

# 2010

## Fitting Out Supper

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Old Lodge Hotel, Alverstoke

Coordinator: Mike O'Connor

Our traditional gathering to review our season's activities went very well with 34 sitting down to dinner having had an interesting wine tasting. The season's activities comprise some 22 weekend events including the 25th anniversary event which is spread over the late May bank holiday.

New additions to this year's calendar are the Mid-Week events which will be run by Alan Howlett. There are six of these and with smaller numbers of boats the events can be tailored somewhat to attendee wishes.

Dixon Races will also feature widely, do come and join in. The benefits of knowing



how well you sail your boat are enormous when you get into a tight spot, see you on the line!

The meal was excellent and the welcome from the Hotel Staff very good as was the quality of the meal.

The evening broke up with the Hotel Staff anxious to close up - another sign of a good 'Moody' evening.

Thanks for coming and we look forward to a good season.

Stay safe, wear a life jacket.

Richard Beeson



## Easter weekend - Poole

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April

### Coordinators: Ian & Sally Brearley

The forecast was looking windier by the day as the Easter holiday approached, with a wide variance between Windguru and the Met office. As it turned out the higher winds predicted by the Met gave way as the weekend progressed to the lesser winds of Windguru. The result was a gathering of 7 boats at Yarmouth on Friday afternoon with some fine sails down in winds which veered from SE to SW at Cowes. Both blowing F4-5. Naturally there were rainy squalls and in the face of some poor forecasts it was decided on Saturday to stay in Yarmouth rather than continue to Poole with a forecast that promised, both rain and strong winds for the Monday return to say nothing of a rocky anchorage at Brownsea.



We welcomed new members:-Roger, Diane & James from Sincerity and Richard and Amanda from Justine Gabrielle who we met at the Nibbles & Drinks hosted by Sally and Ian on Time Out. We were sorry to have missed Dave and Bev on Scirocco who having missed us not going to Poole came to Yarmouth. Steve and Annemarie met with them but sadly the rest of us were gallivanting on Tennyson Down.



On Saturday we relaxed with some 'Yarmouth' retail therapy, walks to Freshwater and one keen team bussing to Alum Bay and walking back over Tennyson Down and back via Freshwater. Our local guide (Sally) chose an interesting route through the reed beds of the upper Yar. Here we had to abandon the Track flooded by the high tide and make our way through the reeds to the road, it was reminiscent of the Livingstone- Stanley meeting when we all joined up on the road.

The Kings Head enjoyed 20 of us for the

evening meal.

Sunday dawned fine and we chilled with the Easter Bonnet parade held on Time Out with tea and coffee for 16 on board. Winning bonnet was Liz Howlett, with prizes to Steve for Parrot abuse, Kate for the sole representation for Ireland, and others.

Monday we held the Dixon2 passage race home .

The weekend was very successful and in spite of the cold winds we all had a very sociable weekend. Our thanks to Sally & Ian who co-ordinated the event and made the arrangements twice, once for Poole and again for Yarmouth - good job.

Thanks for your company.

Richard



At The Kings Head



Out walking



Easter Bonnet parade

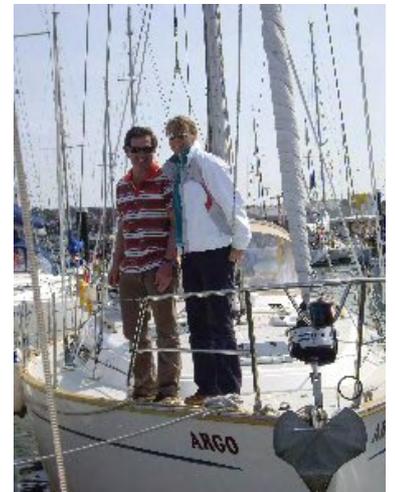




## Captains Supper Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April

**Coordinators: Mike and Jeanne O'Connor**

Thirteen boats duly arrived during the afternoon in the sunshine. As usual crews mixed and enjoyed the afternoon chatting or getting in some retail therapy before the traditional 6.00pm pontoon party. Joy as usual excelled in providing tasty nibbles to go with the usual wine while Richard welcomed everyone. In particular we were pleased to have Dave & Bev Colbert and their crew from Poole.



