

wave length

csc magazine

JANE CREATES EASY ON-BOARD RECIPES

DEREK'S CATAMARAN ADVENTURE

TEST YOUR WEATHER KNOWLEDGE WITH TONY'S QUIZ

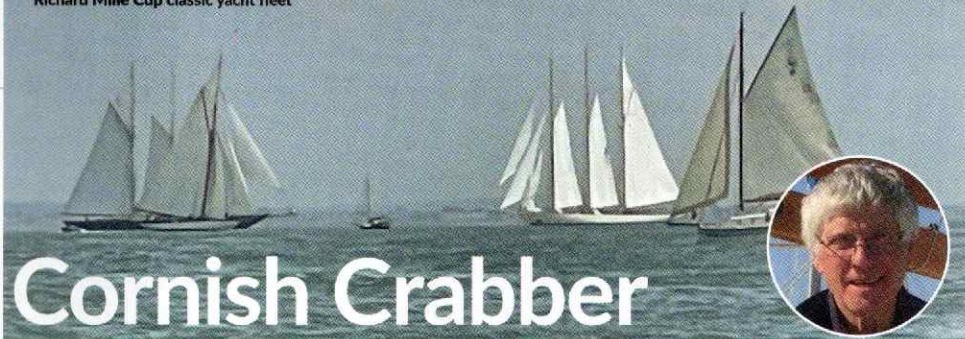


CLASSIC YACHTS

and Cornish crabbers



channelsailingclub.org



Cornish Crabber

Solent rally 2023

Paul Deslandes
Cornish Crabber Club
events organiser and
owner of Cornish Crabber
24 mk4 Maudie IV

THE CORNISH CRABBER RANGE OF BOATS have been around since about 1979, but until 2013 there was no official owners club, although a few owners would get together and head off in the same direction from time to time. In 2013 a small group decided to remedy this and, with encouragement from the Cornish Crabber factory, then in Rock, a club was formed and the first proper rally organised, since when it has been a feature every year apart from 2020 when Covid struck.

The 2023 Solent Crabber rally

In June last year we attracted 22 boats and crews to take part in the 2023 Solent Crabber rally, starting at Bembridge then moving on to Beaulieu, Lymington, Yarmouth, Island Harbour (Cowes) and Gosport Haslar with craft ranging from the ever popular Shrimper 19 and 21, the Crabber 22, 24 and 26, to the hefty Pilot Cutter 30. Nearly all the boats are gaffers and the larger ones cutter rigged, many with tan sails, and make quite a sight in the Solent when they all set off together. Most have home ports somewhere between Chichester Harbour and Yarmouth, with one coming over from Poole. Attempts have been made in the past to go beyond the Solent but the weather and sea conditions in Christchurch Bay can be too much for the smaller boats so the more adventurous sometimes add extra miles onto the end of the week and go further afield.

Apart from one free night, most rally crews get together for a pre-arranged supper at the local yacht club or restaurant or have a BBQ at either Bembridge or Beaulieu. RORC in Cowes, BHYC in Bembridge and RSYC in Yarmouth are always popular venues and look after us extremely well, and one year we were able to book the Max Aitken Museum in Cowes both for a private guided tour and also as a supper venue. If you haven't visited the museum you are missing a treat.

The second week of June 2023 brought with it fantastic weather with sunshine and great sailing breezes, but the high point was the arrival of the Richard Mille Cup classic yacht fleet that had raced up to the Solent from Falmouth via Dartmouth and then spent three days competing in the Solent before setting off on their next leg to Le Havre.

To say the sight of these glorious yachts was spectacular would be an understatement and at times we were able to get pretty close to them, awestruck at their topsail crewman over 100ft up at the top of the mast and the jibman out at the end of the enormous bowsprit as they tacked around the marks. We like to think that the classic yacht crews noticed our somewhat smaller but pretty boats and admired them as much as we did theirs. We recently learned that we are in for more of the same this year as once again our Crabber rally coincides with the Solent section of this fabulous race series, week beginning 9th June. Planning is everything!



Maudie IV



Rally at Beaulieu

