

EMSWORTH SAILING CLUB



CENTENARY SAIL PAST

This year Emsworth Sailing Club celebrates its Centenary, having been founded in 1919.

The celebrations include a Sail Past, held on 6 July, and a Centenary Regatta to be held on 31 August with fireworks at midnight to greet 1.9.19

The Sail Past aimed to 'empty the dinghy park'. We didn't quite manage that but 91 sailing dinghies did, supported by a assortment of sailboards, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, rowing boats and small RIBs.

The Committee Boat was **TERROR**. Of 1895 vintage she is the last of the old Emsworth oyster fleet and was built to ferry oysters around the beds in what is now Chichester Harbour. The plan was that **TERROR**, with our Commodore on board, would anchor at the western end of the Emsworth seafront with the fleet assembled astern. At 1430 she would up-anchor and sail gently along the seafront, past the ESC Clubhouse, and then anchor in the main Emsworth Channel. The fleet would follow her at a respectful distance, and dutifully acknowledge as they eventually passed her at anchor in the main channel.

With a gentle southerly breeze on a sunny day the event proceeded in a very orderly manner, apart from some excitement in the main channel when an unsuspecting yachtsman motoring to Emsworth Yacht Harbour suddenly found himself among a mass of dinghies. To say he looked anxious puts it mildly!

The dinghy fleet included several Scows. At ESC, in addition to LR Scows, we have Avon, Keyhaven, Bembridge and Chichester varieties. Photos of the fleet show LR 547 and LR 551 to the fore, the former being sailed by me and the latter by Pippa Blake. Pippa is the widow of Sir Peter Blake who was himself an ESC member in addition to his New Zealand pedigree.

Roger Bleasby
LR 547

