

## Postcard from Yarmouth

14th and 15th April 2018



1: Sunny April afternoon in Yarmouth (David)

The ECSC Shakedown Rally to Yarmouth turned into a resounding success despite an inauspicious beginning. Fog in the Solent meant a cautious start for rally boats leaving East Cowes on the Saturday morning.

The Harold Hayles pontoon at the rear of the harbour hosted nine East Cowes Sailing Club boats with one boat, *Aphelion*, rafted up in the main harbour. That made 10 ECSC boats for the first rally of the season.



2: The Grade 2 Listed Yarmouth Sand House in the Harold Hayles Yard (David)

*Brassed Off*, with the family Walker aboard, and *Drifter* were first on the Hayles pontoon. *Brassed Off* had visited Lymington on the previous day and had only a short journey across the Solent. Arie and partner in *Drifter* had a

mid-morning start from East Cowes and made excellent time with the favourable tide.

*Tai Chi*, a Hunter Legend 260, chartered for the rally (don't ask) with Lorraine, Ben and David aboard, followed Mike Tennuci's *Tideline* into the harbour. Mike had been joined by Joseph More and family for the voyage.

*Tai Chi* experienced depth sounder failure (with a 6 foot keel that can be a problem) and so, although not strictly necessary, tagged along with *Tideline* just outside Yarmouth for comfort. *Tideline* and *Tai Chi* turned to join *Brassed Off*, port side to, in a raft of 3.

As the sunny afternoon progressed, *Tarim*, with Ivan, Denise and daughter Rosie helming, approached the pontoon.

Willing hands made a *Tarim*-sized space between *Bloto* and *Drifter* without disturbing Arie's lunch.

*Drifter* was joined alongside by *Kaikoura*, Mike Harvey's Merrie Fisher.

Next in was *Mana*, Commodore Torsten's Macwester, which he tied-up alongside *Bloto*. Torsten was joined by wife Linda later in the afternoon.

The raft of three was completed by Marcus' Drascombe, *Sundance*. Marcus had waited for the fog to burn off before leaving his mooring in Newtown Creek and was last to join us on the pontoon.



3: *Sundance*, *Mana* and *Blotto* (David)

Not long after 1400, *Tideline's* cockpit seats started filling up for an impromptu gin party. Conal and Elaine Greer and Dave and Carol Casson joined Mike Tennuci, Torsten and Linda Richter, Paul Walker and Mike Harvey.



4: Gin Palace (Ben)

Paul contributed a bottle of gin from Alderney and recounted the quaint customs rules that mean your bottle of gin is sealed and delivered to your boat an hour before your departure.

Young Ryan from *Brassed Off* had been crabbing for a while with a fixed line set-up by his granddad. He was joined by, amongst others, Ella and Georgia from *Tai Chi* for more of a free-style crabbing session.



5: Enjoying the Crabbing (David)

Victoria, visiting *Tai Chi* for the afternoon with daughters Ella and Georgia, organised a Grand National sweepstake on the hoof with the help of a National Newspaper and a pair of scissors. Karen from *Brassed Off* was the lucky winner.

The Kings Head had been booked for 20 at 1930. There were 25 for dinner so a breakaway group of 5 dined at the Bugle.

Reports of the food at the Kings Head were mixed. One steak was returned to the kitchen. The Bugle was confused about how to serve moules marinières; a fork instead of a spoon and a tiny dish for the shells. The culinary staff at both pubs weren't to blame, the food was fine but order-taking and place-setting left something to be desired.

After dinner, Tarim hosted an extended post-prandial drinks party.



6: Marcus, Torsten, Ben and Rosie enjoying Tarim's Hospitality (Mike)

Next morning, *Drifter* was away first from the Hayles pontoon. David cast off his lines at 0730 in the company of a surprisingly bright and breezy Ben, fresh out of his *Tideline* bunk.

David and Ben were returning *Tai Chi* to [Solent Boat Charters](#). An outfit based at Saxon Wharf on the Itchen.

Despite the weather forecast that predicted fresh to strong winds from the south, *Tai Chi* motored all the way at an uneventful 9.3 knots with the tide. This was in distinct contrast to the Friday delivery trip from Saxon Wharf to the ECSC hammerhead, during which barely a capful wind had *Tai Chi* flying down Southampton Water and across the Solent at a nerve-tingling 7.3 knots over the ground.

Boats returning home later, reported a decent wind and an enjoyable sail.