

Bembridge Rally – 24/25th June 2017

A small, but select group of boats went to Bembridge for a BBQ on this very windy weekend.

Vikla was the first to arrive on the Friday as they were ending a week's cruise with the rally.

On the Saturday morning Kouklamou II and Persuasion had a fast ride down from Southampton, whilst Miss Sally came over from Portsmouth. Berths were reserved all together on the Duver pontoon. Early evening drinks were on board Miss Sally with everyone hoping the sun might break through after a rather overcast afternoon.

Then the time came to use the new BBQ facilities provided by Bembridge harbour – a large marquee with numerous picnic tables both inside and outside, plus two excellent large gas barbeques complete with utensils.

Miss Sally had organised it so that each boat provided some common food like salads, bread and dessert, and then their own particular food for cooking. It all worked out very well and soon the BBQs were heated up and cooking began. At one time the sun even managed to escape the clouds, but everyone ate in the shelter of the marquee because of the strong winds blowing from the West.

On the Sunday morning everyone gathered at Baywatch on the Beach for coffee and breakfast.

Now the boats just had to make it back home. Everyone left before noon, an hour or so before High Water.

With three boats heading back up to Southampton Water in WSW winds of F6/F7 it was a hairy upwind sail. It was made worse because the passage meant running the gauntlet of two big racing fleets en-route, whilst being on port tack and generally the give way boat threading through the racers in 30 knots of apparent wind. At one point on the journey Vikla saw 40 knots over the deck.

So overall a big thanks to Miss Sally for organising a successful rally.

