between 1200 and 1266. This actually works out quite well as we have a very wide range of boats, with sail numbers between 208 and 655, GRP and wood, smoothies and clinker boats, wooden spars and alloy. It also does away with the temptation to increase boat speed by pouring money into it.

As the years went by the CDBs became more and more popular with Bosham members and the fleet grew from around six or so boats up to thirty plus active competitors with nearly another thirty who take part from time to time. At this point, it became clear that the "Salcombe Yawl syndrome" was in danger of striking again. There were fast boats like the Chichester Harbour 18s (a precursor of the National 18), which would disappear over the horizon within minutes of the start. They would still be beaten on corrected time by slower boats, which would have to be sunk to prevent them winning, as courses had to be short enough to let the slow boats get back before breakfast. The fleet was split into fast and slow handicap divisions, and so it continues to this day. The divisions always start as one large fleet – which can get quite interesting on a line as short as Bosham's, interspersed as it is with moored boats and often punctuated by the arrival or departure of a cruiser from the Quay – and then sail different courses, planned so that both divisions finish at roughly the same time.

The YWDBs sail in the fast division (handicaps of 1333 or less) and have produced some pretty creditable performances this year. Emma (DB655) and Flo (DB475), a smoothie, look as though they will finish high overall, in the 12 race series. The ex-Poole boat, Sophie (DB652) has had a spectacular season: she has not been out that much, but has returned a first and a fourth in the two races she completed and capsized the other two times – mind you, it was blowing dogs off chains on both occasions. Dapple (DB513), Brillig (DB344), Piu Mosso (DB634), Benbow (DB240) and even Doubloon (DB614) can never be ignored on their day.

Three Bosham boats went to Dayboat week – alright I know it was just down the road – and came away having enjoyed the whole thing immensely. We are all planning to go to Rock next year, which must say something.

The Class is making an impact at the club and with the introduction of Chris Somner as the new builder, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that we will see the odd new boat joining the Bosham fleet. The time might not be too far distant when the YWDBs will race as a class at Bosham, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. In the meantime, the Classics provide us with exactly the sort of sailing we enjoy and for which the Yachting World Dayboat was designed.

There will be at least one invitation meeting at Bosham in 2007 (we will post the dates when we have them) and any Dayboaters who would like to join us will be more than welcome. Chichester Harbour is one of the most scenically beautiful locations on South Coast and provides a very varied sailing environment to suit every level of skill.

Iain Macpherson DB 614

Committee Members 2006/07

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Chichester 2006.... The Instant Sunshine Experience.

View from the Bow.

So, my first time as a crew at the Dayboat Week; where to start? Well, I'll admit to being more than a little nervous beforehand. I didn't really know what to expect but I think I imagined it would all be rather serious and generally over-competitive. These things tend to be like that, don't they? You'll have realised by now, if you've joined in at one of these things, what sort of a surprise I was in for. We arrived at the charming, recently refurbished Chichester Yacht Club on day one and enjoyed the easy banter and the sense of community that often emerges from a group of people with a shared interest (and racing history), as we prepared the boat for launching.

We were met with a brisk breeze on the first day of racing, whereupon I found myself in unfamiliar territory: rigging up and casting off from being moored alongside another Dayboat in windy conditions. As if the excitement and nerves weren't bad enough, I had to try and stop us from battering our craft (and others) to pieces whilst trying to get away. This is not an easy task, as those of you who have done it will know. That time, it was one my shoulder muscles would grievously complain about for several days to come.

Dayboat Week 2006, first race. Everybody is looking to make an impact and finish with good points to gain the early advantage. It's pretty breezy, so it's going to be a fairly energetic race and you're excited because this is all brand new. I've crewed a couple of open meetings at PYC and always got a bit nervous but this was more intense by some degree. One minute from the start the hooter goes and we're making our way from above the line to get back below, only to find ourselves faced with an entire fleet coming across the line. We'd messed up the times and this was actually the start of the race. Fantastic.

How *very* anticlimactic. So we started in 17th position, I think. I confess that I thought this was effectively the end of the race for us. I don't think I'll ever know how we managed to make up all that water and finish in 3rd but I can only imagine it was because we just relaxed.

The number 3 was to become something of a feature for us during the week, where we finished 3rd in almost every race except for a win in the last race which was a great thrill for us. We had secretly hoped for a good finishing position if we did our best. So, to come 3rd overall and win a trophy felt like a real achievement. I even turned my hand at the Crews Race, having only helmed in two races before. I'm proud to say that I finished in second place after making a grave mistake at the first mark. Of course, it doesn't sound quite so impressive on consideration of the fact that there were only three boats in the race! I don't care though, it was a fantastic opportunity for me and I truly enjoyed it (whilst I wasn't lying on the bottom of the boat after having tripped - again).

The racing was good all week and on the whole we were certainly lucky with the weather. Having said that, I'm still not entirely sure how the wind moves around near the shores out there! It was a real challenge for everyone and it certainly made me more aware of how difficult it can be when sailing in these types of environment. I'd never seen a wind indicator swing through so many degrees like that before but it was something to behold!

One of the best aspects of the week was the social events that took place in the evenings. All the events were well attended and very well conducted and it would be wrong not say a big thank you to all those who were responsible for the organisation. I especially enjoyed the barn dance, although I fear that Phil Lokier might have permanently damaged me when she was enthusiastically doing the Clopton Bridge, or Devon Jig or...whatever it was! It was that evening that showed the fun and friendly nature of the Dayboaters. A spirited bunch with a passion for their boats and it was a pleasure to have taken part. Thanks also have to go to the team at Chichester YC who were gracious hosts and suffered us descending upon them with great fortitude.

