

YVSC SECOND SOUTHERN RIVERS CRUISE AUGUST 2007

Saturday We stayed the night at Ted's mooring, there were 11 boats in total it was cloudy and very windy and occasionally raining. All cooked meals on their own boats due to the cold, it was impossible to socialise on the bank so most socialised on each other's boats. We went onto Wenonah where some interesting conversation was had about ornithological matters especially cormorants! Most then departed early to bed as this was the warmest option, and we had an early start the next day.

Sunday We left Ted's mooring at 08:15 the weather was overcast but dry, passed through the yacht station and onto Breydon raised masts and had an excellent sail despite the heavens opening.

We then sailed on towards our final destination of Langley dyke some stopped at Reedham village, others stopped at Reedham ferry for lunch the remainder of us carried on to Langley dyke where we had 14 boats in total.

In the afternoon drinks were had on the bank beside Vagabond, and we made friends with a couple on a very large motor yacht, which Gary termed as a gin palace although the owners insisted they had no gin on board only fine wines!

In the evening most barbecued and we sat on the bank and socialised till around 22:00.

Monday We awoke to rain the local weather forecast said rain and showers but ended up being showers followed by more showers. At 12:30 we left Langley dyke and caught the tide, had a very good sail with strong winds and lots of tacking. We stopped at Brundall for supplies it was cold and still raining but being the height of summer we decided to have an ice cream.

We then motored to the Ferry inn at Surlingham where 34 members had booked in for an evening meal. Fourteen boats filled the mooring, the meal was good with wherry man's wangers mash & onion gravy being the top choice although the scampi and vegetarian options were also good value.

Most left the pub to go back to their yachts just after 22.00 we left the pub at midnight and slept very soundly.

You have to admire the conviction of the landlord for keeping this pub going as the river traffic on the Yare has been very low this season, and he has had to offer a cut down choice of menu. He also holds down a full time job as an electrician during the day.

Tuesday Paul left early and headed back to the chandlers at Brundall for some parts to repair his boat, which had a few problems the day before.

Many of us had to stand on the stern of Marionette so Peter could carry out a repair to some holes in bow as he had hit the bank the previous day when a motor cruiser failed to give way whilst he was tacking.

At 10:30 the sun momentarily shone on us, which caused a cheer to echo round the mooring. The weather though, remained overcast for the rest of the day.

We then sailed up as far as Bramerton where the wind dropped, we then motored to the mooring at Whitlingham passing under the Postwick Bridge on the way. We had lunch then Marionette, Wenonah and Vagabond went to Norwich for supplies.

Vagabond and Wenonah then carried on past the end of navigation and through the City to New Mills.

Gary fished from the bank and had some larger than expected catches!

The sailing activity centre kindly advised us that we could use the showers between 17:00 and 18:00 so many took advantage of this.

When all the boats arrived we totally filled the mooring, which if you have not been, is one of the largest bank moorings on the Yare.

In the evening it was quite cool so we all dispersed around each other's boats and socialised.

Wednesday We awoke to very strong winds and rain so the dinghy sailing on the Broad at Whitlingham had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of the younger members.

Many other boats decided to have a motor up through Norwich.

David, Kate, Sharron and myself decided to take a walk around the broad and go to the visitor centre the weather was bitter. But the huge cheese scones and hot drink in the café soon cheered us up.

We then went to have a look on board the wherry yacht Hathor which was interesting and very decorative inside.

Just after lunch we set off for the mooring at Bramerton. When we arrived the weather was foul which meant battening down the hatches and surviving, although many found their way onto Mezereon in the late afternoon and survived rather well with quite a few drinks and a lot of merriment this was topped off by a rendition of the dwile flonkers song.

In the evening we all dispersed around each other's boats again due to the weather, this was a bit of a shame as Bramerton is a great place for a really good bank event!

Thursday Many members sailed to Brundall, moored at the church moorings then walked through the marsh boardwalk into the village others went on to the final destination of Rockland broad.

After our excursions we went onto Surlingham Broad for the Tom Mackley trophy this was a time trial around a set course involving two topper dinghies. Two practice sessions were allowed and then times were handed to the commodore, and away they went Ben Doughty was exceptional and got his time right to the exact second! It was a great success and all competitors and spectators enjoyed the event.

We then went to Rockland broad some moored at the staithe and dined at the pub others on the new dyke where many took advantage of the dry interlude and barbequed.

Entertainment came from the Strumpshaw country music festival and a heated debate ensued about the direction of Norwich. The lights from the music festival causing confusion David was right all along of course!!!

Friday A nice dry morning and the temperature was warmer, we sailed down with the tide to Langley dyke with some even sailing to Reedham ferry for lunch, then back to Langley in the late afternoon where we had tea and cakes on the bank. Some fished and the younger members had a swim in the dyke.

We met with Andy a teacher from Stratford on Avon who was having difficulty trying to rig his yacht, many members assisted him raising the mast giving advice, and that evening he gave the club a donation of £20.00 although many members commented that they would have preferred a donation of his fish and chip supper!

Saturday We awoke to sunshine hip hip hooray; we managed to break out the shorts at long last.

We started to fragment here with many members off to different locations although most sailed to Reedham ferry and had an evening meal.

Sunday All had a good days sailing and most of the north rivers members headed back to their moorings, although some including us went off to a mooring near stump dyke and had an evening's socialising, stragazing and satellite spotting, we had a few drinks and ended up turning in at 2 am!!

Not the greatest week weather wise but we all battled through as usual and looking back over the week there were some very memorable moments!

Mark, Sharron & Bella August 2007