

BRIXHAM HERITAGE RALLY SEPTEMBER 16TH 2023

Gusty conditions gave an excellent day's sailing for the dozen boats who came to enjoy the late season Heritage Rally. Most boats arrived to the Town Heritage pontoon on Friday, where they enjoyed our free mooring. These lucky crews were able to join in the Brixham Yacht Club's hospitable Happy Hour. The boats attending were: Charlie Bravo, Chopsticks, Fly, Hui Mar, Krka, Lexia, Little Tern, Maid of Shannon, Mary Flora, Mischief and Trio.

With wind from NNE the Rally control office (our Regatta chairman, Richard Spreckley) set an excellent course, crossing over the start by Battery Point from east to west, reaching down to Elbury Cove (avoiding the mussel beds) and then back up to a mark off the Breakwater. A short beat up to the windward mark which was about 400 metres NE of this and then back down to Elbury. An ideal course for gaffers and junks – the majority of the fleet. Most boats completed the three laps, with the Colvic cruiser, Trio, taking the honours in leading and lapping! For the first time for a few years we had enough wind to have great sailing in reasonable seas.

However the weather forecast for the next few days brought threats of Storm Nigel and Little Tern was forced to leave after 2 laps and head to her berth at Noss on the Dart (and that crew had a great sail back – under 2 hours!).

Regatta Bosun shuttled crews across from the pontoon to the yacht club for party time on Saturday evening with music from Sax 'n' Soul, a lively bar and excellent supper; all the sailors were presented with 2023 Heritage Regatta mugs. The storm gave boats a bit of a bumpy night, but crews hunkered down and were able to leave in good conditions at lunch time on Sunday, with a few opting to stay on and enjoy Brixham for a few days.

Dates for your **2024** diary:

Brixham Heritage Regatta - 25-26 May (Provident's 100th Birthday celebrations)

Brixham Heritage Rally - 7 September