View from the stern.

Another Dayboat Week and after the hills of Salcombe 05, this one would be much easier wouldn't it?

Well initially yes, the sparkly new clubhouse was most welcoming and a slipway with a short row to the pontoon made me feel almost spoilt.

Well the weather was great and the fresh conditions helped settle my crew into his first Nationals. The support boat with 2 ex-champions on board watching our every move however did nothing for the concentration and we miss timed the start by about 3 minutes! Bang goes impressing the crowd in the first race! We knew we wouldn't hear the end of it from the WAGs watching so it was full concentration and an intense silence as we tried to recover from the terrible start. Not the best way to welcome a new crew into Dayboat Week racing but I think he was just glad he wasn't too damaged after fending off boats during our elegant departure from the mooring. A bit of luck is always needed in any sailing race and we had our fair share, although special thanks has to go to Murray Glenister who dropped his mast in the middle of the pack we were chasing and allowed us to catch up considerably. A very generous gesture. No surprise he is keeping close tabs on our new builder!

The racing was as competitive and enthralling as always. With a couple of Poole boats at the sharp end of the pack most of time we knew who we were up against. Not that it made it any easier to beat them but at least we recognised who we were following. This was quite useful as Chichester's family week was in town and there was a lot going-on "on the water." Once we did manage to make it near the front the race officer caught us out with a mark to keep inside of on the down wind leg! This taught us a valuable lesson, i.e. do not get near the front of the fleet unless you know where you are going! A frustrating mistake to make and retiring ourselves after our best finish at that point in a Nationals (2nd) was never a nice way to end the day. Whether it was the friendly atmosphere of the week, the discussions over the details of rules and regulations or just the drinking, we approached the next day happy but determined to redeem ourselves. But as seemed to be our fate for the week we came 3rd again. This was becoming a theme I was very happy with!

My crew still not demoralised enough by my barking instructions and general blame everything else mood, fancied his hand at the crews race. I would recommend any helm to encourage their crews to have a go as there is nothing more satisfying than a "it's harder than it looks" comment. Although that did seem to work both ways!

The end of the week and one race left meant the top 2 places had been all but decided. With Bob having to keep a careful eye on Pete we managed to slip away in some very light winds for the final race. We managed to build a decent lead and tried hard not to look too smug about it as we passed the fleet coming back up to the finish line. The smiles soon broke out though as each dayboat we saw waved and congratulated us, which showed the great spirit and camaraderie of the dayboaters it was really quite touching and as a 3rd generation dayboat sailor I think most people knew what it meant to me. So leading our way round a beautiful sunny harbour the emotions were high. My dream to win a race at the nationals was fulfilled and kissing a boat isn't that strange!

Although apparently these new fangled fibreglass things are quite dry, so Instant Sunshine may have to be relegated to the fair weather sailor.

One downside to winning the final race meant that we were first ashore to help haul all the other boats out of the water. But as always there were many helping hands to share the load.

Another most enjoyable week with the social events that may have done more damage to my crew than the sailing, (he'll learn to keep up)! We're looking forward to Rock next year.

David Cake and Antony Woodhams. (Instant Sunshine).

DAYBOAT WEEK 2007



To be held at
THE ROCK SAILING & WATER SKI CLUB
CAMEL ESTUARY, CORNWALL

SATURDAY 26th MAY - FRIDAY 1st JUNE 2007

A WEEK OF RACING & CRUISING IN THE BEAUTIFUL
CAMEL ESTUARY

**Excellent club facilities, 25 Trophies & 2 prize-giving dinners,
BBQs,
5 Points races, long distance race, ladies race, crews race,
cadets race**

**NEW MEMBERS & FAMILIES ESPECIALLY WELCOME.
IF YOU DON'T WISH TO RACE, WHY NOT CRUISE AROUND THE
ESTUARY AND JOIN IN THE SOCIAL EVENTS**

More details will be published on the Association Web site
www.ywdb.co.uk or contact: Phil Lokier Tel: 01202 698584
e-mail: phil.lokier@btinternet.com

Entry Forms will be mailed to all Association Members in early January 2007

Some accommodation ideas.....

Rock Sailing and Water Ski Club - A small number of Bedrooms (known as "Cabins") are available in the Club House, on a "first come first served basis." The contact details for booking are: office@rswsc.co.uk or telephone: 01208 862709. The Office is not open some afternoons.

John Bray Cornish Holidays - Self Catering Properties - 11 New Road, Port Isaac, Cornwall, PL29 3SD - 01208 880302 - www.johnbray.co.uk - Comments: Big Range in a large booklet!

Cole Rayment & White - Self Catering Properties - Radley House, Rock Road, Rock, Near Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6NW - 01208 862299 - www.crw.co.uk/holidays - Comments: Big Range in a large booklet

Farm & Cottage Holidays - Self Catering Properties - Victoria House, 12 Fore Street, Northam, Bideford, North Devon, EX 39 1AW - 01237 479698 - enquiries@farmcott.co.uk - Comments: Good Website (brochure not seen yet - so not sure of their coverage of Rock area)

Caravans - There is a quiet caravan site at Porthilly, Rock and some owners do let out their caravans. (Walking distance of The Sailing Club). We can forward a list of such names if you contact John and Pat Yonwin (01305 852117 or john.yonwin@btinternet.com)

Camp Site:: Gunvenna Holiday Park - Caravans and Camping - St. Minver, Near Rock - 01208 862405 - Comments: Has a good web site.

Cornwall Tourist Board has an excellent web site and a link to "North Cornwall Live" for accommodation. <http://www.northcornwall-live.com/>