

## Bucklers Hard rally report

This rally was one of the most successfully rallies we have been to, so a huge thank you to Clive for organising it. Fourteen boats were booked in with the late addition of Speedbird. The harbour master changed the original plan and managed to put us all together on the end of the long fuel pontoon. The weather was kind but cold, and for those of us mad enough to beat into a NE it was very, very, cold but sunny. The wind was a typical NE with big gusts and huge wind shifts



With everyone moored up, the first event was tea and cake on Quickstep. Now clearly 36 people were not going to fit on to Quickstep with enough room for the four different cakes to be cut, so we spilled over onto Magenta, Trudi is still trying to get the cake crumbs out of the cockpit. The almond and mascarpone was great, but then so were, the

chocolate, lemon and fruit cakes. Thank you to Clive and Lesley for making such great cakes.

The evening event was arranged as a Safari supper, where each boat prepares a course and people move around after each course, it sounds simple, but with 15 boats and more than 30 people, some food allergies and dietary requirements, it looked like a logistical nightmare. No need to worry, Clive had worked it all out and produced a large multi coloured spreadsheet, so people could see where they were eating and which course they had to cook. He even managed to match the colours with boat livery colour! With starters at 6.30, main course at 7.30 and pudding at 9.00 and moving between boats it was a most social evening and before we knew it it was nearly midnight. It was a great opportunity to spend time with people you may not normally meet. Judging by the emails flying around on Monday everyone had a fantastic time.

On Sunday morning there was a triathlon, a swim in the Beaulieu river at some ungodly hour, followed by a bike ride and then the run. A few hardy GCCC souls got up to watch the start, none participating though. Whilst some boats left early Sunday morning, others stayed until early afternoon. A number of crews walked into Beaulieu at various times in the morning, some sampling the excellent locally made ice cream. Whisper (author of the Lymington rally report) had a great time running in the woods and chasing anything that appeared to move.

This was our first GCCC Safari supper, everyone made a big effort preparing their designated course, so the food was great, better than a pub or yacht club. It was also much more sociable, normally with a sit down dinner, you only get to talk to about five or six people around you. Good organisation was the key and having everyone on shore side pontoons made switching from boat to boat much easier. Clive has a job for next year, it should be easy, having done it once!

Denny and Julie, Misty Blue