

Hayling Challenge 2023

Justin Bennett in his Mirror, *Red Dwarf*

This entry is also eligible for the Gunter Grail

Skipper's name: Justin Bennett
Crew name: None
Boat name: Red Dwarf
Type & description: Mirror Dinghy
Rig: Gunter
Date of challenge: 28/08/2023
HW Chi BST: 0951
LW Chi BST: 1521
Wind strengths & directions: F3 NNW - NW - N
Hayling Bridge under with full sail: No
Gaff lowered: Yes
Mast lowered: No
Rowed/paddled under: Yes
Walked boat through: No
With current/against: With/negligible

The plan:

After studying the chart, tides etc., and after much pondering, I gave up and asked Cliff Martin who said to go anti-clockwise and set off 1 hour before HW. I set myself a couple of time limits: 1) If I reached Hayling Bridge by 1200 midday, I would stop for a break., 2) If I reached the entrance to Langstone Harbour by 1330 hours, I would stop at the Cafe on the east side.



The execution:

0850: I left Cobnor and rowed around Cobnor Point where I raised the sails as the wind picked up. I kept to the shallows to avoid the worst of the incoming tide. I stopped for a tea break on the west side of Thorney Channel just before the Northney/Emsworth split.

1250 hours: I dropped the yard and rowed gently backwards under Hayling Bridge with about 1 foot clearance. I raised the main and reached south down Langstone Channel whilst enjoying my packed-lunch and checking the latest weather

update.

After leaving Langstone Harbour, I rounded East Winner and sailed down-wind, east across Hayling Bay, about a mile out.

1500: Whilst slightly ahead of schedule, the entrance to Chi Harbour looked good and with several yachts making their way in I rounded Bar Beacon and entered the harbour close-hauled.

1545: I joined the DCA Rally at East Head/Snowhill Creek.

1730 Arrived back at Cobnor having had an enjoyable sail.

