

Lowestoft Journal

and Mercury

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LIFEGUARDS ANGRY AFTER BEACH 'MADNESS'

Defiance of warnings 'make blood boil'

LOWESTOFT Lifeguards were still furiously angry yesterday about the way parents, in defiance of warning flags, allowed young children to go into the sea when conditions were dangerous. Their anger mounted after a week in which the Lifeguards' own warnings to holiday-makers on the South Beach were ignored and a man and two children had to be rescued from a groyne near the Clarendon Pier.

One of the rescuers yesterday described how he clung to the end of the groyne, his body protecting one of the children, while waves pounded on top of him. He was exhausted when aid reached him. "I was terrified — I don't mind admitting it," he said yesterday. "I am above-average strength but it took all my strength to hold on, and that's no exaggeration whatsoever."

The holidaymaker who had got into difficulties yesterday wrote to the "Lowestoft Journal" asking that his thanks should be passed on to his rescuers. He said he realised now how foolhardy he and the two boys had been and that the incident had "taught us a lesson we shall not forget."

Lowestoft's Publicity and Entertainments Manager, Mr. A. W. Beckett, said yesterday: "We provide an organisation to help people and to warn them of the dangers, but they just don't pay any attention. It is not a question of being spoilsports and trying to get them out of the water. "Unfortunately we have no authority to do anything other than warn them. You have got to rely on people's common sense. I know that the Lifeguards are quite upset because they try to do their best and then you get this sort of attitude."

'NO IDEA'

The Lifeguards give up their spare

Lest we forget

The man who was rescued on Sunday was Mr. P. C. Youngs, of 4, Oak Road, Stowupland, Stowmarket. In his letter, received yesterday, he wrote:

"May I, through your paper, please convey my grateful thanks to all concerned in rescuing from the sea my son, his friend and myself, realising now how foolhardy we were endangering not only ourselves but those who came to our aid.

"This has taught us a lesson we shall not forget. Our thanks, once again."

Mayor 'very impressed' by welcome at Ostend

Outstanding hospitality and their pride in their war-time links with Lowestoft were two of the chief impressions brought back by



Brooke Marine's Ocean Pirate, with other craft in the Round Britain Powerboat Race as they headed southwards for Ramsgate on Wednesday. Ocean Pirate finished in seventh overall place for the whole race and 13th on the last leg.

Ocean Pirate was seventh overall in Round Britain race

THE Brooke Marine-built Ocean Pirate cruiser entry for the Round Britain Powerboat Race finished seventh in the overall placings—"and we are really delighted with her performance," said a spokesman for the yard.

The final points for trophy winners had still not been worked out by the organisers late last night but it looked as though Ocean Pirate stood a good chance of winning at least one of the Production Boat awards.

No one expected Ocean Pirate to win the race outright—she was up against specially-built high-speed craft designed for the race.

But her builders and designers were hoping for a few "good blows" during the 1400-mile race. They were confident that when they came she would show her paces and that they would take a quick toll of the lighter craft.

Instead, 90 per cent. of the race was fought out in perfect summer weather and a calm sea. Even so only 24 boats finished out of the 42 which started.

"If we had had a week or so of what we term 'normal North Sea weather' I think the number finishing the course would have been down to a half dozen or so," said one Brooke Marine spokesman.

Ocean Pirate's best performance was on the Dundee-Whitby leg in which four boats retired, one sank and she finished in second place, less than two minutes behind the winner of that leg.

Two other East Anglian entries were forced to retire early in the race. The first, A'Sperenziella, from Horning, and helmed by boatbuilder Mr. H. T. Percival and former speedway rider Mr. Reg Morgan, broke its propeller during the Portsmouth-Falmouth stage.

Although a replacement was quickly made by service engineers from Day's Garage, who were "backing up" the Horning boat with a specially-equipped service van, she was unable to maintain the minimum speed laid down and was disqualified.

The other, Anglia Knight, split her hull during the 62-mile circuit of the Isle of Man and had to retire.

Ocean Pirate, a 40-ft. standard production luxury cruiser, was powered by twin Cummins diesels which gave her a top speed of 31 knots.

Winner

Race winner was motor rally ace Timo Makinen in Avenger Too, who finished second in yesterday's final leg to Portsmouth. He had built up a big lead in the early stages and it was regarded as certain to win him the £10,000 first prize while the second prize of £1500 went to Tim Powell in UFO.

Thousands of holiday makers watched the mass start of the Yarmouth-Ramsgate leg on Wednesday morning from vantage points between Corton and Pakefield—and had a good view of the Lowestoft boat as she joined a number of others in the inshore route.

During the overnight stay in Gorleston the awards for the Tuesday leg were presented by the Mayor of Yarmouth, Mr. John Malley. They included a £250 cheque and a trophy given by the Town Council and a £1000 prize from Hoscasons, the Broads boat-letting agency.

A down to earth view of the washing

Eyes of some members of Lowestoft Town Council opened wider when they went to see the

