

## LATEST NEWS -- CALAIS HARBOUR YACHT MARINA

Many of you would have already heard that the lock gates to the entrance of Calais harbour yacht marina have been removed and have been replaced with a sill.

Rob Scriven (Vice Commodore, Benfleet Yacht Club), took a drive over to Calais on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May to see the actual situation first hand.

Below are some photographs taken by Rob of the harbour showing the sill, plus some notes on his personal findings.

There will be "six" openings of the swing bridge on each tide, with approximately 'two metres' of water over the sill on the first bridge opening. There should be no problem for the great majority of BYC boats wanting to enter. The depth of water is clearly marked on tide gauges at the side of the entrance.

There will be plenty of berths available, as the harbour authority is currently installing additional floating pontoons along the south wall, complete with water and electricity supply.

The main draw-back is that the present visitor's pontoon only has one metre depth of water at low tide towards the lock end, but the remainder has at least 1.5 metres as you move up towards the clubhouse. The depth of water increases as boats raft out towards the centre of the basin.

It is believed that there will not be any more problems in Calais than we have experienced in the past. The swell should not be any worse than in the times when the lock gates used to be left in the open position. In fact, it may be less, as the sill should act as a partial baffle.

This situation is likely to be in place for the foreseeable future (at least for the remainder of this year).

Paul Field – Sailing Secretary, Benfleet Yacht Club  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2008





