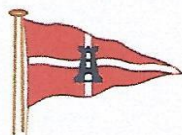


EAST COWES



SAILING CLUB

Shakedown Rally to Gins Farm

8th/9th April 2017

Souvenir Log



Saturday: 0900: The first three boats left the harbour straight into a Solent pea-souper. Blotto, Tideline and Gina adopted different strategies. Tideline and Blotto deployed chart plotters, and in Tideline's case, radar too. Gina buoy-hopped close to shore then turned north and finally remembered she was packing the comfort of a chart plotter and radar.

Aphelion and Guinan were close behind. Guinan was fortunate enough to spot the new chain ferry being towed into harbour through the murk.

Saturday: 1200: The fog had burnt off and all the boats had arrived. There was no sign of the threatened RAF rally. We had the shore pontoon more or less to ourselves. Aphelion, Tideline, Gina and Tarim tied up on the shore pontoon with Guinan and Blotto taking the mid-river pontoon.



Aphelion hosted a pontoon party. The peace of the surroundings being rudely interrupted by Gina's persistently revving engine. The skipper was trying to diagnose Gina's s earlier overheating (apologies).

Blotto pumped up their inflatable dinghy in anger for the very first time. They needed to test it in preparation for their imminent UK circumnavigation (we wish them well).

Later, most crews walked in the sunshine. No doubt, the four dogs in the party were suitably relieved.



Saturday: 1800: The crews of Blotto and Guinan rowed over to enjoy the pre-dinner ambiance aboard Gina. There was a mixed reception to the Wasabi nut nibbles.

Just before 1900 the crews of Tarim, Blotto, Guinan and Gina moved to the clubhouse for drinks. They were followed by the crews of Tideline and Aphelion. Skipper Mike from Tideline was joined for the evening by daughter Susan. At 1930, the crews of Guinan and Blotto took their leave, having elected to eat on their boats.

The remaining party of 8 sat down to dinner. An officer of the RSYC on an adjoining table bade us welcome on behalf of his club.



The meals were superb and the staff incredibly friendly.



Sunday 1000: Another beautiful day; if anything it was hotter than the previous day. People pottered around in the sunshine. Dirty Girty III paid a welcome visit.



Sunday 1100: Boats started to leave.



Gina decided on a lunch hook in Thorness Bay to squeeze out the last of the weather before the forecast turn.



We may well be back. Roll on next year!

Thanks to Graham Tracey for the initial suggestion and organisation as well as the staff and members of the RSYC for their warm hospitality.

A selection of pictures from the rally album follows.



Tarim



Aphelion and Tideline (from Mike)



Shore and Mid-River Pontoons (from Mike)