

Postcard from Beaulieu

28th and 29th April 2018

Eight boats attended the ECSC rally to Bucklers Hard on this unseasonably nippy weekend. Fortunately, everyone had the benefit of central heating, in one form or another, and we were all quite toasty in the end.

Your correspondent was a little pre-occupied just before the rally. Our daughter rang from the Derbyshire High Peak at 0600 with the news that she was starting labour. A hastily booked combined Red Jet and rail ticket later and my crew caught the 0815 Red Jet to Southampton with moments to spare.



1. Alistair George born 30th April 2018

So, time to concentrate on the business in hand.

Most folks leaving East Cowes for the rally made a start between 0900 and 1000. High tide at Beaulieu was a few minutes before 1100.

Six boats were accommodated on the visitor pontoon whilst *Bloto* and *Melody* took spaces in the first row of the marina.

Perry and Simone from *Bloto* had arrived at the visitor pontoon early, before departing boats had sorted themselves out and so moved to the marina for less hassle.

Jane with partner Peter from *Melody* took a vacant berth normally used by a colleague of Jane's. A big thank you to Jane who kept an eye on the bookings for our rally and gave us the odd nudge in the right direction.

Aphelion, with Conal and Elaine aboard, took first ECSC place at the visitor pontoon. Gordon, skipper of *Panda*, rafted alongside *Aphelion*. Gordon was joined by Mike Tennuci for the

weekend. Next along the pontoon were two motor boats in line; *Kaikoura* and *Puffin* with skippers Mike Harvey and Richard Davis.

It was great to see our Rear Commodore Motor Boats and Fishing at his first ECSC rally and we hope to entice him back to future rallies.



2. Richard on Puffin

Gina was next in; and the last of our visitor pontoon group was *Brassed Off* with Paul, Karen and two guests aboard.

Arie, of *Drifter*, partner and dog came to visit by car to wish us a pleasant weekend.

The afternoon was punctuated by the sounds of an unaccompanied but accomplished male singer. About 50 yards down river there seemed to be a wedding party gathered on a large, splendidly dressed, yacht.

One of the main participants was wearing a navel uniform with more than a sprinkling of gold braid about his person.



3. Wedding Party

Richard took a stroll round Bucklers Hard and was much taken by the Duke's Bath House.



4. The Duke's Bath House

Later, we gathered in the Yachtsman's Bar. Some people ate on their boats before we met up or after we parted. Others ate in the bar but we all really enjoyed each other's company for a few hours; with reminiscences, jollity and tall tales (we were among fishermen after all).



5. Spread around the Yachtsman's Bar (1)



6. Spread around the Yachtsman's Bar (2)

Continuing the weekend's miserable weather, Sunday was forecast to deteriorate significantly later. A prompt start seemed advisable. Those on the visitor's pontoon cast off between 0830 and 0900.

In the event, the wind in the Solent was around 15 knots at 1000 offering decent sailing for those who hoisted their sails.

Underway



7. Panda (from Perry)



8. Aphelion (from Mike Tennuci)



9. Bloto (from Mike Tennuci)