

MOA SW Fowey Rally

The Branch's first rally of the year was in Fowey. It attracted 5 boats but should have been 6. Unfortunately Flying Pig failed to put in an appearance. My schedule was for a day sail to Plymouth; join up with Ellen Marvel (John and Lesley Oldham); then both boats sail to Fowey. But when we entered Plymouth Sound, I went below and could hear water slopping under the cabin sole. On inspection, the water was within 5 centimetres of the surface! When I looked into the engine housing water was steadily pouring from the pressure cap overflow. I immediately issued the command "STOP ENGINES"! We managed to sail most of the way into Plymouth Yacht Haven, just using the engine to take Flying Pig into a berth. Back down to the engine to find that the pressure cap had broken. The chandlery managed to obtain a suitable replacement pressure cap, but this failed to cure the problem. I therefore determined that the Fowey Rally would have to go ahead without the South West captain. When I told John, he said that it was not right that the Captain would not be present and said that accommodation was available on Ellen Marvel for two CREW members. We hastily packed minimal baggage including the all important refreshments for the pontoon party, and transferred to Ellen Marvel.



Fowey Harbour Entrance

On arrival in Fowey, Carl Stansfield (the event Organiser) had made arrangements with the Harbour Authority for a pontoon to be reserved for the rally. We were directed by one of the harbour patrol vessels to the pontoon and found that two vessels, Maui 4

and Moonshadow, had already arrived. We were joined by Mojo and Oronsay with their crews and the intention was to hold a pontoon party that evening, but the weather was against that. Tony and Margaret kindly offered Maui 4 as the venue for the party, which was greatly appreciated. The main saloon of the Moody 44 seemed to expand with the arrival of every boat crew, and everyone seemed to have a seat.

On Saturday, Carl arranged for a guide to conduct a walking tour of Fowey. Unfortunately, Ellen Marvel's dinghy had a leak and was not usable. The outboard motor on Oronsay's dinghy failed to start, so by transferring the outboard motor from the deflated dinghy, and with dinghy's from Moonshadow and Mojo, there was enough passenger capacity to ferry everyone, by relay, to the town. The guide gave us a detailed tour of the town with interesting insights into the history and architecture of Fowey and Polruan. Some of the company went to the Royal Fowey Yacht Club for lunch. Pat, my wife stayed onshore to attend a lecture which was part of the Fowey festival of words and music. Arrangements were made for Pat to contact me by phone when she had returned to Albert Quay so

that I could arrange with Mel to bring her back to the pontoon. Mel generously said I could borrow his dinghy, so I set off. Halfway across the river I managed to get the dinghy's painter wrapped around the propeller, which stopped turning! I continued to the quay using the oars, and untangled the painter, and retrieved Pat.

We had already established that the water taxi would be available to take us ashore in the evening for the Rally diner at the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. But, the taxi service



Assembling for the walking tour



Looking over the rooftops to Place House

was due to finish at 22:00, which may not have been suitable to bring us back. Money talks and I was able to negotiate a special rate for the return trip for everyone and extend the operating time of the taxi to 11:00. The water taxi had a registered capacity of 12 passengers it needed two trips to ferry everyone. We were joined at the yacht club by sev-

eral members who had driven down to Fowey, being unsettled by the adverse weather forecasts earlier in the week. We had a delightful meal in the yacht club, and the 23:00 deadline arrived far too quickly.

Sunday morning saw the gradual departure of eastbound boats enjoying the benefit of a favourable tide.

Thank you Carl for a very successful rally.

Eric Lowe
Branch Captain