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While memory serves
 - some recollections of Emsworth in 1945 - (part 3, conclusion)
 John Crookshank

The Emsworth Club Boats were raced as hard as they were cruised and had some success in the Handicap classes, particularly when the wind got up. During the Festival of Britain Regatta in August 1951, EOD 6 took three flags in the racing organised by the Harbour Clubs. My highly efficient crew was Jane Clarke the eldest daughter of Brigadier Terry Clarke of Hollybank House, Westbourne, the larger than life, Member of Parliament for the old Portsmouth West constituency, where most of the 20,000 dockyard mateys seemed happy to vote Conservative! This highly successful week of racing, in glorious weather, probably helped to spark the idea of what has become the roaring success of Fed Week. Post Second World EODs were built with much love and care by another old Emsworth family, Frank Parham and his two sons, one of whom, Gordon, also built the accurate and evocative model to be seen in the Clubhouse. Frank Parham also built wooden struts and thwarts into our own first boat, a canvas ex-army collapsible landing craft.

For the starts on the Club Line, the Bridge displayed a panel of five large and very visible white disks set in a black background. Each half minute to the start, one half of a disk was covered in sequence by drawing a slide over it, until the final half of the fifth minute the disk was covered at the gun. The starts were not notably less efficient than they are 60 years later although there may have been fewer boats on the line in the late 1940s.

Sixty years on, the Emsworth Sailing Club now has a large membership, a very flourishing and successful young component with thorough training programmes and burgeoning success on the water. Several well known sailors have come from the reliable Emsworth Sailing Club stable over the years. Members own dinghies of all shapes and sizes, over 150 cruising boats and the Club has its own moorings, the heated swimming pool - an unusual asset for any sailing club and much in use by members of all ages - and much better facilities ashore and afloat. Major alongside improvements are due in 2006. Numerous families have seen three generations as members at Emsworth and not a few have four.

The heart of the Emsworth Sailing Club, in its old building at the end of Bath Road, originally built as the Bath House for the seawater pool, still beats in much the same way as it did 60 years ago. There is one beautifully varnished, post war, carvel-built EOD look-alike owned by one of the oldest Emsworth sailing families of all, regularly to be seen, sailing close winded, down harbour from her mooring near the Club. With her distinctive, high aspect ratio, main and powerful aspect, she brings back a breath of this old and much loved class to Chichester Harbour.

I would like to make "Recollections of Emsworth Past" a regular feature, please get in touch if you have a story to tell. Due to space limitations, each article will need to be limited to around 400 words and I can only print one each quarter. Editor.

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