

BRIXHAM ROYAL TORBAY HERITAGE SAILING REGATTA 28th - 29th May 2022

From Penny Jolley, Regatta Secretary.

What a wonderful mix of boats arrived in Brixham in the celebratory year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The inaugural Regatta took place over 100 years ago under the auspices of Her Majesty's grandfather King George V, whose Perpetual Challenge Cup is awarded annually to the fastest Brixham trawler.

A total of 30 boats entered in the Regatta this year, numbers gratifyingly returning towards pre-Covid levels. The popularity and success are a tribute to the hard work of the Heritage Regatta Committee, its team of stalwart helpers, Brixham Yacht Club and Torbay Harbour Authority; the latter kindly extending berthing facilities to our visiting Heritage vessels over the entire weekend.

Boats and crews were welcomed by our newly appointed Regatta Bosun, Graeme Hagar, to assist mooring in the sunshine; Graeme had also been stalwart in assisting the Regatta Secretary move a selection of semi-derelict boats off the Town Heritage Pontoon to enable all the Regatta boats to moor up together in true party spirit.

Boats came from all over the South West and the Isle of Wight. An informal start to the proceedings for boats from the west was the self-timed passage race from Dartmouth; many boats arrived by Friday evening and started a weekend of serious socialising at the Yacht Club. For a full list of entries please go to the brixhamheritageregatta.uk website.

Saturday gave us perfect pontoon socialising weather; ice creams and cold pints were much in evidence. Registration and distribution of goodies bags on board the Brixham Trawler Pilgrim was accompanied by our excellent local sea shanty side "Missin' Tackle", who kindly gave their services in exchange for a pint; this was followed by the traditional fish pie supper at Brixham Yacht Club. We are very grateful for the generous donation of 30 Kgs of hake by the Brixham Trawler Agents – a great contribution towards our costs.

We all packed on board the Brixham Trawler Vigilance for the skippers' briefing on Sunday morning. Sunday was a little more overcast, thus affording more wind; a steady Force 3 from the east gave a spectacular Parade of Sail with all sails up. Torbay appeared to be in a time warp showing off a wide variety of heritage boat styles and rigs to their best. Whilst we were limited to the north and east areas of Torbay because of the Aero championship from Paignton, the Bay is plenty big enough for all and none of the boats felt restricted, and, indeed, enjoyed the colour and manoeuvrability of those darting dinghies in the distance.

We started with a reach down through the start off Battery Point, which is always a comfort for gaff rigged boats (and also, incidentally, junk rig, which has preferred sailing points similar to the gaffers). Then the windward mark up towards the Ore Stone, fetching towards Berry Head and then running back towards the start/finish line. At least that was the plan; the wind strength died away and together with the idiosyncrasies of the tidal system in Torbay reduced an anticipated 2 laps to 1 for most of us. An additional class had been introduced this year for large yachts, which included Cynthia, Little Tern, Escape and Springtide; Cynthia showed them all a clean pair of heels (or stern?) and I believe did 3 laps just for fun!

Have a look at the Brixham Heritage Regatta Facebook page and website for the photographs, taken by members of Paignton Photographic club and by James Hamilton, a freelance journalist and Regatta enthusiast. You will see all the pictures have very helpfully been posted by category, as well as groups such as 'people' and 'prize-giving'.

Our excellent Sunday evening curry was followed by prize-giving; Regatta Commodore Richard Spreckley computed results in his inimitable manner and presented trophies and prizes, including a bottle of gin for every first, another generous donation by Brixham Gin For full results please visit the Regatta website.

Class 5. Brixham Heritage Festival Salver. (Cruisers & Yachts, Bermudan rig). 1st: Falanda, Katie McCabe, 2nd: Rag Doll, Darren Fricker, 3rd: "Amaryllis, Dave & Hazel McCabe.

Class 4a. Torbay Royal Regatta Trawler under 40 tons. (Small working boats): 1st: "Minx", P & P Jolley

Class 4b. Alfred Wallace Trophy. (Gaff rigged Cruisers & Yachts) : 1st: "Capraia" Patrick Vyvyan Robinson, 2nd: "Mischief", Mike Garlick, 3rd: "Susan J", David & Julie Patuck

Class 3. E.G. Martin Memorial Salver. (Junk Rig). 1st: Lexia, Jonathan Snodgrass, 2nd: Amina, Edward Hopper, 3rd: Minnow, Sally Peake.

Class 2. Torbay Royal Regatta 1912 Trophy. (Large Yachts): 1st: "Cynthia", Peter Lucas, 2nd: Springtide, Granby & Sarah Patrick, 3rd "Little Tern"

Class 1. Brixham Torbay Royal Regatta 1911 Cup (Sailing Trawlers over 50'): 1st "Vigilance", 2nd Pilgrim.

Peter Blanchard Memorial Tankard for furthest distance travelled to Regatta: "Amiina", Edward Hopper

Ibex Trophy (fastest lap). "Cynthia", Peter Lucas.

Winning Trawler. King George V Cup. "Vigilance"

Mischief won the Dartmouth passage race.

The King George V Perpetual Challenge awarded to Vigilance as winning Brixham Trawler and the Brixham Heritage Festiva & Carter Cup awarded to Pilgrim as 2nd Brixham Trawler.

The very beautiful Cynthia deservedly won the Concours d'Elegance judged by OGA President Patrick Vyvyan Robinson; thanks to Patrick for taking time out to judge our Concours.

A special award was made to Katie McCabe who, at the age of 14, last year completed her solo passage round Britain in her pretty turquoise sloop 'Falanda'; we are full of admiration Katie, who also won the Classic Boat Young Sailor of the Year.

2022 was the best entry from SW Gaffers who really boosted the atmosphere with their expertise and engagement. Thanks to all 10 Gaff Rig Association members who took part; although Brixham Heritage Regatta is not an OGA event we enjoy their great support and thanks for bringing their lovely boats. Similarly the Junk Rig Association is now so much part of the fleet that they have their own class (6 boats) and trophy. Any other 'Associations' that would like to make this event a focus of their annual calendar please get in touch with the Regatta Secretary.

Thanks go too to all the volunteers and the hard work by the berthing party was an enormous help; the 'behind the scenes' staff at the Yacht Club, the Regatta 'front of house' team in their platinum polo shirts, contrasting with the Royal Purple shirts ordered by many crew members, together with sweatshirts and caps. I did overhear very pleasing remarks *"Everyone went out of their way to ensure that we had the best time we could – and did!", "the most inclusive of all regattas I've been to", "brilliant goodies bags with beer!"* Our thanks to all the boats and boats' crews who came and made it all work. We look forward to seeing you at the **Heritage Rally on September 24th 2022**, a rather more low key affair.

2023 dates:

Brixham Heritage Regatta 27th – 28th May

Brixham Heritage Rally 16th September

