

JRA EAST COAST RALLY – BRADWELL - on - SEA 2010

Our East Coast rally was once more held at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, over the weekend of 26th and 27th June 2010. We base ourselves at the Marina which is a convenient place for members to meet up however in the evening we relocate to the Bradwell Quay Yacht club who kindly allow us to use their clubhouse and provide us with an evening meal.



We had a good selection of boats this year including two Hunter Liberty's, John Dinnin in '*Alouette*' and Bob Ager in '*Orlando*'. Tim Metcalfe came in his Kingfisher 26 '*Chopsticks*', Rob Sheridan brought his 22' Newbridge Venturer '*Tao*'. Paul Tucker came in his Varne 28 '*Barny*' and John Brown brought his 38' Sharpie '*Dudifrent*'. This boat has a flat bottom and therefore shoal draft and rather unusually its helming position is midships just in front of the main cabin. Another unusual boat making its first appearance at this years rally was '*Pelican*' a one off design catamaran owned jointly by Philip Corridan and Martin Lloyd. Not only does *Pelican* look a little unusual it is probably the only 28' catamaran around which can boast three heads, one in each hull and a removal slat on the foredeck.



Members met up on Saturday morning in the marina bar and restaurant and after enjoying lunch and chat joined the boats for some afternoon sailing. For the second time this year the weather was kind to us with plenty of sunshine although the winds were a little light.



After returning to the marina members had some spare time before making their way to the yacht club for dinner. Bradwell-on-Sea where the marina and yacht club are situated is not a very large place. Indeed the marina dominates the area. There is a pub, The Green Man, which offers accommodation which appears very popular but no shops. To find the shops, or should I say shop as there appears to be only one, you have to travel to Bradwell itself, a few miles away. Notwithstanding, this is a very pretty part of the country with many traditional wood clad Essex houses. The traffic is generally light and therefore the area is relatively quiet. That is unless staying in the Green Man when residents may find noise from the bar filters into their rooms above. Even so everything does quiet before midnight and residents can get a good nights sleep.

For many years we have been fortunate to have dinner at the Bradwell Quay Yacht Club. In recent years we have had a barbecue instead of a traditional sit down meal. This has been both successful and popular. The first time the club secretary and her husband looked after us and as well as a great barbecue we had a dessert to die for, a strawberry pavlova – absolutely delicious. This year, the club, unable to provide the catering themselves, recommended a local caterer they had use before. This proved a great success and we all enjoyed a really nice barbecue as good as any previously. Two members who preferred fish were each served with a full barbecued trout much to their delight.

After dinner we had no guest speaker so a slide show of photographs from previous rallies was shown.

On Sunday morning we met again at the marina and joined the boats for a sail across the Blackwater to Tollesbury Marina, a new venue for us. In previous years we had sailed down to Brightlingsea for lunch at the Colne Yacht Club. This was popular but it meant having to fight the flood tide to get there and the ebb on our return. This took away a bit of the pleasure as the return trip usually involved having to use the engine in order to reach Bradwell with sufficient water to enter the marina.

Tollesbury is almost opposite Bradwell so the tide was not such an issue. However, pilotage into and up the channel to the marina is quite challenging and the timing crucial. Too early and there is insufficient water as one or two of our members found out. Once in the marina we found ourselves in a very picturesque location. We had arranged to have lunch at the Tollesbury Cruising Club whose clubhouse overlooks the marina. This club not only caters for its sailing members but also has an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and a children's play area. Great facilities for the members and their guests.



We had three unexpected guests. Ron and Dorothea Evens who used to own a Newbridge Venturer called '*Tiger Lily*' and were regulars at this rally before buying a Bermudan rigged 25' Fisher came to say hello. Ron joined us for the sail across to Tollesbury and stayed for lunch. Our third visitor was Simon Fraser a friend of Martin Lloyd, over from Australia. He sailed with Martin on board '*Pelican*' and also joined us for lunch.

We had a most enjoyable carvery lunch after which we arranged to take a group photograph something which is starting to become a tradition at our rallies. I thought I had everyone present when I took the first couple of shots. Not so, fingers were pointing to one member who had missed the original call. However, success was mine at the second attempt.



Simon Fraser recently bought 'China Moon' the catamaran designed and built by Pete Hill in South Africa. They sailed her together to Australia.



Simon Fraser on board 'Pelican' sporting his 'China Moon' T shirt

After lunch we ventured back out onto the Blackwater for some further sailing before returning to Bradwell to say farewell to fellow members and guests.



Whilst sailing we sometimes encounter other interesting boats.



We usually have good weather at our East Coast rally and once again Bradwell delivered. Thanks to all who came along and made this another successful JRA rally.