

East Cowes Sailing Club Beaulieu Rally

Saturday 22nd June 2019



Five boats attended the Beaulieu rally on Saturday 22nd June. The weather was sunny and obviously to the liking of at least one of the small herd of beef cattle that wander through the village, stopping traffic at will :-)

Storm Hannah put paid to the first rally of the season. The April shakedown rally had enjoyed considerable interest with up to 18 boats expected to attend before we had to cancel. Without prompting, the marina at Bucklers Hard suggested applying credits for those boats which had paid in advance or alternatively refunding the payment if a boat was unlikely to visit the marina during the remainder of the season. Despite a busy programme on both sides, we managed to reschedule the rally for 22nd June.

In the event, a number of boats from the club's cruising fleet were off, or planned to be off, to France or the West Country.

Bloto, one of the early birds, arranged her return to stop off at Beaulieu on the way back to her berth in East Cowes from an extended cruise to Falmouth. Perry and Simonne reported disappointing weather during their cruise. Sadly, so far this year, prolonged bouts of settled summer sunshine have been conspicuous by their absence

Earlier that week, Carl and Lorraine aboard *Nanui* had sailed across from Hardway Sailing Club (where they are also members) to come alongside the ECSC hammerhead. They had

arranged to discharge their club duty by preparing and painting one of the doors and frames from the South Store.

Nanui left the ECSC hammerhead on Friday morning just before Mike and crew Bob came alongside in *Tideline* to load up for their cruise to France the following day.

The other boat on the E.C.S.C. hammerhead on Friday, *Brassed Off*, was also leaving for France on the Saturday in the company of several boats belonging to joint members of Hardway Sailing Club and ECSC.

As an aside, we have a scheduled rally to Gosport on 3rd August. No doubt we will have an opportunity to sample the delights of the Hardway Sailing Club galley and bar, and perhaps meet one or two of our H.S.C.-based members.

Your correspondent thought there were two E.C.S.C. boats at Beaulieu on Friday 21st June: *Gina*, and *Nanui*. *Gina* on the walk-ashore visitor pontoon next to the fuel pumps and *Nanui* on a mid-river pontoon. We arranged to meet-up in the Yachtsman's Bar for drinks and a meal.

In one of those chance meetings that make cruising such a fascinating pastime. Carl and Lorraine had invited Andy, the skipper of the 27' Albin Vega berthed in front of *Nanui* on the mid-river pontoon, to join them for dinner.

Andy, originally a German academic, had given up lecturing in philosophy and founded a payroll processing company. In the summer, he sails extensively with his wife and two children around Europe, running his business from the boat. The family had returned home a few days ago and would re-join him later. We all thoroughly enjoyed his good humoured accounts of his life, family and travels.

We were surprised when Jane and Peter from *Melody* said hello. Jane, who works at the marina, had finished her shift late that afternoon, travelled back to *Melody's* East Cowes berth and she and Peter had sailed back to join the rally.

On Saturday morning, your correspondent took the two-mile stroll down the riverside path from the marina to the village. There are two paths, a cycleway a little higher up the river bank which branches off to a riverside path and re-joins the cycleway just before the village. After periods of rain, the estate places a sign either side of the riverside path warning that it is impassable. So, it was with a little trepidation that I ignored the warning sign and took the meandering riverside path. I was rewarded with some idyllic views of the riverside and its flora and fauna. There were a few muddy stretches but nothing to speak of.

In the village there is a post office come (limited) general store and off-licence. I picked up a home-made ham, cheese and tomato sandwich and a bottle of beer for lunch. The bottle was a mistake; I don't carry a bottle opener :-)

On Saturday afternoon, *Kaikoura* and *Bloto* joined the rally. *Kaikoura* rafted up against *Gina* with *Bloto* taking a finger pontoon in the marina.



The marina was busy that night with boats rafting-up three-deep on the visitor pontoon. We decided that we would eat earlier rather than later. That was a good move, by 1830, there was a queue through the door in the Yachtsman's Bar.

Sunday's low tide was due at 0909. Mike in *Kaikoura* left at 0700, *Gina*, *Nanui* and *Bloto* slipped their lines around 1100. *Melody* stayed behind, Jane was on duty that day.

The sun was out and there as a gentle breeze; ideal weather for the return journeys back to East Cowes and Gosport.

As a postscript, your correspondent was single-handed this trip as I was to the Beaulieu rally last year and for similar reasons.

Last year my lady wife was in the Derbyshire High Peak for the birth of our elder daughter's second child and this year our younger daughter's second child was due on the day of the rally.



1 - Baby James 8lb 4oz

Baby James was born on the morning of Monday 24th June. Mother and baby are doing well. Nana and Gramps Nixon are delighted!

oOo