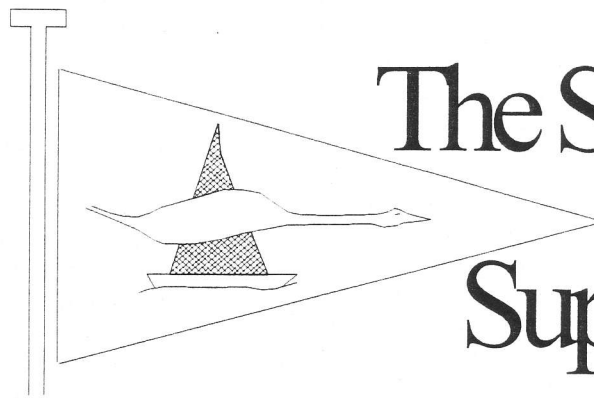


# 1995

Southport 24 Hour Race

- \* Diary of a sponge
- \* Reflections from the shore
- \* Random Thoughts

September 1995  
Special Edition



# The Southport Supplement

## LLANDEGFEDD SAILING CLUB

### Reflections from the Shore From Mary Farmer

It seems hard to image that this time really didn't matter, because the week I was sat on a deck chair, camaraderie & atmosphere of the with stop watch in hand, waiting for event outweighed anything else. If boat number 64 to come around the by now anyone is wondering about Marine Lake at Southport, along "facilities", I can only say that there with 80 others. Regular club must have been some good Mrs members will know that this was a Mops around considering that were return visit to Southport. Last years probably over 2000 bodies on site. team had such a good time I felt I Food and drink was available all the had to go along and see what I time we were there, night and day, missed in '94. & there was live Jazz in one

First warning to anyone towing a dinghy. NEVER go in the outside lane even if you are only going at 60 mph. Mr Plod is watching you, even in torrential rain!! Ask Mike F for details.

I was driving when Clive and family overtook us just off the M58, and in brilliant sunshine they guided us through Ormskirk and Southport to the water. To anyone that doesn't know the are, the scenery is lovely, good market gardening on a large scale, the town is delightful with good shops & very interesting architecture. Judith and Alan Bolton were the front party & had already pitched the "spotters" tent on the shore line and bagged space for the rest of the tents as the team arrived. What a good job Judith is so well organised & carried safety pins, otherwise the spotters would have had a draughty weekend. (spotters tent essential as team base, coffee, cake and signal post)

We were able to park the dinghy in a good spot again on the shore line and within half an hour the mast was up & everything ready for Saturday.

More & more boats were arriving & by evening the guide ropes were interlocking with rival teams. It

Alex and Andy sailed from 1:00am to 3:00, in Jack Taylor superglide mode. It took so long going downwind, no fidgeting allowed, that we both nearly fell asleep.!

### Fear and Loathing at the 24 hr Race

A View from the Bar - by Hywel George 22/9/95

Having spend the last two hours of a tortuous four hour trip, listening to the unmelodious Jackson two (not to be confused with their more musical five strong name-sakes), I was ready for a quiet beer or two, by the time we reached Southport.

Being part of the non sailing support crew, I had arranged to meet a land-lubber friend, Capel Tenison, on the shaky excuse of borrowing his motorbike. Thinly disguised euphemism for "Fancy a weekend in the bar." As he had been waiting at the entrance to the camp-site for an hour and a half for my arrival, we wasted no time in erecting our tent, in completely the wrong place as it transpired, and heading off with great haste to the club house and cluster of marquees. It took no time at all to assess the sailing groupies as at least fifteen years too young for us, leaving us free to dedicate the rest of the weekend to the main business of drinking. Friday night was, in serious

We must have done well, we were overtaking other boats often, and I think we beat Bristol Corinthian. Thanks to Mike for his GOOD boat!

drinking terms, a mere bagatelle, a training run, a loosening up of the muscles in the right arm and an opening of the throat for the main event.

We stumbled back to our tent, following a pizza sojourn into town, around 2.30am. Having navigated the trip wires guarding most people's tents and escaping drowning in the moat we slept the sleep of the dead. As yet we had not seen any members of the Llandegfedd crew, but I knew that Bill had called a team meeting at the club tent for 10.00am. His rallying cries I felt sure would not only motivate the team but also inspire Capel and myself to great feats when the competition began. The landlords of the plot on which we'd pitched the night before were quick to send in the bailiffs and we found ourselves evicted before 9.00am - a rude awakening indeed. Tired, emotional and homeless we found our colleagues without much to do and settled in.

The ten o'clock meeting came and went, as did breakfast and many coffees, in a blur. Before we knew it, Mike's boat, adorned with the start number 64 (corresponding to our finishing place last year) had been flung in the water, the

the event continued.

Ben seemed to be almost stuck to his chair & made a wonderful contribution to the the lap timings. After a short nap he sailed in the middle of the night with Phil & after pot noodles for breakfast at 5am he crashed out until it was time to go home.

