

# A Fishy Tale

**Fowey 2005 Cruise: What a Week!**

**Poole - Fowey - Plymouth 14<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005**

This year's trip to Fowey in Cornwall was a great success for the club and those that took part.

## **The fast ferry was out there somewhere!**

The event started with 3 boats (*Sea Devil*, *Tweety Pie*, *Marikh* and *Caprisante*) all meeting up at Old Harry rock just outside of Poole at 9.00 am. The plan was for myself and the rest of the crew onboard *Scorpion* to sweep the course an hour later to make sure no one had any problems. I guessed that by the time we had got to the west of Lyme Bay we should be just a few miles behind them. Unfortunately when we left the Needles thick fog descended and we were only able to run at 17 knots or so. At times the fog was so thick that the visibility was down to twenty metres or so, a little worrying knowing that the fast Sea Cat ferry from Poole was out there somewhere.

## **Thick fog precedes calm seas**

Once we passed Anvil Point the fog lifted and we were in bright sunshine with a flat calm sea. We could see a bank of fog hugging the entire coast so we decide to run further off shore to avoid being caught out. A quick stop off Portland Bill for a Cornish pasty and a drink and the fog lifted, enabling us to make up lost time as we sped across Lyme Bay. We managed to contact the others and arranged to meet off Dartmouth. Again we were caught in the fog but eventually we found the mouth of the river. After a quick introduction to each other the crew of *Scorpion* had to dash on to Plymouth to pick up another boat. The others went into Dartmouth for lunch and a few beers - shame we missed that part!

## **Flat calm and bright sunshine**

Making our way to Plymouth with *Marikh* we were once again caught in some very thick fog in Plymouth Sound and we decided to split away from *Marikh* in case we bumped into each other. After an hour we made contact with Terry and Val Cole and arranged to meet with them West of the Sound. The ride between Plymouth and Fowey was just great: the sea state was completely calm and the sun shone brightly all the way. At one time I turned around to see Roger laying across the back seat catching up on some sleep! Two hours later the others

arrived from their lunch in Dartmouth. Nobody encountered any problems en route but there were a few cases of sun burn that evening.

On arrival we went straight to the pub where we had arranged to meet with Alan Priddy and Liz and everyone else. A few beers later and all was very well with people making a few more friends. No plans had been made for the first evening so people went off and did their own thing.

### **Climbing the Eddystone Light**

The following morning we woke with sore heads but beautiful sunshine and mirror calm seas. We decided to have a short look around and went to the lovely harbour of Mevagissey, only about 5 miles away. We spent a few hours there having lunch etc and a beer of course! Then it was off to have a look around the coastline. We could not get into Charlestown due to low water and so continued a slow run along what must be some of the most beautiful coastline in the country. We dropped off some of our crew back in Fowey and then *Scorpion* and the others had a great run out to the Eddystone Lighthouse. When we arrived we saw Jon Adlard and Andy putting wetsuits on then swimming over to the lighthouse and climbing up the tower! Just as they were doing this, several Round the World yachts came past on their leg from La Rochelle. Luckily for us we had Paul on board who is an expert photographer and he managed to get some great shots of this and the whole event. That evening we all had a meal and a few drinks together at The Ship.

### **Fruitless fishing**

The following day we ran to Falmouth and had a look around town. Some boats went up river and visited Mylor and St. Mawes. We, however, thought that we would go fishing so that we could BBQ some mackerel. Our experts on board *Sea Devil* had us all set up and stories of hundreds of fish being caught were told. Unfortunately after several hours only one poor mackerel had been caught and Aaron somehow managed to catch a huge fish on his crab line. I don't know much about fish but I don't think what he caught was edible! Again once back in Fowey, we all went out for a meal and had a lovely evening in the late sunshine; the weather was fantastic all the way through.

### **Powerboat racing in Plymouth**

Sunday saw us going to the Class 1 powerboat race in Plymouth. Some of the others went up river instead and *Tweety Pie* went to see some friends in Falmouth; they were knocking up the miles on this event! Whilst watching the racing we ran into Mike Deacon who had just run down from the Isle of Wight in his lovely new boat, which only took him 2 hours or so! Mike had a sandwich

then went back to the Isle of Wight. After the race, again we tried our hand at fishing but again with no luck. Our experts were amazed that none of us had really caught anything, apart from Jon Adlard who did catch two mackerel.

### **A long and expensive day**

Monday saw *Sea Devil*, *Marikh* and *Caprisante* set off home. The weather forecast was not great with a F4 – F5 and a following sea. *Caprisante* left early at 7.30 to get on with the run and *Sea Devil* and *Marikh* left at about 9.00 am. Unfortunately *Sea Devil* ran into problems with a blown engine just off Salcombe. *Marikh* towed them into the harbour and the boat was lifted out of the water. Jon was to drive down with his trailer and pick it up later that day. Paul offered Jon and Andy a ride back to Poole. The seas were not great and it was a tough run home. Jon was driving Paul's boat and as they neared Anvil Point Paul's gearbox decided to blow up and left them in a large following sea without power. In the end, and after a call to the coast guard, they were rescued by a commercial fishing vessel who took them into Poole. A long and tiring day for everyone, especially Jon who had to drive to Southampton so that Paul could pick up his car and trailer and then pick up his boat from Poole. Jon then had to drive to Salcombe to collect his boat. A very long and expensive day.

### **A floating suitcase**

The following morning *Scorpion* and *Tweety Pie* set off for the run home. *Tweety Pie* was going to run into Dartmouth for a break but we had to get back as soon as possible as my brother's wife had given birth over the weekend and Mum could not wait a minute longer to get home to see the baby. At one point she was going to fly back on the next available plane! The forecast was not good with a F5 – F6 blowing up. The sea was behind us so the ride was fine but by Lyme Bay the waves were building up and the coastguard informed us that the bay was now experiencing a F7. There were some large waves to contend with but in a F7 we were still running at over 20 knots so we were happy that we could still cover good ground. The sun was still shining and it was actually very hot. The drive was exciting as with all big seas, but I let my guard down and as we approached the Needles Channel where there were some very big waves I managed to completely bury the boat. My mum was on the back seat with water up to her knees and her suit case floating beside her, not impressed. She was by now regretting her decision to come back by sea and not the train. The return run took us 6 hours in total which, looking at the state of the sea, was pretty good going. I called *Tweety Pie* on the mobile to check that they were safe and they had just got home safely. Martin and Stefanie did very well and I think that being out in a rough sea has built on their confidence even more.

### **Experience gained**

This event was just great. Fantastic weather, flat calm seas and best of all very good company. There was a mixture of people who had all different levels of experience and those who had not ventured that far before. They now know what their boat is able to do and they feel safe doing it. This is what this great club of ours is all about.

I would like to thank Jon and Andy on *Sea Devil*, Brian and family on *Caprisante*, Martin and Stefanie on *Tweety Pie*, Terry and Val Cole, Paul on *Marikh*, Alan Priddy and Liz for making the cruise a really good event.

I look forward to the next one!

**Julian Lyas**

**Scorpion**