

Lymington Rally July 4/5, 2015

Encouraged perhaps by fine weather forecasts a total of 15 boats signed up for the rally to Lymington this year. However three dropped out before the day, one had double booked a surprise birthday party in France and the other two for last-minute personal reasons. This left 12, which was fortunate as even with 12 berthing at Dan Bran pontoon was somewhat cosy - it also had two other rallies booked in for the Saturday night.

The wind on Saturday was a very respectable SW force 4 and with spring tides this made for a boisterous sail with wind over tide in the Western Solent in the afternoon. So much so that one more boat decided to opt out, although Shaun with Parnvoose arrived unannounced to make up the numbers. Cad'h Ruadh had sailed to Lymington on the Friday. Tiddley Pom II, Troika, One and All, Hati, Shibumi, Cracker, Last Laugh, Miss Sally, Sea Otter and Emmalyn completed the fleet, arriving during the afternoon and rafting up three deep with the helpful assistance of the Harbour Master.

Crews gathered for a sociable drink and chat on the pontoon in the late afternoon, joined by Dave and Trish who had come by road. Suitably refreshed the now 30 strong party transferred to the Mayflower for an excellent and efficiently served meal. After this the log for the evening went unrecorded, although it is believed that nightcaps were served on at least one of the boats....

Sunday dawned grey and with little wind. Boats departed from about 9am to take the easterly tide. Sails were hoisted more in hope than expectation and several boats relied on their engines to take them back to their home ports. However the weather improved during the morning and several boats gave their spinnakers and asymmetrics an airing to enjoy a fine sail as the sun broke through the clouds. Some went to Osborne Bay for lunch whilst others took a more direct course home.