

## Bucklers Hard Rally Aug 12 - 13 2022

The marina at Bucklers Hard is a very pleasant destination for boaters to spend a leisurely weekend. This year the rally was extended to include both Friday and Saturday evenings and over the two days 11 boats attended. A cloudless blue sky and a very hot sun on the way round to the Beaulieu river on Friday, we on Rondo had virtually nothing that resembled a decent breeze, and so for us at least, the trip under sail was a non starter and like many others I imagine, we motored.

With another club rally besides ours and various other boats occupying the visitors pontoon at the weekend, the marina was a busy place and some rafting up was required to fit us all in. However, well managed berthing operations and helpful marina guys meant that eventually we were all nicely secured on our respective berths. Awnings, cockpit tents etc were soon being erected to shelter from the relentless heat.

Friday's weather pattern prevailed on Saturday (hotter still) but it did not deter those who had decided earlier to take a river trip in their dinghies and so it was that mid morning Saturday saw a few of the more intrepid amongst us head off to explore the upper reaches of the Beaulieu river.

It's a bit of a trek to get to the peninsular where the BBQs are kept, but it was worth it. Blessed with a balmy evening and the seating arranged together on the peninsular (thanks for the help of my crewmate Andrew) the event went well and a sociable evening was enjoyed by all. Come dusk we headed back to our boats. A beautiful warm evening, folks sitting in the cockpits of their boats would have seen a yellow moon gradually climb into the night sky. With the marina lights, boats lit up and the sound of voices drifting from them, it reminded me of a waterborne 'Gyption' encampment tucked into a harbour on a sweeping bend in the river. Magical!

Sunday saw an early exodus of most visiting boats from the marina in order to catch a ride on a favourable spring tide for those heading east, either back to their home berths or the next destination - Happy days.

Bernard Fuller

