

Alice v. Secret: sailing matches circa 18??

(from local paper)

PAGLESHAM.

Sailing Match for as Silver Cup. - A race between boats belonging to Mr. Pettitt and Mr. Fred Wiseman took place on Sept 13th in pleasant weather, and was watched with great interest. Some time ago a match was run between two boats belonging to these two owners. On that occasion, one of Mr. Wiseman's boats won, and Mr. Pettitt's Alice came in second. Mr J. Walker, proprietor of the Old Ship Inn, Rochford, offered a silver cup to be sailed for between the winner and the second boat; also a silver medal for the captain of the winning boat. Mr. Pettitt's boat was the winner on Saturday by several minutes. There was very little wind. The Secret, which was the first in the previous race, is a large boat and required more wind than the Alice.

SAILING MATCH AT PAGLESHAM.

Another sailing match took place at Paglesham on Saturday, in glorious weather. The contest was an outcome of the recent "Regatta" when Mr. John Walker, of the Old Ship Hotel, Rochford, offered to present two prizes, value five guineas and two guineas respectively, to be raced for by the two boats that came first and second on that occasion. These were the Secret (13 tons) belonging to Mr. Fred Wiseman, and the Alice (12 tons) belonging to Mr. Zachary Pettitt.

The course was from off Paglesham, thence to Burnham, and a mark-boat off Cricksea ferry, returning to the starting point; twice round. The starting gun was fired at half past ten, and for the first few moments the Secret went along best, but before many yards had been covered it was seen that the Alice has assumed the lead, and she retained it to the end, eventually winning by 19 minutes amidst hearty cheers from the spectators on the shore and those on the different boats which had accompanied the race.

There was a nice light breeze at starting, but the wind gradually dropped, and when the race finished at half past six it was almost a dead calm. The winning boat was steered by Tom Fosdick, and the Secret by Robert Levett. A large party was liberally entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Walker on the steam launch Lord Brassey, which had been placed at their disposal by Mr Wm. Clarke, of Southend, and a champagne luncheon was served in the well-appointed cabin. Mr Fred Wiseman had a party of friends on board the Viking, and he stered her round the course and succeeded in overtaking his other boat, the Secret. Mr. Pettitt's steam launch, the Tiny Mite