

## REPORT OF THE MOODY OWNERS SOUTH WEST BRANCH RALLY TO SALCOMBE

Tony Wildig had organised this May Bank Holiday weekend rally applying his familiar expertise to the task. 15 yachts had booked and were directed by the harbour master to the visitor's pontoon in the area known locally as The Bag. Further instructions included that we raft up on the inner side of the pontoon as there were two other yacht clubs scheduled to tie up on the other side of the pontoon. This resulted in 'three out' rafts. Not so comfortable for some! And disappointingly the other side of the pontoon stayed relatively empty. It was tempting to 'move across' but...



At 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3 the pontoon party was launched and gorgeous looking nibbles etc. were laid out on tables. Margaret Wildig had prepared the spread which was pretty quickly savoured by the MOA attendees. Wine and other alcohol flowed too and as ever, the pontoon began to lower under the weight of the party. We then went off on our way to dry land via the water taxis and had dinner.



On Saturday, May 4 some MOA members headed off for a trip to the Overbecks National Trust house and gardens. Others ventured back to the town to 'explore'. Saturday evening we were booked into the Salcombe Yacht Club for dinner in the Chart Room. It was a glorious early summer evening albeit rather cool. Especially when we had to head back to our boats via the water taxi. Note for myself, bring a scarf and gloves next time!









On the Sunday, some yachts had arranged to leave for their home ports whilst those who stayed relaxed and sheltered from the cool breeze.

The Monday saw the rest of us leaving and I have to report that Dreamcatcher 2 having reached the entrance to the harbour suddenly found themselves with a problem. The engine warning sounded – we were overheating! So switched off the engine, put the sails up and cruise back to Plymouth. It was a great sail, but poor Kevin and his brother Mike were down below peering into the engine room to identify the problem. The prognosis was that we had picked up some weed which was now blocking the water inlet! We had indeed noticed substantial amounts of weed whilst tied up at the Bag, and other yachts had reported ‘blockages’. So with hindsight we should have checked before heading off! We eventually got back to Plymouth Haven and further investigations confirmed we had been ‘weeded’!

Nonetheless, we had a great first rally of the year and are looking forward to the next one – Fowey on May 25 to May 27.

**MARY ALLEN**