

# East Cowes Sailing Club Marchwood Rally

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019



1. Disco Lights on *Puffin* with Richard and Friends

Five boats attended the Marchwood rally on Saturday 6th July. The unusual feature of this rally was that yachts were outnumbered by motor boats 3:2. Representing East Cowes Sailing Club were *Kaikura*, *Monty D* and *Puffin*, supported by *Guinan* and *Gina*.

Earlier in the day the weather had been glorious. On the outward journey, it was so hot that all three fishermen anchored-up and took a dip in the lower reaches of the River Test.

Later though, the dark clouds rolled in and while still hot, it looked as if the pronged spell of fine weather was about to change.

There was not a great deal of activity around the M.Y.C. pontoons or in the clubhouse. It transpired that 22 boats had joined the annual rally to Bucklers Hard that weekend.

From the flyer advertising the event it looked as though the walk-ashore pontoon just down-river of the marina had been reserved. Food was to be served by the Club in the form of paella with a booking of the estate BBQ for those who preferred to cook for themselves.

Indeed, that evening the M.Y.C. galley served just eight meals; six of them to our rally.

*Gina* arrived first at 1230 and, with a little help on the warps from a friendly Marchwood

member, tucked herself away on the inside of the hammerhead in the same position she'd occupied on last year's rally.

Tom and Julia in *Guinan* arrived around an hour later. They had persevered with tacking up Southampton Water in little more than a zephyr, until boredom got the better of them and they deployed the iron topsail.

Tom was unconvinced about the slot he was directed to on the hammerhead; feeling it would be better utilised for a larger boat. That's when we learned, from the same M.Y.C. member who'd helped warp *Gina* around, that Marchwood Yacht Club had dredged and extended the pontoon closest to shore. What used to be strictly for the shallow drafted would now comfortably accommodate a 5' keel.

Tom elected to take the recently extended inner pontoon being, as he remarked, "closer to the bar":-)



2. E.C.S.C. Boats on the Extended M.Y.C. Pontoon

*Guinan* and *Gina* repaired to the clubhouse to pay for their berths and get a round in:-) This year berths are £15, compared with £10 in previous years.

David and Tom were on their second pint when Richard rang. The fishing flotilla was approaching the Marchwood pontoons and asking for guidance.

David looked down at his pint; decided he would be unable to finish it before Richard arrived and so apologised for not being on hand to take their lines and directed the boats to tie-up in front of *Guinan* on the inner pontoon.

By this time it was 1450 and the afternoon bar shuts at 1500. Feeling guilty, David ordered 4 pint cans of strong lager for Paul, Richard and Mike (plus, of course, one for himself!).

Julia, Tom and David finished their drinks and made their way down to the new arrivals. The cans of lager were most welcome :-)

We arrived at the Clubhouse just as the bar and galley opened at 1900. Considering the likely shortage of customers, there was more than enough choice for each of three courses. A couple of our party had starters; the main courses were excellent value, appetising and nicely cooked. From the one sweet ordered by Mike, it looked as though the rest of us had missed out; although we'd all eaten more than our fill:-)

Paul pointed out the display cabinets filled with M.Y.C. merchandise and wondered if E.C.S.C. could do the same.



3. One of the M.Y.C. Merchandise Display Cabinets

Over drinks, the conversations ranged from fascinating accounts of East Cowes in bygone days to parachute jumping and tips on a

commercial technique for skinning smooth-hounds.

Richard had switched on Puffin's disco lights (see the first picture) for the post prandial entertainment but your correspondent was ready for his bunk and so retired to *Gina* on the inside of the hammerhead.



4-Bridgehead Gina

There was some overnight rain and the lullaby of the working docks to sooth everyone to sleep:-)

We all left reasonably early into an overcast sky and smooth sea. Again, there was no wind to speak of and the promise of rain was fulfilled by noon.

Thank you to Marchwood Yacht Club for your unfailing hospitality, good humour and first class facilities. Roll on next year.

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