

"A Racing Crabber on the East Coast" by Richard Bailey

My CC26 Lahloo competed in her first race (in my 9 months of ownership) at the Old Gaffers Association East Coast Race on 15th July 2017 along with a modest turn out for the OGA of 25 starters for the 20 mile course. We sailed two handed and finished an acceptable half way up the fleet both overall and in our 'Spirit of Tradition' class, as well as embarrassingly winning the Crabber trophy as the only Crabber racing!

Lahloo then entered the ever popular Mersea Week in August in the Classic Yachts class, sailing in the Classics & Gaffers B Fleet competing in three races, finishing fourth in the first two races and winning the last one. This, for us, was a real result as we are slowly getting the measure of gaff sailing after a lifetime of triangular mainsails.

We were still the only Crabber sailing in Mersea Week which felt a little disappointing as there are so many Crabbers on the East Coast and racing is such a good way of getting the most out of the boat as well as enjoying seriously good shore side entertainment.

Why not come along join in the fun too by trying your hand at racing!



Photo courtesy of Chrissie Westgate, Mersea Week's official photographer



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