

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY RALLY TO ISLAND HARBOUR

Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May

Six boats out of thirteen arrived on Friday about lunchtime in unexpected and very welcome sunshine. Nothing formal had been planned for the afternoon so it was a chance to catch up and chat. Saturday saw the arrival of the rest of the rally in time to participate in the Boules Competition, ably organised by Richard Beeson



and it was keenly contested between boat crews with the final being between Magic Mood and Serafina.



Jennifer and David on Magic Mood won through. As the Boules Trophy is not presented until the Laying Up Supper an interim prize in the form of two cans of baked beans was found (explanation – earlier in the day David and Jennifer had needed some wind to fly their cruising chute and it was thought that baked beans might be helpful).

The Pontoon Party was a great opportunity for everyone to meet and chat whilst having a few welcome drinks and nibbles.



Quite a few crews booked the onsite restaurant, The Breeze, for dinner, and all agreed that they enjoyed their meals and the service was good. The evening turned out to be rather cold so no-one lingered on the pontoons but met up on board various boats for coffee and after dinner drinks.

On Sunday, everyone woke up to rain, which persisted throughout the day. Some brave people went off for a walk to Newport and the crew of another boat walked to Wootton Station to catch the IOW Steam Train and had an enjoyable day. The BBQ was planned for early afternoon in anticipation of the weather being cold and both barbecues were lit, in spite of the rain.



Fortunately, these were under the shelter of trees as were also the picnic tables and benches. To our surprise nearly all the boat crews turned up to cook and eat and generally socialise, in spite of the weather.

Monday saw departures at different times as those with a shallow draft were able to lock out about 0930 where as many decided to wait for free flow around midday. Unfortunately there was no wind so that those who had not sailed the Dixon Race on the way to island Harbour had lost their opportunity.