At 7.00pm we all made our way to the Island Sailing Club for the dinner. They provided an excellent meal which was thoroughly appreciated. The atmosphere as always was buzzing with lots of chatter and laughter. Following coffee Richard provided the Captains address to much banter and the inevitable barracking to shorten proceedings. (Thanks to Joy for that one!!)





Time Out had to make an early exit at 5.30 the next morning to catch the tide back to make a 10.30am Christening in Rutland! Everyone else had a late rise due to late partying ashore. A passage race to Portsmouth was eventually organised, the results have not made their way through to the Solent Branch reporter yet!

It was another good event enjoyed by all. The pictures as usual tell the story.

Richard.  
Solent Correspondent



## Nab Tower & Chichester Bank Holiday Rally

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

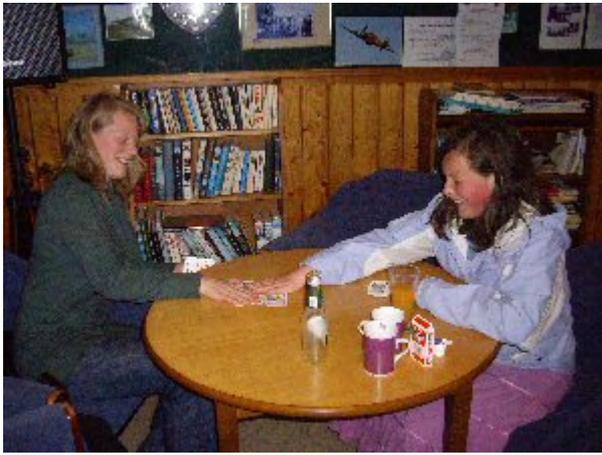
**Coordinators: Joseph and Kim Sage**

Saturday dawned bright with light winds as the fleet gathered at Lee Point for the Nab Tower race. Some 8 or so boats started at 10.30, with the racers soon deploying chutes. The White fleet made good progress and as we neared the Nab the wind picked up and backed SE. Delfini took line honours, Argo 2nd over the line followed by Time Out the first of the cruisers 3 seconds ahead of Seraphina. However Seraphina as race starter started 8 minutes late and made massive progress until the headsail decided that it wanted a rest and parted company with its halyard.



We then progressed to Thorney Island where Pete Rowland looked after the moorings in dinghy in the pouring rain. 4.00 saw us slowly make our way to Thorney Island Sailing Club for an excellent BBQ with nibbles laid on by Joseph, Kim, Elizabeth & Victoria.





The evening was sunny but cold and we eventually repaired to the clubhouse to test the beer and get warm. We returned to the boats at 10.00, some continuing until the small hours seeing how rum worked in hot chocolate.!!



Sunday dawned overcast with wind and we moved up to Itchenor Visitors buoys. The Chocolate team making a very late arrival!

Dinner ashore in the evening was a great success, with 30 sitting down in The Ship.

Monday was sunny spells with lots of gusty wind. Some departed early and the rest left the moorings at around 12.00 for a very gusty Dixon passage race back Home.

An excellent weekend with good company albeit cold.

A big thank you to Peter Rowland who organised it and Joseph & Kim who coordinated.

Thanks all for coming.

Richard  
Solent Correspondent

## Yarmouth Rally

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Well another sun-baked weekend in ... Dubai - sadly the day started with a depressing forecast which ensured that one set off to Yarmouth with a determination to 'do it'. Actually the sail down was very pleasant and it was almost balmy at times with a flat sea and light winds.

There were eventually 5 boats gathered to watch the storm clouds gather and wreak their havoc on the mainland. We stayed dry but it was windy but mainly cold. However nothing deterred us, we BBQ'd on board and then, took our offerings (not BBQ burnt!!) to Time Out where in the comfort of a heated cabin 10 sat down to a good evening, with fine food, seats to sit on, music playing and great company.



