

History of the Knoll Knockers Trophy

This trophy is awarded annually to the yacht which makes the biggest foul-up during EAST's East Coast Blind Week, and is named in honour of the incident in our first cruise – 1993, when “Bellerophon of Mersea” ran aground on The Knoll, a sandbank off the River Blackwater, and bent its rudder stock.



Inevitably there is greater competition in some years than others.

1993 Bellerophon of Mersea

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1995 Lanina II

1996 Karm Dwy

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1998 Nil Desperandum

1999 Moustique

2000 Barley Mow

2001 Pulcherrima

2002 Triple – for inventing a new way of picking up a visitors' mooring at Queenborough, which involved the foredeck crew jumping onto the buoy, losing his balance and going for a swim.

2003 Vitality – for topping up the engine oil with antifreeze, five minutes before the bridge opened at Calais.

2004 Chelena – for melting the engine electrics off Clacton.

2005 Ariane – for swearing the crew to secrecy once too often.

2006 Habamano – for preferring to watch Germany play in the World Cup, rather than join the rest of the fleet sailing to Brouwershaven.

2007 Hippokamos – for deciding to re-pack the stern gland, with the boat still in the water.

2008 Second Simo – for leaving the mainsail packed away whilst on a sailing week.

2009 Mistress Quickly – for visiting the wrong toilet block in Nieuwpoort, requiring getting a taxi back to the boat.

2010 Vitality – for a chapter of accidents, including running out of fuel twice, and sinking the dinghy in Heybridge Basin. Another boat lost its liferaft in a spectacular broach.

2011 Canyelles – for running aground both going in to Ramsgate, and again coming out. Fiercely fought out – two other boats went aground at anchor, whilst another needed a 20 mile tow.

2012 Rosabella – for anchoring at 6 knots off Lowestoft, but another boat needed to organise lifts back to boat, having had a lift to Ramsholt Arms from passing RIB.

2013 Loafing – on countback to the most unfortunate unrecognised incident of prior years – choice of 2010 losing liferaft in a broach, 2011 engine problems, and 2012 forgetting to take the dinghy ashore.

2014 Samphire – for going aground whilst attacking the flagship with waterpistols.