

Itchenor
West Sussex PO20 7AO

2nd February 1982

Dear Mr. Tusting,
Many thanks for your letter and photos - much appreciated.
"Prawn"

I have found a book kept by my father with an account of her races until 1928
and brief records till 1933,

"Built in winter of 1918/19 by Waiter Woods of Potter Heigham for Quanting,
Rowing and Sailing.

Raced for the first time at Hickling 1924 - the Regatta Committee giving an open
race.

Hickling Broad Regatta

HBR 1925

HBR 1926

2nd (Shrimp 1st on handicap)

1st (Venture 2nd)

2nd (Pochard 1st, Venture 3rd)

Light day. Pochard carried large kite from the "Never Mind ", reach all round.

I think the "Never Mind" was a half decker like Avocet which raced against the
Yarmouths.

~1926 Norfolk Punt Club founded by a few interested, Arthur Batchelor of Albemarle
Road, Norwich doing the spade work and articles in the Eastern Daily Press.

Officers

Commodore

Vice Commodore

H.A.Morris

A.Batchelor

Rear Commodore Herbert Woods

Committee

A.G.Berry, E.R.Howlett, A.T.Chittock, H.G.Starling, H.W.Crotch
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: J ffiske Edge, Holm Close, Brundall.

Prawn's number 19 came from "Take a Step", our 14' dinghy - Restricted Norfolk 14' dinghy - as in 1924/25 14' were merged with those in other parts of England and became a National class - Norfolk got a block of numbers from YRA - 38-60 - and "Take a Step" built 1912, became 53 - and "Take a Step's" old sail used in Prawn. (GLF's Optimist was 21)

Prawn's Record:

Year	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Sloop rig, balanced lug and jib
1924	1	-	1	-	1	These all Hickling Broad Regatta
1925	1	1	-	-	1	
1926	1	-	1	-	1	
1927	18	14	2	1	17	
1928	17	11	2	3	16	Trout the next best.
1929	24	9	12	1	22	
1930	16	5	6	2	13	Flight (H.Woods) the best.
1931	16	6	4	2	12	Flight and Swallow 11 the best.
1932	16	4	2	2	8	" " " "
1933	17	5	5	4	14	

My father was ill from 1931 and died in 1935 and my sister or I or friends usually sailed her in the latter two years.

"Shrimp"

Built by Walter Woods in winter of 1916/17 (for quanting). After the War given a CB case and a case aft for insertion of rudder and a small triangular sail laced to the mast - boom and spar put into sockets at tack and clew, and was my boat. Used to paddle her to windward in Meadow Dyke when going from Hickling to Horsey and put up the sail (and insert the rudder) when in open water - or the wind free. 16' long, got a good handicap, for racing had a sloop rig - 1924 onwards.

Hickling Punt Club Regatta

Preceded by a passage race from Potter Heigham to Hickling. From memory, at the regatta, we raced for the Sundog Cup, then the Prawn Challenge Cup (always won by W. F. Jermy) for boats designed, built and sailed by the same amateur (probably won outright in 2/3 years). Then the race for the Brundall Cup, then an invitation race, nobody sailing his own boat - then finally the "Go as you please" race for the Batchelor Quant round the island (on right when coming down the Broad from Deep Dyke, leaving the channel posts well to port). Very shallow. Great fun! In one year (1930) there was another race when helmsman and crew changed over when passing the Committee Boat (short half hour race). This was won by young C.S.Robinson - killed in the War off Norway.

These remarks are more accurate than my remarks to you over the phone, though I am sure I did not mention Bolingbroke, as my father had Shrimp built and I learnt to sail in her.

Pochard was a sailing punt kept at Whiteslea and raced by Jim Vincent when I knew her - belonging to Lord Desborough (famous rowing man from the River Thames).

According to C. F. Carrodus - EDP August 1930 - she was built for Lord Lucas about 1909 "from Colonel Hawker's measurements by Woods and Newstead ". Presumably the same "old" Walter Woods that I knew.

In 1930 the NPC regatta had 14 boats racing (CFC) - the new Rushlight (H. Woods), Flight (bought by G.L.Fitt), Swallow (A.T.Chittock), Prawn (H.A.N.), Scoulton Cob (C. S. Robinson), Winkle (B. V. Noel), Pintail (W. F. Jermy), Bittern (Lt Cdr. S. Brooks), Heron (E. Chamberlin), Swift (E. Shaw), Sirius (Sir Edward Stracey), Pochard (J.V.), Scud (H. Bolingbroke). I only make these 13 !

Pintail was successor to Hertebe (a real gun punt) or Venture which Jermy brought up from Breydon Water. Not fast enough, so he built Pintail.

J. ffiske Edge was the Secretary for ages - a few years ago his son (?) was sailing Ajax's at Lowestoft and could probably give you plenty of information. Lived at Beccles. (Pat Edge - went to live in Malta or Cyprus)

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Bridewell Museum

Sorry my writing ia so bad and illegible - I'm getting too old - same age as Pochard! By the way, I once heard that Shrimp (owned for a long time by the Boardmans at How Hill) went to the Bridewell Museum in Norwich - have never been there to check. (Shrimp was eventually bought by Mike Evans and presented to the National Maritime Museum. She is currently on exhibition in the National Maritime Museum Falmouth. Well worth a visit!)

I hope your cousin gets a lot of fun out of Prawn - now a very old lady ! Glad she was able to be displayed at the R. Norfolk Show.

My sister, who is 80 in April, wants me to take her (as a birthday present) to Norfolk to look up friends and visit various places. Nothing is fixed yet. We shall be based on the Maids Head in Norwich. But if your cousin would allow me to look at Prawn, wherever she is, it would be an added bonus.

Once again, apologies for the writing, hope you have a magnifying glass.
Yours sincerely,

Stewart Morris

P.S. Saw a red punt No 60 something in Chichester Harbour in August. (No 65 Reed Bunting)