



MOORINGS

Issue 9 Newsletter From the Neil Thompson Boatyard

DAY DREAM AWAY THE WINTER:

Many people think that we boat owners are a strange lot! There seems to be no logical justification for spending so much time or money on something we only use for six months of the year and that, quite often, we feel (or more accurately, moan) we don't spend enough time using each summer. But I love to dream about the time I've enjoyed using my boats, imagining the time I will spend on the water, and the new memories we've yet to make. The cabin boat we have, 'Molly', was lovingly stripped back over the winter; the cabin was refurbished, including a small fortune spent on new cushions and curtains. We promised to be out on every tide, we would use the boat regardless of the weather. For most of the summer the sun shone here, but was joined by cold and strong, unrelenting easterly winds. The boat was abandoned but we waited patiently for the wind to drop. As soon as it did, we loaded the tender up with supplies and headed out to the harbour and 'Molly'.

We met with friends out there, and watched as all of our children built sand castles on the sand banks at low tide. We played rounders and cricket, barbequed on fresh caught mackerel, and taught the children sailing in lasers and how to wakeboard. In the evenings we rafted our boats together and shared tales and songs late into the night. It was magical for the children, and for us.

The memories of that perfect weekend are all I need to keep me going until spring. They are what I will remember when I am planning and costing out the next part of 'Molly's' refurb. For me, my boat reminds me of happy days spent with family and friends, which are priceless.



WELLS FLOTILLA (21ST & 22ND AUGUST):

Having talked about this for the last couple of years, we were very pleased that for once, the weather and conditions were perfect which allowed us to hold this fun jolly round to Wells and back. There were 15 boats in total, and a mix of Norfolk Oysters, Gypsies and a motorboat. The trip from Blakeney to Wells was quick, a good force 4 southerly meant we arrived at Wells leading mark ahead of schedule. Many attempted to beat into the ebbing tide to the quay but we were forced to start our engines as we were running out of water. Once we had rafted up on the pontoon, with the help of the Harbour staff who were fantastic, many went to pubs and restaurants before we all met up again, unplanned, at the bus stop for the trip back to Morston on the local Coast Hopper bus service.

The next morning, back at Wells, there was next to no wind. We left the pontoon in what felt like Mediterranean conditions. We Motored up the run to the lifeboat house and a light breeze picked up as we were passing the busy beach, which meant that many of the fleet were able to get their sails raised. It was a beautiful sight to see, the boats looked inspiring with the tan sails contrasting with azure sea, set against a back drop of golden sands and brightly coloured beach huts. The trip home was warm, if a little hazy (literally not figuratively), and we had time to catch a few mackerel too. Photos of the trip can be viewed on our website in the galleries section.

If you are interested in joining the 2016 flotilla then please get in touch with the office so that we can email the dates out to you.



REGATTA RACE & RESULTS:

The Norfolk Oyster and Gypsy world championships are seeing very good attendance figures again with an average of 30 entrants for the last three years. This year's race was held in June and the winds were lively which made it cool despite the consistent sunshine. The race day saw everyone in good spirits and it was a fantastic finish with five boats neck and neck for the line, in the end it was George Ward who managed to blast ahead and claim the first prize for the Norfolk Oysters.

It was a good tussle for first place Gypsy between Roy Sherlock in Gypsy 'Watershed' and Hugo Williamson in Gypsy 'Redshank'. In the end, Roy was the victor and claimed the Anchor cup, but whippersnapper Hugo, at 12 years old, is very competitive and definitely one to watch in future races. The prize giving and fish and chip supper at the Anchor Inn were over subscribed, and those who attended enjoyed a good evening that finished with the light-hearted nautical quiz. Here are the results from the race day:



NORFOLK OYSTER AND GYPSY REGATTA WINNERS 2015:

