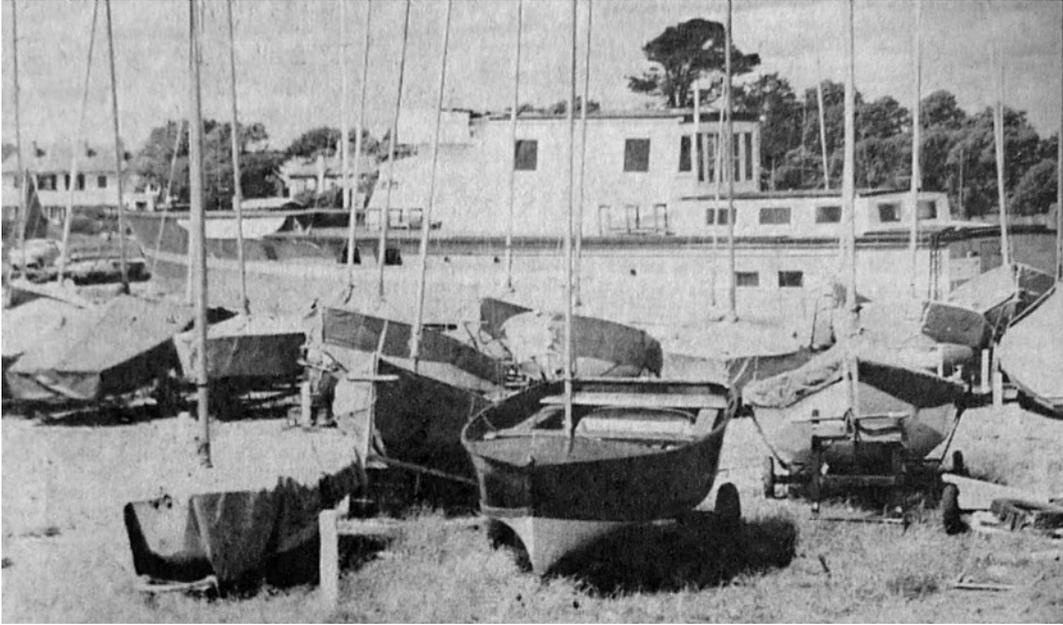


Picturesque pint pot 1966



THIS picturesque scene on Mudeford Quay is well known to holidaymaker's and residents. Against a background of the Sea Vixen, Highcliffe Sailing Club's converted-MTB headquarters are a few of the club members' boats.

The picture, however, grows annually less attractive to the members of the club. There are 500 of them—a very big quart to fit into their tiny pint pot.

When, four years ago Highcliffe Sailing Club combined with the old de Havilland club and took over the Sea Vixen, it was a small family club with 90 members. But things are very different now. Highcliffe is one of the most important clubs in the country; it plays host to national competitions; its 250 members have more than 100 dinghies.

Mr. B. Hand, rear-commadore of the club, told the CT: "The position is drastic. We have room for only five new members now. After that, we will have to close our membership—the old MTB hasn't got elastic sides".

At present the club is negotiating with the council for a site for a new clubhouse. When the council were thinking of replacing the Haven Inn with a new building, they tried to acquire the present old building for conversion to a clubhouse, but the council changed its mind about the new inn, so the sailing club were back where they started.

"Club facilities haven't grown with the membership. We have changing facilities aboard the Sea Vixen for about a dozen; the galley becomes overcrowded if there are more than 30 aboard.

"We have a top deck, but have to limit the numbers we allow up there, as we are afraid the roof might fall in", said Mr. Hand.

Apart from its clubhouse, Highcliffe Sailing Club has much to attract helmsmen. It has built up a formidable record: last year members won the Mayfly national championship, the Seafly national championship and came first in the International 505 meeting at Highcliffe.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Last weekend the club was host and organiser of the national Seafly championship incidentally, a reported on page II, they lost the trophy to another club.

Christchurch Bay provides one of the best places on the south coast for sailing enthusiasts, and the club's present headquarters are ideally situated for a quick exit from the harbour through the Run.

The club, says Mr. Hand, is a great asset to Christchurch, bringing into the area a large number of visitors to race and to watch. But room for some of those who come to race is badly needed.