



## Cowes Rally Report

28th to 30th August 2021

The Solent branch's sixth rally of the year took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend at Cowes and was held at Shepards Marina. The rally was attended by 46 members and guests with 22 yachts arriving over Friday and Saturday. The furthest passages were for Moment and Running Wild from Poole. It was also good to welcome a number of members who were attending their first MOA rally.



After what had been a disappointing holiday period we were blessed with fine weather and good breezes. The rally incorporated the fifth race in the Dixon series that could be completed either en-route or sailing home.

Socially the rally started with a dinner hosted by the Island Sailing Club on Saturday evening. Although we had lost the services of our DJ for the evening at short notice (to the relief of some), everyone enjoyed socialising and catching-up with friends and stories of summer cruises.



On Sunday morning many walked to Egypt Point to watch the Start of the Cowes Torquay Cowes offshore powerboat race that was followed by the start of the Cowes Poole Cowes race for the smaller class 3 powerboats. The starts were great spectacles as the boats accelerated for the start line at the RYS, but they were soon gone. The winner Silverline did the return trip to Torquay in 2 hours and 21 minutes at an average speed of 82.29 Knots. Impressive when you don't have to put up with the wash.

Later we met up in Northwood Park for a lunchtime picnic followed by croquet. Many of the croquet games started off friendly but soon became competitive affairs. Not unlike sailing.



Sunday concluded back at Shepards with an enjoyable pontoon party. Eventually the freshening northerly breeze encouraged us back to socialise in our warmer saloons.



The rally departed Monday morning with the fresh breeze making some of the manoeuvring out of the north basin interesting but ultimately uneventful.

This was the first MOA rally we've organised and we've been really pleased with the thanks and positive feedback received. Our thanks to everyone for their encouragement and support.

Andy and Karen Billowes (Safina)

*Photos: Neil O'Conner – Shepards, ISC dinner and croquet. Andy Billowes – Pontoon Party.*