

Moody Owners Association, South West Branch

Plymouth Rally – 16th and 17th August 2023



The 2023 South West Plymouth Rally was based at Plymouth Yacht Haven and has become a flagship event: this year was no different. The rally is planned to take place at the same time as the National Fireworks competition, so it is important to ensure that guests have a good view of the spectacular. This event was only possible due to the hard work of Peter Roberts, Brett and Susan Whitby-Smith, Alex Whatley and John Oldham, and we all thank them for making the event a great success.

In addition to those berthed in Plymouth Marinas, we had 6 boats from out of the Plymouth area, including from the East Coast and The Solent, and the weather could have been made to order. The boats from other ports had all arrived by 1800 and were welcomed, with local members, with a pontoon party arranged by Brett and Susan Whitby-Smith. This was a superbly arranged event and Brett and Susan must have been up all night preparing it. After the party half the party went up to the Bridge Restaurant for a pre-booked social meal. We had a table overlooking the marina, so if the fireworks started before we finished the meal we could see them from the table.



At The Bridge Restaurant

In the event the restaurant completed serving in time for us to step out and view the first day of the fireworks competition from the veranda. The competition on is spread over two days, with three 15 minute shows each day. After the final show (on the 17th) a winner is chosen. Those who did not have their boats, or accommodation, at the Yachthaven had to make sure that they caught the

Mount Batton Ferry back to the Barbican, so they left the Bridge before the end and were able to watch the last of the fireworks from the Ferry steps.

Unlike some of the more compact MOA branches, our members live all over the UK and keep their boats from Wareham in the East and West to the tip of Cornwall, around the Bristol Channel and half way up the Welsh Coast. Getting to a rally is a sailing experience, so we like to arrange something of special interest. This year we were invited by one of our members, who is also a senior member of Plymouth University to tour the Marine Building and see the research being undertaken into offshore energy and the facilities for training merchant marine officers. This tour was arranged for



1100 on Thursday morning and it was well attended. Alex met us in the lobby, and we went up to the large marine pool where wave and tidal simulations can be set up to test various configurations of floating wind turbine and other marine structures. Alex explained the various types of anchoring systems that could be used and how they are tested in different wave and tidal conditions. The aim is to develop a single moored wind turbine that will generate 4GW of energy, sufficient to power Cornwall. One issue is the shore infrastructure to take the power ashore, but this is a national problem with the grid.

After the tour of the pool, we were taken into two live ship bridge simulators and given the opportunity to navigate a ferry and fast watercraft (Kongsberg Simulator) in various sea



Piloting the Ferry

states. Although the floors did not move, the scenery did and gave a real sensation of being at sea. A couple of people had to move outside bridge as the apparent motion was so realistic.

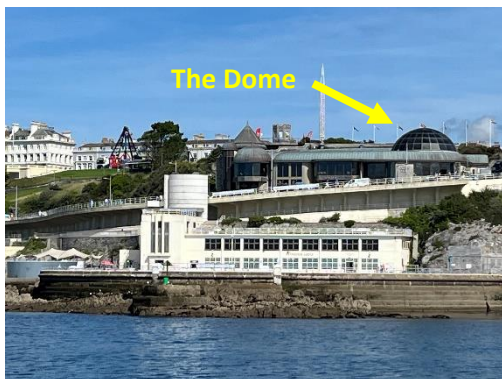
The staff were understandably very enthusiastic and were happy to go into whatever detail we required. The



The Kongsberg Simulator

whole visit was very interesting, educational and enjoyable. Sincere thanks go to Alex Whatley for arranging it for the South West branch, especially as he made a special trip to Plymouth from Falmouth to conduct the tour where he was attending the tall ships visit. We are also very grateful to the resident staff in the Maritime Department for giving so much of their time and expertise.

After the visit to the University the group dispersed, in the evening we all met up again for the Rally Dinner at the “Ocean View at the Dome Restaurant” on the Hoe. This was an

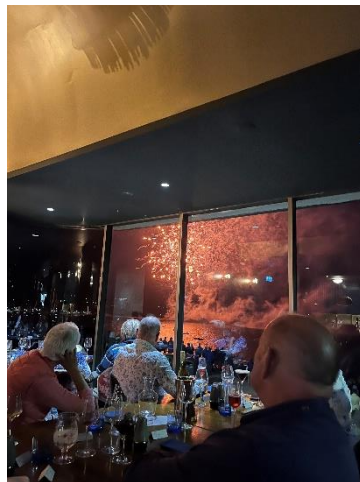


amazing venue for the dinner as it overlooked the waterfront and had the “best view in town” of the fireworks. Peter Roberts, our Plymouth Port Officer, suggested the Dome as the venue for the rally dinner and it could not have been a better choice. The service and staff were excellent and the food great. We were able to complete the meal before the start of the final day of the fireworks competition and the guests were able to watch it from the comfort of their seats. After the last of the

three fireworks displays ended, a coach was provided to take guests back to the Yachthaven as the ferry had stopped by then. Thank you John (Oldham) for managing the return trip to

the Yachthaven. The next morning many boats began to leave for their home ports, although a few stayed a little longer. Feedback from the guests suggested that, overall, the rally was a success and enjoyable and we were encouraged to book the same venue for the rally dinner in 2024.

The following are a few pictures of the fireworks and view from the Dome:



Taken from the tables in the Ocean View Restaurant in the Dome



Taken from the Terrace of the Ocean View at the Dome restaurant