

## **Bucklers Hard Rally. 4<sup>th</sup>-6 August 2023**

### **Rally Leader – Tony Atkins**

With 12 boats registered and the list closed well in advance, all was looking good for the two day rally to Bucklers Hard, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August. After the bad weather of recent weeks even the forecast looked fair a week beforehand. But then the weather gods intervened to shift the Jetstream and the forecast of storm Antoni appeared, showing gale force winds on the Saturday. Half the fleet had planned to sail on Friday and, taking care to avoid the Prince of Wales aircraft carrier returning to her home port of Portsmouth, they enjoyed a brisk beat down the Solent, all arriving safely on Friday afternoon.

However five of those who had planned to sail on Saturday, being put off by the forecast, had felt obliged to cancel during the previous week. Nevertheless our hardy Commodore and his wife decided to poke their bows out of Portsmouth Harbour on Saturday morning. Encouraged by what they found they pressed on and in spite of 30kt winds and heavy rain restricting visibility to a few boat lengths, they arrived safely on Saturday afternoon.

Those already at Buckler's Hard had a quiet day on board or walking locally, doing their best to avoid the worst of the rain. By the evening the rain had stopped and the clouds broken up allowing the 17 participants to enjoy a convivial BBQ at the marina. The wind remained strong though and we were pleased to be able to use the marquee to provide some shelter.



Sunday morning dawned still and clear and as the tide rose the wind filled in from the North West enabling the fleet to depart mid-morning and enjoy a pleasant sail back to their home ports or other destinations.