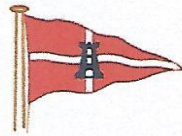


EAST COWES



SAILING CLUB

Rally to Marchwood Yacht Club

22nd/23rd July 2017

Souvenir Log



Saturday: 0730: Tideline set off from Lymington, having spent the night tucked up in harbour following a bouncy return from a trip to Poole. As they left, they were rewarded with the sight of a rainbow over Hurst.



Figure 1: Rainbow over Hurst (Ben)

Guinan slipped her lines in East Cowes at around the same time as Tideline departed Lymington. Tideline and Guinan crossed paths on the way to Marchwood, where Ben took the cover picture of (the ever photogenic) Guinan. Aphelion left harbour at 0900 with Panda following at 0930. Gina started last at 0950.

Marchwood Yacht Club had nominated an Officer of the Day (OOD) to guide us to our berths and provide any assistance we might need.

John, our OOD, had earlier mailed me to mention that we shouldn't leave our arrival much later than 2nd high water (1315) as the ebb runs particularly strongly in the River Test. That was a bit of an eye opener; having moored on the River Itchen side of Dock Head for a few years, I never much bothered about the speed of the ebb; only worrying about low tide and running aground on the Weston Shelf (and that was no big deal).

Before 1230, all five boats had tied up on the Marchwood hammerhead. We swapped accounts of our inbound trips. The consensus was that the winds were lighter than forecast. Indeed, Panda and Gina had experienced extremely light winds and flapping sails off the tanker jetty near Ashlett Creek.



Figure 2: Aphelion; Tideline; Panda and Gina (Mike)

Our OOD, John, advised us to visit to the club house and order our food for the evening. Confusingly, not least for the young chap taking the orders, the lunchtime and evening menus were the same.

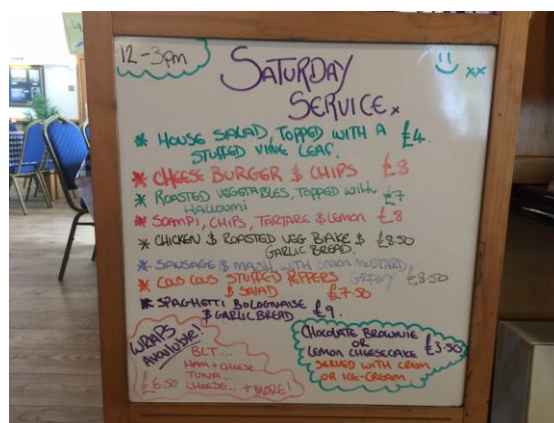


Figure 3: Wholesome Food (Ben)

We stayed for a drink (or two), ordered food and paid for our berths. Just before 1500, the party took advantage of a dry spell and returned to their boats.

Saturday: 1800: Everyone was invited aboard Aphelion for drinks and nibbles.



Figure 4: Drinks aboard Aphelion (Mike)

Around 1900, we repaired to the club house for dinner.



Figure 5: Dinner at Marchwood (Ben)

Our meals were timely and attentively served. The sweets were particularly well received. The bill for two courses for nine people represented real value for money.

We settled down in the club for few drinks and a postprandial natter. In no time, last orders were called; we returned our glasses to the bar and strolled back to the boats while dodging the puddles.

A couple of container ships set sail during the night attended by the peculiar sound of silt lifted by tugs and ship scouring around the pontoons.

Sunday 0830: Folks busied themselves with morning chores. Guinan was the first to leave being keen to take the favourable wind.

A container ship, with tugs attached, manoeuvring out of her berth commanded our attention for a while.



Figure 6: Container Ship Leaving (Mike)

Aphelion was next to leave, followed by Tideline, then Panda. Gina was last away at 1045.

We enjoyed a comfortable journey down Southampton Water. Mind you, once in the Solent, the wind increased to the top end of a 5 and the sea took on an immoderate turn.



Figure 7: Tideline in the Solent (Ben)

All the excitement was over by 1300, and the boats safely home but at least any remaining cobwebs from the night before had been well and truly blown away.

Thank you to the Marchwood Yacht Club for taking such good care of us.

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