1st place Oyster (Oyster Model)	George Ward Oyster 'Charlotte Louise'
2nd Place Oyster (Neil Thompson Tankard)	Paul Miller Oyster 'Plover'
3rd Place Oyster (Norfolk etc. Plate)	James Woodhouse Oyster 'Hazel'
Bullard Cup (Junior Helm)	George Ward Oyster 'Charlotte Louise'
Pearl in the Oyster (Youngest Ballast)	Henry Cowan Oyster 'Sharpen Up'
Middle of the Fleet (Bottle of wine)	Iain Wolfe Oyster 'Annie'
The Harmony Plate (Longest married couple across the line)	Maurice and Sue Matthews Oyster 'Lucinda'
Bosun's Whistle (First under 10 crew)	William Cowan Oyster 'Sharpen Up'

Most Improved Placing (Bottle of wine)	Norman Groom Oyster 'Puffin'
Kilmaine Plate (Most tactical Race)	Lucy Connor Oyster 'Avocet'
Anchor Cup (1st Gypsy across the line)	Roy Sherlock Gypsy 'Watershed'
Neil Thompson Tankard (2nd place Gypsy)	Hugo Williamson Gypsy 'Redshank'
Rodwell Painting (3rd Place)	Stuart Farrow Gypsy 'Enchantress'
Middle of the fleet (Bottle of Wine)	Hugo Williamson Gypsy 'Redshank'
Most Improved Placing (Bottle of Wine)	Roy Sherlock Gypsy 'Watershed'
Best Dressed Boat (Box of Chocolates & Bottle of Fizz)	Stuart Farrow Gypsy 'Enchantress'

ORFORD TRIP

Norfolk Oyster owners, Mike and Judith Shallow, have asked if any other Oyster sailors would like to attend a friendly race for the weekend of 18th June on the Alde. Chenda and I will be attending in our Norfolk Oyster and if you would like more details of the weekend, or to come along too, then please contact the office to register your interest. We have two Oyster trailers available for hire on a first come first served basis.

DATES FOR DIARY:

Norfolk Oyster and Gypsy
World Championships: **26th & 27th August**

The Oyster Orford Trip: **18th & 19th June**

Morston regatta: **6th August**

Blakeney sailing regatta: **20th & 21st August**

Rural sports and Greasy Pole: **31st July and 1st August**



OYSTER AND COCKLE V'S BLAKENEY SAILING CLUB CRICKET MATCH:

We had a full team for this event with some good banter between the competitors. The Oyster and Cockles won the match against Blakeney sailing club. A few Oyster owners came along to watch and it was a perfect way to spend a sunny afternoon, especially when the delicious sandwiches and cakes were served. Thanks to BSC for organizing the match and supplying tea and cakes.

BUILDING NEW BOATS:

The orders for new builds keep coming in. This year we built and launched two new Norfolk Oysters, we are currently building two new Norfolk Explorers, one which will be moored locally in Morston and the other will be homed at Lake Windermere. We have just taken another order for a Norfolk Oyster, which we will begin building in May 2016. This is fabulous news not only for us but also for all owners as it means that the Norfolk Range boats are retaining their popularity and value.

DEALER AND STOCKIST

We are now an approved dealer of Raymarine products so please contact us if you would like a catalogue

GYPSY REMINDERS:

We've taken a couple of calls from Norfolk Gypsy owners this season to say they have water in their cabin. It is always the same two issues that cause this and so I thought it might be a good time to remind owners how to avoid this problem.

When leaving the boat for long periods please use the cockpit cover. There is a chance that rainwater can seep through the ventilation gap at the top of hatch. This only happens if the wind pushes the rain horizontally but it does happen, so using the cover when the boat is not being sailed is good practice, which should eliminate water finding its way into the cabin. The other thing to check for if you do find water in the cabin, is the TCL 4 hatch seals in the well of the cockpit, beneath the wooden sole-board. If these seals are perished, any water collected in the cockpit will slowly seep into the bilge and eventually find it's way into the cabin. Again though, using the cockpit cover every time you leave the boat will reduce the chance of this happening.

