

Hayling Challenge 2023

Mary Dooley in her Scamp, *Rhubarbie*

This entry is also eligible for the Allan Earl Trophy

Skipper: Main text

Skipper name: Mary Dooley

Boat name: Rhubarbie

Crew name(s): Mark Smith

Type of boat and description: Scamp, very cute but looks a bit like it was designed by playmobil

Rig: Balanced Lug

Date of challenge: 27th august 23

Time of HW Chi BST: 08.36 LW Chi BST: 14.19

Start time: 10.20 Finish time: 17.50

Did you go Clockwise or ACW? Clockwise

Wind strengths and directions: F4/5 West

How did you pass Hayling Bridge? Having spent the evening before in fits of giggles about whether it is possible, or legal, to cross the main road carrying the mast and rig, it turned out that it is easy to just walk on the beach under the bridge and carry the mast and rig whilst leaving the boat tied up. Then I rowed Rhubarbie under the bridge. It was all very simple and I even could remember how to put it all back together again on the other side despite very aggressive looking swans who thought they could intimidate us into handing over the contents of our lunch boxes

Was the current under Hayling Bridge with you or against? I think it was about low water slack we were at the bridge at 14.30



Other comments:

Because I joined the DCA and learned to sail

Because 'Oranges' my Mirror dinghy was such a little sweetie and I had so much fun cruising in her

Because David Spensley had built a Scamp and Margaret was kind enough to sell it to me when David became ill

Because Alistair suggested I contact (DCA lug sail expert) Chris Waite to help sort out the rig when I was feeling clueless

Because Tom Edom was cycling by when Chris was helping me sort out the rig, and said he would help too

Because Tom's cousin Diana let me use her barn so Chris, Tom and me could do what Tom calls boat bimbbling (felt more like hard labour to me) on many extremely cold days during the winter

Because Chichester Harbour is such a beautiful place Because John Welsford and Howard Rice so readily gave online advice and support

Because Tom always told me I could do it, and that it takes time to get to know a new boat, when I felt overwhelmed with the work and the learning curve

Because Pat Ditton crewed and co helmed Rhubarbie in the extremely wild waters at the Semaine Du Golfe Du Morbihan In May

Because Marc Rohou organised a 5 day trip on the Rade de Brest in June, and Roger Barnes helped me with last minute preparations so I could sail Rhubarbie single handed

Because Liz Baker organises the wonderful DCA Cobnor fortnight every year, creating such opportunity to build sailing confidence surrounded by kind people

Because Joe and Joy Murphy supported and encouraged as many people as possible to have a go at the Hayling Challenge

Because Pat Ditton did it first in her Mirror and inspired me with her amazing achievement

Because Mark Smith was top class crew (who also has navionics on his phone)

Because Rhubarbie turned out to be such a sea worthy, fun and remarkably dry little boat

WE DID IT

And I thought it was really quite windy by my standards

I apologise in advance to all the many other people who should also be on the because list, because of their help and advice, there are so many who had a part to play in this constant learning journey that is dinghy cruising.

