

# GCCC Lymington Rally 21/22 July 2018

So the weather was set fair – plenty of sun and no wind on the Saturday. Most of us would be aiming for a lunchtime arrival using the near neaps tide to the best advantage, but expecting that it would be likely a motor(sailing) passage at best.

Not the way it turned out! For us at least we had a good F4 for the last 90 minutes or so, straight on the nose (of course!) and so were able to have a very enjoyable series of long tacks, eventually crabbing our way through the multiplicity of sailing fleets straight in between the welcoming red and green Lymington entrance posts.

On arrival at Dan Bran pontoon, Avalon had been the first boat there, and kindly gave a hand to take the lines of all and sundry who turned up over the next hour or two. The most notable of which was hand-holding/pulling Magenta alongside Avalon with only a few feet to spare, literally. Pagetal and Cadh'Ruadh were next in with the next four soon behind. All handled carefully and competently.



With the heat and sunshine there was a lot of lying around reading papers, chatting, with a few venturing up to the Lymington market on the town hill. Late afternoon Jan was persuaded to go up Pagetal's mast in a bosun's chair, under the expert tuition of David Whiting, and with a safety suggestion from Chris Granger, to undertake the tricky job of re-fitting a pennant halyard, and looked rather professional in the role. Now an expert, Jan is available to all club boats for similar jobs. Hahahahaha.

The pontoon party was noticeable for a plethora of home-prepared nibble and titbits, with a real variety of drinks. The winner of which, in terms of taste, must surely go to Leon's home concocted Grog, lovingly put together, served in a barrel, and involving rum, honey, ginger and the cabin-boy's trousers, if I heard correctly! Alcoholic and yummy. Jan's Pimms of course needed to be sampled as well so as to be able to decide a winner! At about this time, Clive and Richard on Quickstep, and Bill and Anne on Taurus arrived, having fought some tide, but guided by the sounds and sight of fellow boaters making merry! Bill had wanted a mid-Solent swim but was persuaded otherwise by threats!

Late of course (a now-traditional GCCC trait), we wandered along to the club knowing that we would



be mingling with 2 other sailing clubs. Delightful to see Consuela still serving behind the bar, now with her grown-up son besides her, well towering above her actually! The balcony, with a lovely sunset, was overflowing. Lots of joking and laughter. Everyone seemed "demob happy", and as the food was served, there was even a short speech by the Royal

Thames club, which mentioned us. Later, LTSC and GCCC exchanged burgees, with both Malcom and Leon smiling as if it were gold being exchanged for saffron.



Egged on by others, Paul was persuaded to make a reciprocal speech of short duration, thanking all and sundry, and claiming points for GCCC having laid-on a fireworks display just over the water for the benefit of all attendees.

Most sailors, tired by the usually warm weather, and the food and wine, actually retired rather early, and quietly, saving their energy for what was expected to happen on the Sunday morning.

It had been heralded as part of the pre-rally promotional “gumph” .... that “There would be a walk



around the marshes to which all and sundry, and children and dogs, would be welcome”. So, at 09:30 we saw a 10 plus strong group (and Whisper) assemble and depart under the wing of David Lindsell, who it turned out had many misspent years as a child and youth living in Lymington, and as such provided a running commentary of great interest. He showed and told us several things we didn’t know about the

sea-wall itself, and the Salterns sailing club inauguration was fascinating. Well done David!



Once back at the boats, time for coffee, and the chance to hear a guitar and singing from Lynn on Avalon wafting around the pontoon for a few minutes. I have to admit hearing live music on the water always sounds magical to me!

However, skippers were chomping at the bit to get going. There would be a favourable easterly flowing tide from 12 midday, there was wind, “come on

crew, let’s get going” was the mantra generally being heard.

We got going too, and it was very pleasant, and ok on speed. Most GCCC skippers ahead seemed to opt for genoa alone, almost downwind, but we found an extra knot with the main up as well, and soon

passed a couple of the others. With a slight wind shift, we were able to go goose-winged with a mainsail preventer, and romped down the Solent in a F4, passing another 2 boats. Our helm was most impressed with their performance as they took the credit and accolades for such superb seamanship, and sail-setting skills. Actually it was all down to the skipper, and knowing his boat!

There you have it. 10 boats, 25 people, superb weather, great sailing, excellent social side with like-minded people. What was there not to like?

**Boats attending:**

**Avalon**

**Cadh'Ruadh**

**Danu**

**Kik**

**Magenta**

**Kemelya**

**Pagetal**

**Quickstep**

**Shibumi**

**Taurus**