USING IPADS OR RAYMARINE ON BOARD?



Then you need to know about Scanstrut/Life edge: Founded in 1986, Scanstrut Ltd is the international market leader in the design and manufacture of installation solutions for marine electronics. The company has nearly 30 years of experience delivering superior mounts for electronics that the boating community can trust. Scanstrut is recommended and installed by all leading marine electronics manufacturers. They saw a gap in the market and, in 2012, launched sister brand Lifedge. The current range of waterproof iPad and iPhone cases have enabled people to turn their prized technology into invaluable adventure kit, utilising a wide range of practical and creative apps while their technology is 100% protected. We tried and tested a waterproof iPad cover this season and have been impressed. It not only withstood the demands from being on the water but also from being handled by Archie and Grace (8 years old and 6 years old)

WHY DO YOU LOVE YOUR BOAT?

We need some enthusiastic Owners who would like to go on camera and say why their Norfolk Range boat is special to them. We would be happy for you to make you own video and email it to us, it doesn't need to be long or extensive, just a few words about what your boat means to you. We will then add this to our website and YouTube page. Or we could arrange for you visit the yard and talk to Will, our promo/media man. If this is something that you feel you could help with then please contact the office.



SAILING WITH THE ROBINSONS:



Grahame and Penny Robinson sent us an amazing report on their sailing adventures this summer in their Norfolk Oyster 'Miss Mopsy'. Many of you will have seen this in the email newsletter sent out in September but for those who missed it, you can view this fabulous log, complete with photos, on our website.

OWNERS CLUBS:

We do not have an active Oyster or Gypsy association at present. The Norfolk Gypsy Owners Association has a website and a database but needs a new helm. Please contact me if you are interested and have the time to get this worthwhile association back on its feet. We are happy to help and work closely with the associations to organize events etc. We could also do a lot more with our World Championship's with a little voluntary help. Any ideas are very welcome.

NEIL THOMPSON BOATS – THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX!

We'll never shy away from a challenge here at the yard, so when a lady contacted us asking if we could build a wooden structure in which to bury her brother, we said 'yes'. It was an interesting and sensitive project and we were pleased with the end results.



FACEBOOK & TWITTER

If you use social media please like us on Facebook and/or Twitter to keep up to date with what's happening in our world of boats. We also welcome posts and tweets about you and your boat.



WEBSITE:

We are planning more photos and short films for the website. I would like to do an instructional film on rigging and trailer sailing the Norfolk Gypsy to show off its superb selling points, this will hopefully have a positive impact on brokerage sales too.

A SONG FOR ALICE:

(Can be sung to the tune of the sing postman's 'her yew gotta loight bor?')

I've a got a boat: a real nice boat
Moored down Morston way,
She's hull nice to me in every kind of way.
She's always there: handles fair,
To me she's always true,
And when she feel me step on board
She Says "I'm glad that' you:
Let's git under way bor, let's git under way!"

My little 'Alice Rose': Quite simply the best that go.
She's my Morston pal.
Once the season's started
Sailing we will be,
She always will look after you: in harbour or at sea.
And if we race, to get first place
She'll do the best she can,
But if we don't quite make it, she say,
"That's down to you my man!"

My little 'Alice Rose': quite simply the best that go.
She's my Morston pal.

When Summer's over,
Homeward we will go.
I'll wrap her up so carefully, in case there's ice or snow.
But come the Spring I'll do the things
That all good boat-owners do,
So that when she hit the water,
"Blast! She'll look as good as new".

My little 'Alice Rose': quite simply the best that go.
She's my little Morston pal.
Yes, she's my little Norfolk gal.

*By Mr John W. Holladay –
about his Norfolk Oyster 'Alice Rose'*

- Everyone at Neil Thompson Boats would like to wish you a
- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The yard will be closed from 24th December and reopen on the 4th Jan 2016.