

Nine go mad in Devon

Six sailors and three “trolley dollies” from Shotwick attended the recent Scorpion National Championships at Paington S.C.

Richard and Shellie Jones sailing their new boat (and Carl’s) were joined by myself and Darryl Riley in 1977 and Adrian and Peter Hall in 1969. On shore assistance was provided by Sheila, Louise and Kate.

After an uneventful trip down to the south coast from all corners North West we were greeted by blazing sunshine, temperatures in the mid 20’s and – no wind.

Saturday had been set aside for travelling and rigging the boats and after this was complete it was off to find the accommodation. Any estate agent would have described our accommodation as “compact”, “cozy” and “bijou” but at least we had some windows which was more than could be said for the “Hall Residence”.



No it isn't a garage – it's a house.

Despite the size the accommodation was just what was needed, clean, tidy (well it was before Richard started!!), and best of all midway between the boat park and the clubhouse – 300m from each.



The view from the top of “our” driveway.

Sunday dawned with yet more heat and even less wind, a four hour delay by the race officer allowed the Scorpion Association Social Committee to swing in to action and a beach volley ball tournament was arranged, this was won by the team from Shotwick of Adrian, Louise, Peter and Richard.



Team Shotwick show how it is done.

Unfortunately the wind failed to materialise and so racing was scrapped for the day.

Monday brought more favourable conditions with light but sailable winds, best Shotwick boat on the day was Richard and Shellie followed by Adrian and Pete and then Darryl and myself. Monday night again saw Team Shotwick perform well in the social side of things just missing out on a medal with a fourth in the Quiz.

Better winds on Tuesday saw Richard and Shellie leading the way home again but with positions reversed for the others. The social event on that night was “Scorpions got Talent” with acts literally ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. I won’t go into any detail but as they say a picture paints a thousand words.



The three judges

Chipstead S.C aerobics team



Elton S.C.



Pennine S.C. George Formby Tribute

Wednesday saw winds of around force 4 which led to some interesting sailing, Richard and Shellie in the now familiar position of first Shotwick boat led the way followed by Darryl and myself, Adrian and Peter sitting this one out as Adrian had promised Louise a romantic walk along the Devon coast.

Thursday saw a drop in the wind and a return to the water by Adrian and Peter, as per normal the Jones's were out in front with the two other Shotwick boats swapping places in the two races.

Friday saw the windiest day of the week with expected winds of 30knts (Force 7!!). This combined with the driving rain during launching convinced a number of teams to stay ashore but not the Shotwick trio. A relaxed sail out to the start in a modest force 2-3 followed by a delayed start due to lack of wind seemed to prove the weatherman wrong.

The race got underway in a nice force 3 but this soon changed for the worse as the promised wind kicked in, the deteriorating visibility, strong winds and heavy rain forced the race officer to shorten the race after about an hour and the fleet headed home for a well deserved rest.

The boats were packed away in what can only be described as a monsoon (at least it washed the salt off the boats and us) and then it was get changed and off to the prize giving. After the prize giving we all headed off home to miss the traffic and expected long delays.

All in all a good time was had by all both on and off the water.