

BBBA cruise in company to Goole June 22nd and 23rd 2007

On the 22nd June 'Drifter' and 'Blue Teal' made the trip from Beverley beck to Hull marina in order to make best use of the tide on the 23rd. The day started fine and sunny, but cloud and rain had moved in by the time the boats were ready to enter the lock – usual BBBA social event weather conditions! Having committed to making the trip on the Saturday at short notice, we prepared for a wet trip down the river – it wasn't looking too promising as we drank coffee while Grovehill lock drained. Apologies to any other members who would have liked to come, we only decided to go on Thursday evening.

The boats locked out onto the river hull at 0900 as planned and made good and uneventful progress down river assisted by high river levels due to the heavy rain the previous weekend.



Indeed between Ennerdale and Sutton bridges the levels were much higher than expected and both boats had to drop their masts. As we made our way down river the weather started to clear, and had dried up by the time we got to Stoneferry.

The river and old harbour were very quiet, except for a barge which we overtook waiting for Wilmington swing bridge to be opened there was no traffic, and not even any barges tied up in the river.



The sun had come out by the time we passed under Myton bridge allowing a nice picture of Blue Teal with a large Russian coaster in the background while we waited for the lock at Hull Marina. The multicat 'Seahorse' from Southampton was dredging the entrance to the Fish docks while we waited.

Once inside the boats were left for the night at the visitors pontoon.

Both 'Blue Teal' and 'Drifter' were both ready to leave by about 09:30 on Saturday, well before the penning period having paid our night's fees and taken advantage of the BBBA discount of course! Waiting for the lock, it started to rain gently.... Just before 10:00 we were called to the lock and out on the Humber shortly afterwards, in a downpour sufficiently heavy to limit visibility to a couple of miles or less.



We made our way up the north bank to Hesse haven, then under the Humber bridge keeping to the new channel near the north bank. The rain slackened a bit as we got closer to Brough, allowing the first photos to be taken as we approached the No. 31 bouy. We heard a few rumbles of thunder and saw some flashes of lightning just west of the bridge, but the rain eventually gave way to heavy grey overcast skies and an eery, oily calm – the humber was like a mirror.

At Brough we left the main channel and followed the deep channel close to shore to Broomfleet and the entrance to the Market Weighton canal where we tied up for half an hour for a cup of coffee and a chat. John on 'Blue Teal' was on his own and had been occupied steering since we left the marina, while 'Drifter' had aquired a crew overnight leaving hands free to make tea and coffee – and take photos!



When ominous black clouds with rolling thunder started moving in from the Northwest a quick decision was made to leave and continue to Goole. We left just in time, catching only a stiff breeze from a powerful thunderstorm. We continued to enjoy sun all the way to Goole, accompanied by alternating mirror calm and some strong winds which raised a bit of a chop. We passed some coasters coming down from Goole and beyond on the tide, eventually tying up to some pilings just north of Victoria lock for lunch. We briefly discussed passing through Ocean lock but the as the only reason to do so was to say we had done so, and not having much of the penning period left we decided against and contented ourselves with a leisurely lunch in lovely sunshine as we waited for the tide to turn to take us back down the Ouse.



About 20 minutes after the current turned we let go and after a quick look up the river Don proceeded back downriver towards the Humber. Apart from finding a steel yacht aground on a mudbank but still nearly afloat just before Blacktoft the trip was uneventful. There was no one onboard and the anchor had been dropped so we continued on our way back to South Ferriby and our tea. We left the marked channel and followed the old route across to reeds island and made our entrance to South Ferriby, initially tying up at the sluice but moved to the floating pontoon at the pub when warned that the lock keeper was going to release a lot of water.

After a couple of very good pints (or does it just taste better after a day afloat?) and a visit from the welcoming committee (fat smoke grey 'Garfield' cat) we enjoyed a nice meal (again in the sun) then left South Ferriby for the river Hull and home. 'Blue Teal' took one of the crew from 'Drifter' to take some photos on the way back to Hull, an enjoyable run on a decent summer's evening after the terrible start to the day.



We got back into the old harbour a lot earlier than expected, and after passers by concerned at 2 boats sitting in the mud waiting for the tide offered to call the lifeboat out and seemed disappointed when we declined we took the decision to push on up the river as there was already a lot of water due to the neap tide and a lot of fresh water coming down. The trip back to Ennerdale took nearly 3 hours as we worked our way slowly upstream in the relatively shallow water.

'Drifter' went first as she has the benefit of a keel to protect her propeller, and 'Blue Teal' with her stern drive followed. The trip was slow and uneventful apart from 'Drifter' losing suction on one fuel tank necessitating a speedy changeover! Due to the slow run through the city we didn't get back into the beck till just before midnight, so apologies to anyone we may have disturbed.

All involved thoroughly enjoyed the run, and the chance to get further away our usual haunts of the beck, river and Driffield navigation for a while, especially in company with another boat and the security that brings.



Ideas for another run have already been discussed, probably for a longer run maybe over a couple of nights. If anyone is interested 'Blue Teal' And 'Drifter' will probably be going in late August and hopefully with 3 to 4 boats at a date to be mutually agreed - if you're interested let us know and we'll keep you informed.