



Reading Offshore Sailing Club  
**Yarmouth Rally**  
6th-7th May 2017

*A great turn out with 21 members attending pre-dinner drinks aboard Skippers' Rhapsody.*



The weekend started with an interesting weather forecast of F5-F7 from the E/NE. Well at least it would be behind us we thought as Skippers' Rhapsody set off from Gosport on the Saturday morning.

The crew of six (Bernie, Margaret, Kate, John, Tim and I) were well wrapped up for the weather as we rolled our way from Portsmouth Harbour towards Gilkicker.

To those who have yet to venture in or out of Portsmouth this year – take note particularly of the position of [Portsmouth Bar 4 buoy](#)! Also note the two groups of [three tall navigation posts](#) a little further towards Spitbank Fort!!

Anyway, once we had rounded Gilkicker and settled on our course (towards Cowes and Yarmouth) we enjoyed a pleasant breeze from behind and made an average SOG of around 5 knots under the genoa alone. Occasionally we saw 6 knots but this was not a race.



The wind stayed steady for the entire passage to Yarmouth and we enjoyed a really pleasant sail.

Naturally, as we approached Yarmouth, so too did a Lymington to Yarmouth ferry so we held back, doused the genoa and motored into the harbour, watching the cross tide still ebbing at 3 knots.

We were met by a friendly harbourmaster's dory and, having let them know we had reserved berths at Harold Hayles, continued around the harbour to the reserved pontoon. With over 50 yards of empty pontoon ahead we had no problem mooring! Harold Hayles staff had neatly noted the reserved positions for the five boats so we were soon tied up and had the kettle going.

During the afternoon a further three boats (Kaprys, Agape and Pentangle II) arrived with their crews. Shorelark's crew came on foot.

With Geoff, "sans-bateau", having made the passage courtesy of the 12:00 ferry from Lymington, he and Jenny led the field on the afternoon's activity, a Treasure Hunt, organised by rally Host Bernie.

No less than 4 teams took part in the Treasure Hunt which posed a range of questions, some obvious, others less so, and some devious. Only one crew failed to read the instructions that stated "answers to all clues will be found East of the River Yar" being seen searching for an answer to the West! But everyone seemed to enjoy themselves including the "find" of the Tea Rooms at the [old railway station](#). This was definitely a place to consider for a cuppa or lunch when next in Yarmouth.

The rally re-convened later aboard Skippers' Rhapsody for the obligatory 'drinks & nibbles' before venturing across the bridge once again for our dinner at the [Royal Solent Yacht Club](#). No less than 21 people had boarded Skippers' R for the après-Treasure Hunt get together - a record number (it was just 18 for the on board BBQ at Newtown Creek in 2015 ). Can we improve on 21?

At the Royal Solent YC we were welcomed by their Treasurer and, having placed our drink orders at the bar, were soon seated in the dining room which had been nicely prepared for us by the RSYC including a personalised ROSC Menu and Place Name cards all sporting our club logo. Very well done.



Part way through our excellent dinners, Bernie announced the results of her Treasure Hunt - a win for Team Kate, Margaret & John who achieved 100%. Well done.

All too soon the evening had to conclude as some had to make their ways home towards Reading on the ferry and others to a local B&B. The remainder continued to enjoy the evening until, to avoid overstaying our welcome, we returned to our moorings for coffee and a good night's sleep so concluding a really enjoyable day.

Sleep was to be broken early (06:00) aboard Kaprys, Agape and Pentangle II whose skippers elected to take the early tide back to Southampton and Gosport. Not so those aboard Skippers' Rhapsody who "slept in" and, after a relaxing brunch, took another leisurely sail back to Gosport on the later tide.

And no sign of that F5-F7 all weekend.

*Ed Davies*