Caroline could not sleep at all and was reading Disraeli by torch-light at 4 in the morning. Hywel as our chief reporter & photographer enjoyed the social atmosphere of the bar and boosted South Lanc's profits considerably. During the early hours outside the spotters tent discussing who sleeps where Hywel said to Bill " We've got plenty of Leather gear in our tent" The mind boggles unless you know that Hywel arrived on a motorbike! Bill was not tempted - but as an afterthought, where did you sleep Bill? (We heard later that Goldilocks only fits in tents with Joannas). I should also mention Keith who was the rock of the team. Quiet and caring, and always there to help out at change over, didn't shut his eyes (unless it was when he was crewing for Alan on

Sunday morning and we missed it.)

Sunday morning came very quickly after a moonlit night with eerie silence of the boats with lights on their shrouds going around & round. Also the indignant swans having their beauty sleep disturbed passing by - their grace and beauty picked out in a shaft of moonlight. Blear eyed team members gradually appeared during the morning. Gradually tents were dismantled and cars packed. Everyone congregated at the finish line as a cannon blast announced the finish of each boat. Llandegfedd gave a loud cheer as we crossed at 55th position. A complete team effort saw our boat packed in record time& we set off happily - fighting off tiredness - but feeling good to have been part of the event.

For someone who goes to bed at 9 - 9:30 and hasn't camped since 1969, I have already booked the first weekend in September 1996 -

We tuned the boat against Andy's on the understanding it would need detuning before racing at Llandegfedd. Jack Taylor had great fun, showing he could lean out like the best youngsters.

sails set and Phil Tilley and Caroline Bolton were jockeying for position in the 85 boat pre-start.

At the end of the first two hours, when Phil changed over...well I imagine it is well documented elsewhere in this publication, suffice it to say that Capel and I felt as though we had to try a little harder. We had to make our contribution count. A Herculean effort was needed not to let the team down in the ale quaffing meet, taking place in the clubhouse bar latter on.

While the crews changed over, throughout to 24 hour sail, at intervals of approximately 2 hour, Capel and I sustained an 8 hour long bar-leg.

Speaking of it later Capel was heard to comment; "It was not the depth of our drunkenness that was noteworthy but the breadth!"

We were ably supported in our effort by a notable burst from the skipper, sliding down six pints in an hour and half, following his two hour stint on the water, but despite this, we were unable to bring back the prize. Almost unchallenged in their victory were the team from Kipford Sailing Club. Their Friday night party had lasted until 5.00am. At breakfast they fell foul of the Irish GP14 Assc, suffering a gallon of Guinness, then one of their pairs not only took a couple of cans of stella on board, for their leg, they also managed to pick up a couple of pints on the way round. Congratulations Kipford...we'll have you next year! Hywel

On a similar theme, a more senior member of the team went to "Check out the Scene" in the disco. He returned with wide eyes, saying that it was full of 14 year old, well endowed girls!

LLANDEGFEDD DINGHY AND BOARD SAILING CLUB

OD AND RESCUE BOAT DUTY LIST, WINTER SEASON 1995-6

This winter we are running a training programme to increase the number of qualified ODs. It involves shadowing an OD for one Sunday. If there are any members not on this list who already have some knowledge of the OD hut system but would like to ensure that they have the knowledge to run a race will they please contact Judith Bolton on 01291 626318.

Will anyone who can't make it on the day allocated, please let Judith know as soon as possible. Owing to the reduced fleet in the winter we are running on the minimum number of support people. Racing starts at noon, so you need to be around from about 11.00 a.m. Thanks!!!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>O.D.</u>	<u>SHADOW OD</u>	<u>RESCUE BOAT</u>	<u>RESCUE BOAT</u>
NOVEMBER 5	ANDY HOWARD	PETER LAWSON	DOUG PITMAN	ANOTHER HOWARD
12	GARETH EDWARDS		RAY WILLIAMS	JOHN CARROLL
19	BILL JACKSON	COLIN CHAPMAN	TREVOR HARRIS	MEMBER OF RAF ST. ATHANS
26	JACK TAYLOR	GRAHAM DOUGAL	MEDIC	MEDIC
DECEMBER 5	DAVE WILLIAMS		KATHRYN MCNEILBARD	DAVE HEMMINGWAY
31	MERVYN REECE		DENIS WHITE	DAVE REDDING
JANUARY 7	RAY BROWN	HYWEL GEORGE	JOHN GRAHAM	MIKE DEAN
14	CLIVE HARRIS	CLIVE WHITWORTH	ROBIN DREWETT	DAVID OWENS
21	MIKE FARMER	GRAHAM WORGAN	ROBIN MORGAN	JUDITH BOLTON
28	MIKE STICKLAND	KEITH SYKES	DAVE MATHEWS	ALAN BOLTON
FEBRUARY 4	GRAHAM MOORE	PAUL MORCOM	JOHN BOWLEY	ROGER LEMAN
11	RICHARD DORMAN		DON MENZIES	MEMBER OF RAF ST. ATHANS
18	JACK TAYLOR		COLIN FRICKER	NICK FLUDE
25	BOB DIBBLE		JON PRINCE	PAUL SUMMERFIELD