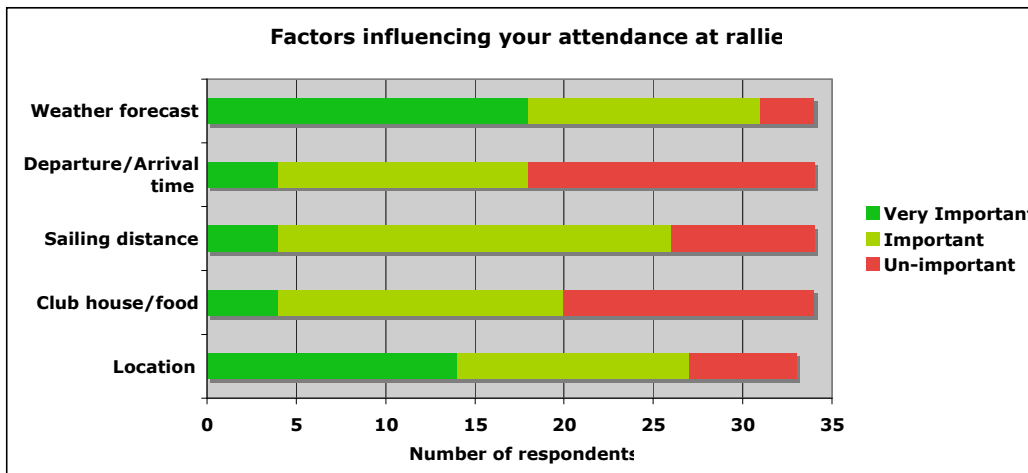
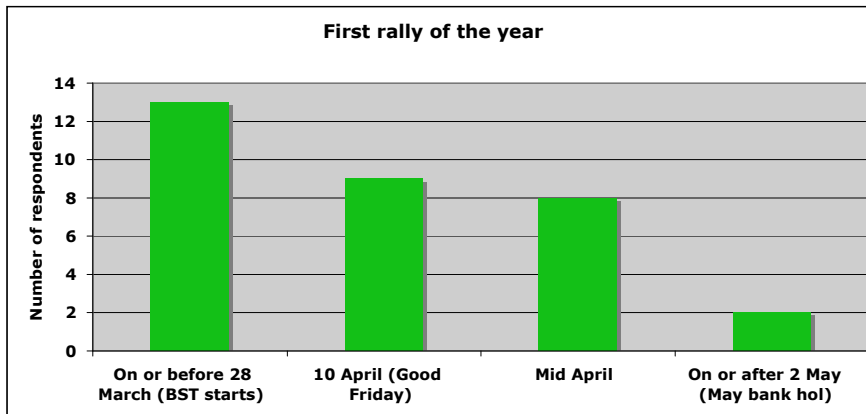
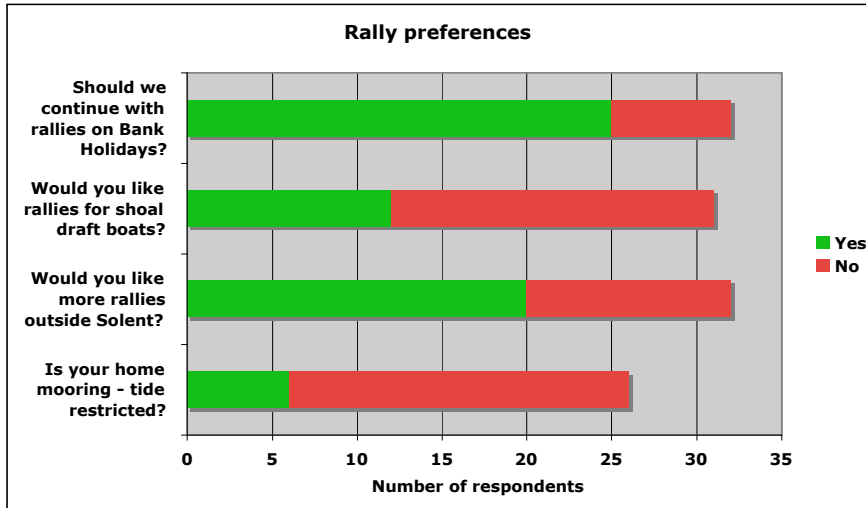


## GCCC Summer Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire, I was delighted with the response. There were 34 responses with 27 from skippers, 4 from stowaways and 3 from regular crew. Twenty of the skippers of the 29 boats that attended rallies in 2008 responded so we have most of the regular attendees. Everyone who responded bar two new members had attended rallies. I present most of the general information in graphical form below. (Note: not everyone answered all questions, so the number of responses varies by question.)



