

17. YANK'S EYE VIEW OF HAYLING

When Mike Baker became Commodore those of us working with him soon discovered that his watchword is 'Publicity' and that he is determined to earn a world-wide reputation for H.I.S.C. The following extracts from an article by Graham Hall in the American magazine "Yachting Power & Sail" suggest that he has succeeded already.

"My vote for the most enthusiastic yacht club in the world has got to go to England's Hayling Island Sailing Club located on the coast near Portsmouth, southwest of London, a place I had occasion to visit recently. "

"I borrowed a Five-oh and sailed one weekend at Hayling in a frostbite series. I was impressed right off the bat (as we say in cricket) when we were told that the club could put us up overnight in its dormitory for a small charge and that the club restaurant and bar would be open for all meals during the weekend. Access to the boats and the water was very handy with ample parking for both dry-sailed boats and cars."

'dues are kept low (about \$75 a year) and the Club is able to offer all the usual services to its members. There is racing throughout most of the year, frostbiting in the winter, and a host of exciting open events through the summer. The island weather of Great Britain, warmed by the Gulf Stream, is on the moderate side of unbearable as compared with Yankee northern winters, and wet suit sailing is done most of the cold months." "Wading out to a 505, bundled up to the ears with wet suit and ski jacket, gloves and boots, was a far cry from the shorts and shirt-sleeves uniform of the 12 Meter scene in Newport last summer. and I think I'm still in shock."

"And the frostbiting was pretty frosty. It blew Force 6 (about 25 knots -everything is Beaufort scale over there) as it had most of the summer and fall and it was eight or nine degrees. (Pretty cold, huh? Well, temperature is measured in centigrade, and that's only about 45 degrees Fahrenheit.) Life jackets and wet suits were mandatory, which I thought was an excellent idea. We don't use wet suits enough in the States, and their warmth and life-saving potential should not be overlooked by any savvy skipper. "

"We raced from a starting line in the harbour, and the course was a little strange and very complex: around sand bars, up and down creeks, marks to port and then to starboard, etc. Several of the local hotshots wrote the order of the marks on their hand and wrist with waterproof pen. I thought it was a pretty neat idea. The large open meetings, however (Hayling will hold at least one European Championship -for Fireballs - next summer) are held outside the harbour in the open water of the English Channel on an Olympic Course. "

"The Hayling Island Sailing Club members were enthusiastic from one end of the weekend to the other, and their innovations, ideas and the dedication of the members were refreshing."

Anyone who would like to read the whole article, which deals amusingly with Tempest launching and recovery (with pictures) should apply to Anna Templeton-Cotill who has a copy of the American magazine.

LF

505 NEWS -J. Locke

A number of the Hayling Fleet took part in the fast handicap event in the Frostbite series and enjoyed some pleasant sailing. The Sunday series was won by Alan Taphouse and Robin Fielder in "ner Wettfaart ". Congratulations are due them for consistently good results in some pretty wet and often windy conditions. The Fleet was led to believe that if a reasonable turn out could be expected, class racing would have been provided but, although ten boats started in the first race of the series, this dwindled as the winter progressed to only two or three due '-"; to its being a handicap event .

...~ At the Boat Show at Earls Court the principal builders of 505's, Messrs. Parker of Boston, Lincs. and Rondar boats of New Milton both exhibited attractive, fully rigged 505's at very , competitive prices and I understand a number of firm orders were I received. We are hopeful that at Hayling we have one or two additional members to our Fleet and may I extend a hearty welcome to them and wish them every success in their racing.

There are also some of the existing Fleet members buying new boats for the coming season and others suffering economic strife and having to carry on with their old ones. With the cost of petrol considerably more this year than last, I think a lot of potential travellers will think twice before going to open meetings in far flung corners of the country which I am sure will do a lot for the turn outs for the club racing. If this proves to be the fact the 505 fleet would be in favour of longer races or a Sunday afternoon race to make the weekend at the club worthwhile.

At present a number of people travel from London and other parts of the south-east to Hayling because of it's fine sailing waters and to sail for just an hour and a half late on a Saturday afternoon and during the Sunday morning will make people wonder whether they would not be better off to sail closer to home at, say, Queen Mary where two races are held every Sunday. The 505 open meeting programme is as full as ever with nine of the meetings designated as qualifying events for the 1976 world championships which are to be held in Australia. These qualifying events will also count towards the British Team to sail in the European Championships in 1976 which are to be hosted by Hayling Island Sailing Club. In 1975 the European championships are to be held at St. Moritz, Switzerland and the World Championships in Bermuda next October. The National Champion- ships this year are to be held at Torquay in late July.

.If anybody is considering changing to the 505 Class from within Hayling Island Sailing Club, my Rondar boat "Claptrap" is for sale and enquiries are welcome.