

Ryde Harbour Rally Report



1. 18th International Classic Car Show Ryde Esplanade

Two boats attended the last rally of the season: *Tideline* and *Gina*. Two more boat crews attended the evening get-together namely *Chaos* and *Guinan*.

Saturday 14th September was a glorious day. There were light winds on the nose for *Tideline* and *Gina*. *Gina* departed Cowes harbour at 1010; hoisted her mainsail in Osborne Bay and motored against the tide for a couple of hours at low revs until the buoyed Ryde Harbour approach channel over Ryde Sands hove into view.

Gina entered comfortably with a couple of feet under the keels. The visitor pontoons were choc-a-block with the harbour wall being the only viable berthing option.

Since *Gina's* last visit 4 years ago the harbour wall has been interrupted by a dogleg protected outflow intended for flood water from lower Ryde. Aware of the previous adjudications, against the responsible water company, about raw sewage being discharged into the Medina, your correspondent took seriously the shouted warning "don't moor there it's a sewer", turned around and berthed further down the harbour wall.

A couple of kind folks took our lines. One chap even rooted out a fender-board from the cage adjacent to the harbour office port-a-cabin.

As we tied up, two exhausted racing pigeons tried to roost in the cockpit. They took a great deal of shooing to move on :-)

A few minutes later *Tideline* entered the harbour during a mini-rush-hour on the top of the tide. After dodging the traffic Mike settled on a spot on the harbour wall a boat's length astern of *Gina*. Later, the gap was expertly filled by a Portsmouth registered yacht wearing a Blue Ensign.

There was no shortage of willing visitor hands to take Mike's lines. Once tied-up Mike popped below for a siesta and the crew of *Gina* strolled over to the Ryde Castle for lunch.

After their respective siesta and lunch the skippers made their way to the harbour office and paid £15 each for an overnight stay.

On your correspondent's last visit there was an additional charge for a shower token but now entry to the shower block is keypad controlled and included in the fee. Disappointingly, there are still just two shower/toilet cubicles in the unisex block which makes an early Sunday shower advisable. Although the more resourceful can walk to the nearby Waterside swimming pool and pay a little extra for their ablutions.

Mike joined us on the top of the harbour wall in the late afternoon and we made our way via The Pavilion and Yelf's Hotel to the rally rendezvous point in S. J. Fowler's at the top of Union Street. There, we met up with Heidi and Tony (*Chaos*) and Tom and Julia (*Guinan*) for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The following day Ryde Harbour formed the hub of a Classic Car event with a number of exhibits along the harbour wall and throngs of visitors passing to and fro above *Gina* and *Tideline*.

Before noon, once there was sufficient depth, *Tideline* left the harbour followed by *Gina*. There was no breeze to speak of so we both motored back to our berths on CHC's 'F' pontoon.