

Folly Rally

Despite the horrible weather forecast, 9 boats and 24 people arrived at the Folly. It rained virtually all day and the wind was on the nose for those coming from Portsmouth; we were lucky coming from the West and had a fun but wet sail. We welcomed Les and Karen on Azora to their first rally and Thorsten, Britta and Henry to their second rally, who joined the club straight after the Studland rally. Welcome back to Alan and Nadine on Bastet, who haven't been to a rally for a few years.

In the horrible weather, it was rather nice to have the shoreside pontoons. This had to be one of the wettest summer days and I had chosen it for the pontoon party! Fortunately, Elante and Manic have large cockpit tents so the pontoon party turned into a cockpit party. Surprisingly, not all the booze was drunk so those coming to Osborne House will have the remainder. The Folly, was as always, very welcoming and we had a fun evening, some danced, one on the tables. A late meal and leaving near closing time meant we weren't woken by all the rowdies getting the taxi back.

Sunday morning was beautiful and sunny, what a huge contrast to Saturday. With a strong Westerly wind, it was ideal for sailing East, just what Gareth and Isobel wanted for the start of their holiday, one slight snag - low water springs at the Folly. After much pushing and shoving, ahead and astern, Elante had moved a few meters out into the stream, creating a thick brown soup but still not really moving anywhere. Absolute, who had to move to let Elante out of the raft, offered them a tow. Absolute towing a 40ft boat was a sight to see and gave all those on the middle river pontoons some fine breakfast entertainment. The tow was a success and Elante got away only a little late. Various people went for walks and had a generally relaxing morning, Marianna fixed her son Dylan's back, with a massage on a rather large massage table called a pontoon. We all left about 11.00 for a nice broad reach back up the Solent in beautiful sunshine.

The next rally is to Osborne House for the picnic and concert, lets hope that's the end of the rain for rally weekends.

Denny