Needless to say Boules did not take place but a good time was had. Sunday dawned, a sort of hazy sun lurked behind more grey cloud and by mutual agreement the Dixon race was held, in the form of a good passage race to Raymarine off Beaulieu. Given the stiff north easterly breeze, this was a beat which soon split up the contenders.

Thanks to all who made it, and look out for the results when they are posted.

Richard



## Portsmouth Historic Port

Midweek - 19<sup>th</sup> May

### Coordinators: Allan and Liz Howlett

A break in the weather was a good start, a fine day was forecast and we assembled at Premier's Gosport Marina, Liz and I were entitled to a free night, Geoff and Val got the MOA discount, Tony and Eleanor were already resident.

Tuesday evening we enjoyed a planning meal at the nearby Castle Pub. An excellent meal with generous portions, Geoff and Val had invited two friends Mike and Jean. A plan emerged. Tony and Eleanor were due down during the night so we agreed to meet at 10.00 am on the Wednesday. We retired after a coffee and home-made cake on Halyards.

Up early updated Tony and Eleanor and met for the early ferry, a little misty so we agreed to visit the Spinnaker Tower in the afternoon. We all went to the Historic boatyard. The visitor's centre was not busy and we got a £16.50 ticket, which gave us unlimited access for a year to all the attractions. Although there were a few school parties there was no queuing.



As some had seen Victory before and some had seen HMS Warrior we split into two parties.



Geoff, Val, Liz and myself chose Warrior. A magnificent ship and well restored. The gun deck called the 'Citadel' is surrounded by 4" wrought iron, which is able to

withstand a gunshot from the largest cannon in service, it gave protection to the men on the guns. Massive guns in place, all but one original, the others fibre glass replicas but only because we were told. Living conditions were replicated. A common question where did the men go for the toilet? The answer was "up the front where the spray would remove rubbish", and away from the masters cabin at the stern of the ship. We then learned where the expression 'tow rag' came from. Apparently a

rag is towed in the water, maybe several and is used for cleaning up afterwards, well if you ask, you get an answer. The boilers 10 furnaces serving 5 boilers conditions cramped and hot, men got paid extra to work the boilers. An innovative lifting propeller taking 500 men to lift to avoid drag, before folding props. Washing machines, the first on a ship, powder rooms, with intricate access lead lined floors and plastered walls to reduce sparks. Still during engagements ships blow up when their magazines explode. A clever means of raising the anchor, with a large continuous messenger rope around capstans on two decks operated by up to 300 men to which the anchor cable was attached by 'nippers' who nipped the anchor cable to the messenger.

Yes an interesting two hour visit. We met for lunch in the spacious cafeteria and had baked jacket potatoes and soup to tide us over.





We then walked to Gun Wharf Quay and went up the Spinnaker Tower, three platforms, the lower platform with a glass floor, little children running over it. Adults a little more cautious. Great views. We could make out Hurst Point in the distance, but looking down on the harbour was interesting, Warships manoeuvring, a racing yacht overturned in Haslar Marina, mast resting on the pontoon, and a swinging keel that had stopped swinging. Non-stop action. We then had a drink and cake in the warm afternoon sunshine overlooking the



harbour before wandering back to the ferry and an afternoon drink on Tony and Eleanor's new boat 'Svecia' a sleek Swedish built Malo.

We then arranged to walk to Haslar Marina and try out the new steak house, another enjoyable evening, Mike recounting tales from his time as a police motor cyclist.

A final evening coffee on Halyards and so to bed.

A most enjoyable event, Liz and I stayed another day and visited Victory, The Mary Rose Museum, Naval Museums, Port apprentice exhibition, and took the included harbour tour boat trip to see the Royal Naval ships being serviced, some being taken out of commission or sold.



Thanks to all those who turned up and contributed to a great day out.

Allan and Liz Howlett  
Halyards