

North Fambridge Open Day 29th June, 2010

Someone on the committee had a bright idea – a club open day in 2010! Back in the 1980s there were several fun days and for the first time since 1989 cruisers competed for the Fun Race Cup, which has been sitting in the cupboard awaiting a committee initiative!

The weather forecast was good though the easterly wind combined with the sea breeze was forecasted to increase from 3 to 4 to 5 to 6. The sun shone brightly and the sea breeze certainly ensured there was plenty of wind!

Water activities began with a skiff race and during the early stages Hugh Malloy decided to provide the Commodore with a handicap by loosing an oar and ramming her craft! Meanwhile “Woody” Wood was well on his way around the pontoon to achieve a good lead on all the other boats. The cruisers set off at 13.30 and sailed a course around Short Pole reach and the two 8 knot speed buoys which ensured observers on the shore could see the five boats all of the time. Several positioned themselves on the bank at the wing mark. Quintet led the way with Seawieke close on her heels and Mary Ritchie managed to round the windward mark a cable or two behind the first two boats. Mon Rev followed, with William struggling with a deep reef that had to be knocked out to achieve better performance to windward. Quintet and Seawieke gained from Mary Ritchie on the downwind leg whilst Mon Rev began to catch up the front runners. The order was now set around the remainder of the course but the handicap altered the line positions (see below).

During the cruiser event an inflatable race was organised and following the return of the cruisers several members agreed to row a course blindfolded. The second member of the crew provided instructions, some a little clearer than others. “Woody” Wood’s pilot failed to warn him of the need to slow down and he had a nasty shock as he came to a juddering halt on colliding with a pile! Paul Steggles, ably piloted by Hugh Malloy, were easy winners but the Commodore with her husband was no too far behind. All rowers agreed that it was a disorientating experience. Paul Steggles was convinced he was rowing to Burnham!

Ashore, the many visitors to the Clubhouse were able to learn about the history of the club and see how the sailing scene had changed over time, for some of those in longer membership it brought back many memories. Thanks must go to Richard Walsh and Bob Goldsmith. Bob also made a splendid case so that items from the club archive could be displayed.

Conversation and examination of the display was aided by scones (made by the Commodore) and tea, which was on tap throughout the day and provided by an excellent catering team.

On the quay thirteen members attempted the heaving line competition but most could not get even get close to the 16 plus metres achieved by John “Hulk” Warren of “William”. Paul Steggles was closest but still 2 metres and a bit short (retirement is obviously sapping Paul’s strength!).

The liferaft launch caused much hilarity. Hugh Malloy, the member appointed launch officer, seemed to have difficulties with managing the umbilical cord, but finally it inflated. Members then attempted to see how many they could accommodate and explored the contents of the emergency bag. The liferaft left Fambridge on Sunday for its next life – a paddling pool! Thanks must go to Brian for obtaining this out of date safety item.

A highlight of the day was the formal opening by Margaret Anne Adams, the great niece of founding member Francis B Cooke. Margaret was accompanied by her cousin Edward, a great nephew of F.B.C. The influence of Francis B. Cooke was only too apparent from the items on display. Cruising and the Club owe him a great deal.

Richard Walsh, despite back problems, ably and enthusiastically promoted the Fambridge One Design and generated some interest amongst both members and non members. He was supported by a display which used a set of panels made by Bob Goldsmith and plenty of Richard's well presented handouts.

The RNLI representative from the Maldon Branch did a brisk trade and we will be donating over £50 from the liferaft raffle.

The day was rounded off with a barbecue enjoyed by many of the helpers

A big thank you to the Sub committee of Pauline Garman, Bob Goldsmith, Andrew White, and Linda Percival, also to all the helpers in the galley, race officer Bob Goldsmith and the water activity marshals. It was a great day which provided fun activities for members, and plenty of interesting things for our visitors to look at and talk about. We seem to have gained some new members, collected some renewals, marketed the FOD initiative, made a donation to the RNLI, and the teas and scones made over £100.

Results

Liferaft raffle - Hugh Malloy

Heaving line competition – John Warren with a winning distance of 16m10cm

Skiff race – “Woody” Wood

Inflatable rowing race – Andrew White

Blindfold rowing race – Paul Steggles with Hugh Malloy as pilot

Cruiser race:

1 st	Mary Ritchie	corrected time	87 minutes
2 nd	Mon Rev	“	“ 89 minutes
3 rd	Seawieke	“	“ 90 minutes
4 th	Quintet	“	“ 91 minutes
	William		RTD