

MOA Solent Branch

Rally Reports for 2024

Lymington Rally 6th - 7th April

Lymington was the first rally of the year and one of our unwritten rules is that rallies at each end of the season should be at a location on the mainland so that members can still get to the social if the weather is bad. This turned out to be the case for Lymington with a gale forecast for the weekend. One yacht Falken sailed by Carol and Mike Neave did manage to get to Lymington before the weekend. Otherwise, members took the safe option of travelling to Lymington for an evening meal and to socialise at Lymington Town Yacht Club on the Saturday evening. We were also joined by our new Commodore Paul Woodward and Martha Clarke.

Jackie and Jim Coombs (Galatea)

Yarmouth Rally 4th - 6th May

The Yarmouth Rally was held over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend with sixteen yachts arriving over Friday and Saturday. On Saturday many joined in a friendly boule competition on the green. In the evening we met at the Royal Solent Yacht Club enjoying a drink on the balcony with a beautiful view across the Solent as the sun started to dip. This was followed by an enjoyable meal in the club restaurant. As always, we were well cared for by RSYC.

On Sunday morning we walked as a large group along the path on the east bank of the River Yar to the bridge at Freshwater. From here some walked on to Freshwater Bay whilst others enjoyed a lunch at the nearby Red Lion Inn. The rally co-ordinators Diana and Mark Glyde hosted a pontoon party in the evening with the yellow visitor's pontoon just about keeping the large gathering afloat.

Diana and Mark Glyde (Argo)



Fleet at Yarmouth



Yarmouth rally pontoon social

Poole Rally, 5th to 7th July

Having last visited Poole during the late Queen's Jubilee we were keen to return for another rally. Ten yachts had booked with several planning to use it as a first leg of a summer cruise to the West County or cross channel. For a second time our unsettled summer begged to differ with strong winds and near gale gusts forecasted it was necessary to cancel the rally. Never an easy decision but given the yachts would be outside the shelter of the Solent it was the right one.

Janis and Robbie Sargent (Team Spirit)

Beaulieu Rally 3rd - 4th August

Always a popular rally is when we visit Bucklers Hard and enjoy the beautiful Beaulieu River. The rally was fully booked with fifteen yachts attending. Saturday was sunny with a fresh southwesterly breeze that made for an enjoyable sail. At Bucklers Hard we were rafted as a fleet on their visitor's pontoon. In the afternoon many took the opportunity to walk the footpath alongside the river to visit Beaulieu village. In the evening we met up to socialise and enjoy a barbeque using one of the marina's marquees.

Heather and Andy Raysbrook (Ossian)

Southampton Town Quay Rally 5th - 6th October

For the last rally of the year we were back at Southampton Town Quay with nine yachts attending. The yachts arrived on Saturday afternoon on a bright and breezy day. There was a social gathering late afternoon for a drink and nibbles to socialise with other members. In the evening the group enjoyed a meal at an Indian restaurant in Southampton.

Sarah and Antony Joint (Zingara of Largs)



Southampton rally dinner