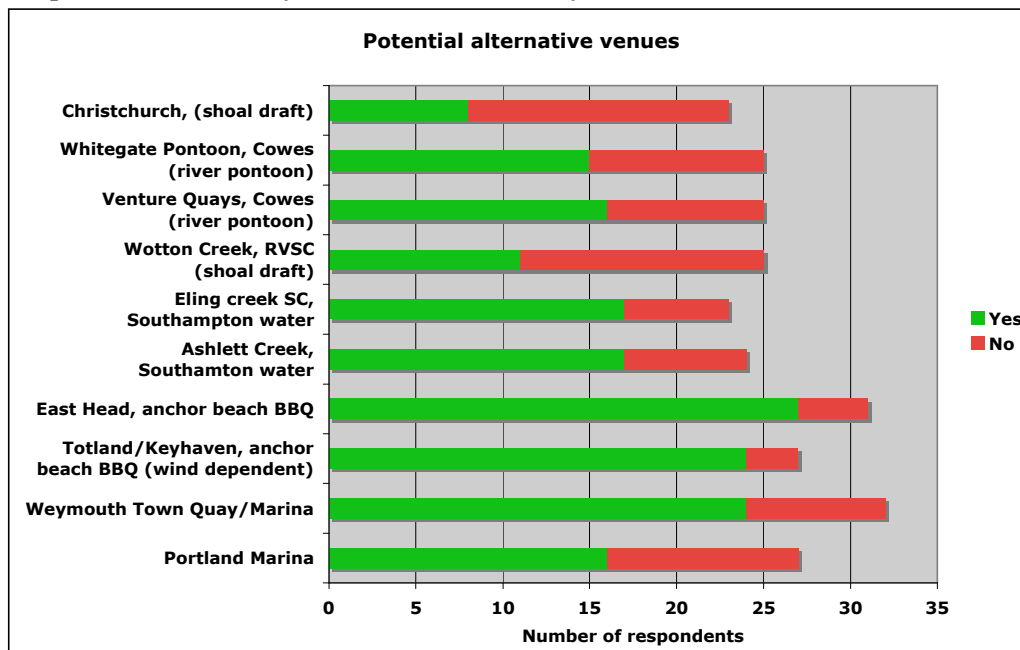
## Rally venues

I asked people to rank venues from poor through to excellent and also NA if people had not been there, the results are less easy to present than the yes/no answers. If I were to do this again I would ask people to just rank their top venues. I cut the data at 12 responses as the minimum that would count and then ranked them using a scoring system, the scores are weighted to account for the numbers attending. These are the top venues:

	Number attendees	Score
Lymington HM pontoon, Mayflower pub	21	76
Folly Inn	27	68
Hayling Island, SC	20	63
Itchenor, SC	12	63
Marchwood, YC	24	57
Osborne House	13	58

Buckler Hard BBQ also scored well despite not meeting the 12 threshold.

For potential future rally venues it was back to yes/no answers.



You can see that East Head is a top venue, but the thought of 20 GCCC boats turning up and trying to find an anchorage on a sunny summer weekend is mind-boggling. Whilst Weymouth Town Quay scored well, a number of people commented that it would only work for a long weekend or if people were using it as a stop over for a West Country cruise.

## Comments

I found the comments extremely helpful, a big thank you to those who have organised the summer programme in the past for passing on all the useful tips. I have included some of the comments that form a common theme:

- “important there's a pre-arranged "focus" for the evening so you can find everyone even if you end up moored away from them”
- “Greater coordination and communication prior to each rally with one boat nominated as lead boat for that rally, responsibility should be shared around”
- “As stowaways we are happy to fit in wherever possible”
- “I thoroughly enjoyed all rallies attended”
- “we have enjoyed stowing away with other kindly hosts enormously when we can't get there on our own boat”
- “A number of rallies where we could drive to gives flexibility in the case of bad weather”
- “I am new to the club but the rallies was one of the things that attracted me in the first place”

## Summary

It just proves you can't please all the people all of the time. Some people wanted more anchoring and less formal meals, others wanted walk ashore pontoons and sit down meals. The key messages are:

- Continue with rallies on Bank Holidays
- A reasonable number would like more rallies outside the Solent
- Weather, sailing distance and location are the most important factors affecting attendance at rallies.
- When the clocks change seems to be a good time for the first rally.
- Despite it being on the programme for one season, Lymington HM pontoons and Mayflower ranked highest.
- The Folly always gets a good score.
- People are interested in some of the proposed new venues.
- From the responses and comments the “stowaway” trophy has been a great success.

All I have to do now is to fit all these requirements around tides, bank holidays and the UK weather!

Malcolm Denham  
January 2009