

YVSC EASTER RALLY APRIL 2009

Friday

As I passed over Potter Heigham bridge at 08:45 on my way to Oby dyke, I looked over as us boating types do and saw Brian & Graham just raising the mast and sorting the rigging.

I then went onto Oby dyke and found Mark aboard Cassiopeia sorting the boat frantically as he should have already left to get best clearance under Potter bridge.

I rigged Bella and set off and had a superb sail to Potter Heigham, passed through the bridge, moored up and raised the mast.

Rita made me the first of many cups of tea after which we set off for Horsey and were having a good sail when all of a sudden as we turned towards Hickling. Chariots mainsail dropped the high spec main halyard had broken!

I sailed down to Martham ferry whilst this was sorted and was surprised to find the boat yard had been demolished.

Alan jury-rigged his main halyard and we all set off again having a great sail down candle dyke to Horsey.

Cassiopeia, Bella and Chariot rafted up in one of the sheltered bays but the wind got up and we soon found ourselves drifting, even though we had 3 mud weights down although we later found Alan's was not attached to his boat!

After lunch we went into the dyke and moored up Derek was there in a shot to collect the mooring fees and threatened to charge us £10.00 instead of the normal £5.00 as we had made him walk right round from the other bank.

Gary, Linda, Tom, Ralph and Jenny visited us by road in the afternoon.

We had 7 boats present.

Saturday

Awoke to a very fine morning and had the usual morning walk down the fleet for a chat after which we walked to the beach. We were amazed to see over a hundred seals on the beach, where we sat for quite some time before heading back to our boats, I could of stayed there all day as the weather was so good!

We then sailed across Horsey Mere and down Candle dyke, Cassiopeia overtaking boats on the way!

Many stopped at deep go dyke for lunch although Bella and four winds mud weighted in a sheltered bay on Hickling broad.

We then went down Catfield dyke many tried to sail but those of us with deeper keels had to push through the mud with our motors.

On arrival we had tea and cake, barbequed, socialised, etc. in the early evening but the temperature dropped later on and we retired to Ripple for drinks although not for to long and we all had an early night.

Sunday

It had rained very hard in the night and we lay in quite late, the morning was overcast and raining intermittently although a lot warmer than the previous evening.

We left just before midday and went out onto Hickling broad where we mud weighted and had lunch. We then sailed a few laps of the broad before setting off for Somerton and managed to sail all the way there with hardly any tacks.

We arrived at 15:30 and were invited by the commodore onto Marionette for drinks there were 12 aboard and if we had any more Peter would have had to put a cork in the cockpit drain or should I say cockpit filler!

We left for Somerton Lion at 18:30 and had some very good meals in a much-improved pub.

Monday

Ted had trouble with a sticking valve in his gas bottle and was hitting it with a hammer to try and dislodge it; the rest of us retreated to a safe distance!

Larger craft had to leave early to go under Potter Heigham Bridge.

The rest of the fleet departed at different times throughout the morning the wind was on the nose but at least not from the North East so quite a bit warmer than the previous day.

Mark, Sharron & Bella April 2009