



South Coast Early Summer Rally – 21st and 22nd May



It was just five boats that braved the less than ideal forecast to gather at Cowes Yacht Haven under arrangements made by Jerry Bottrill. Although some had left their home berths early to avoid the worst of the wind and rain all had a blustery trip to the Medina River. The boats were: Victoria 30s TRACKER, Jerry Bottrill and Chris McRae; WYNN, Richard and Meryl Saunders; Victoria 34 RUBY STAR, Guy Warner; Morris 34 CADENZA, John Cade, Roy Dawkins and Alf Tracey; and Frances 34 ALBERTINE, Jon and Lynda Spencer. Jerry and Richard reported near empty moorings and berths at Newtown Creek and East Cowes Marina but the Yacht Haven was full with other rallies and regattas, and the early season vibrancy was enjoyed by all. None of us are as sprightly as we used to be but the

combined age of 252 years on CADENZA was something of a revelation, and Guy's single handed skills well practised.

A passing shower drove us all below on TRACKER where we all enjoyed tea and cakes together before moving to ALBERTINE for early evening drinks before supper. As always the Island Sailing Club looked after us superbly and we joined others from the Portsmouth Offshore Group, and a company from Bristol on a team building exercise, in their extensive dining room where the service and food was as excellent as always. After supper were returned for nightcaps on RUBY STAR and Guy demonstrated the art of maintaining a huge cellar on a small boat, which must stem from a career on submarines where little is always stored away in even smaller spaces.



Sunday dawned bright and sunny with very little wind and we all prepared our boats and motored away to our Summer adventures before we will come together again at Chichester on the 3rd and 4th September.

For the rally in September Richard and Meryl are planning a slightly different format to our usual gatherings and we look forward to supporting this new initiative.

by Jerry Bottrill and Jon Spencer

New Member

Please welcome Alex Stephenson into the Association. Alex sails his Victoria 30, IBIS out of Sunderland.

Mike Taylor and Victoria 800 JOYSPRING

The Association received some sad news at the end of February from Paul Taylor. Paul said that Mike had died after a short illness on the 19th February and that his yacht, JOYSPRING, had been willed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Mike had been a member of our Association since 1999 and sailed out of Neyland Marina in Cleddau. He undertook a number of long voyages and usually sailed alone.

Tobias Menke and FRANCES JOSEPHINE

Tobias sent a letter to our Hon. Treasurer and enclosed a photograph of FRANCES JOSEPHINE in Danish waters rigged as a sloop with removable staysail.



"Have a nice anniversary season!" Tobias and Gaby

John Cade, Honorary Treasurer (for all 25 years!)

This issue of the Newsletter is a timely opportunity for me to thank all members for the bottle of 21 year old Comte de Lauvia Armagnac which accompanied my elevation to Honorary Membership, presented at the anniversary luncheon. To justify such a magnificent gift, I intend to offer to stand for office for a few more years, if required.

John Cade, Honorary Treasurer

Bennie Mallett and Victoria 30, ROWAN

Bennie has supplied some images of Alan Ure, from near Stranraer, racing in ROWAN during West Highland Week



and also in Northern Ireland.



Shadow Spring Rally in Cookham

Three Shadows, WINE DOWN TIME with Ian and Tracy, JOLLY OLLY with Peter and Kate and WHITE ROSE OF YORK with Dave and Angie, took part in the Cookham Rally on the weekend of the 30th April. The weather was sunny, most of the time, and continued fair into Sunday.

REBWELLY's crew, Paul and Patsy, came by road as did John and Gillian who used to have HEAVENLY DAZE. Also present, by road, were members of the Committee, Jon Spencer with Lynda, John Cade with Carolyn and Peter Cosker with Jenny giving us a grand total of 16 to dine at the King's Arms that evening.

It was a case of business before pleasure with a Committee Meeting being held aboard WINE DOWN TIME, while the remainder socialised aboard JOLLY OLLY. Business done, Ian and Tracy hosted the obligatory pre-dinner drinks party aboard the appropriately named WINE DOWN TIME.



John Walker

The present Cookham Rally was organised by John Walker, who became Chairman – Motor Boats in 2011. John, with the help of Gillian, has organised many excellent and enjoyable rallies over the years but this was to be his last, although both intend to remain active members of our Association.

Ian Rycroft agreed to be Chairman – Motor Boats (elect) at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. He now assumes that role. In his own words, “I look forward to being the Chairman of the Motor Boats and hope I bring something new to the table (not glazed carrots) while still continuing the good work John and Gill have done before me.”



Tracy and Ian Rycroft

Reminder – Articles including photographs for future editions of the Newsletter should be sent to: Peter Cosker, 4 The Grove, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3SJ or by e-mail to: news@victoriashadow.co.uk or peter@the2coskers.com.