



Rally Report – Lymington Jubilee 50th Sailaway Weekend. 19th August 2023

Our Jubilee 50th Year Sailaway weekend in Lymington was fantastic!

Most boats that registered for the Party weekend were so eager that they arrived at Dan Bran pontoon with the Friday afternoon tide. With a reasonably strong easterly over the top of a vigorous spring tide most had speedy sailing, though it was murky, murky, murky for most passages. Pagetal only decided to go to Lymington on the day itself, without advising anybody officially, which caused all the best (?) – laid plans of the LHC office to be apparently thrown out of the window (more of that later!).

Saturday dawned with a yellow object to be found in the sky, and after a lazy start to the day, a group set out at 11:00 for a wee walkie along the salt flats. It was still fairly windy, but now from the opposite direction (good call Pagetal!), and the walk was enjoyable, without being too long. It required an ice-cream at the end



Whilst we were eating lunches in cockpits and sun-tanning, then taking snacks with Clive & Debbie on Quickstep, Danu was tacking and beating up the Solent with a south-westerly on the nose, and a tide underneath, and so shipping water all over. Four very wet crew totally dressed in oilskins finally arrived, and our group was complete.

By 17:00, most boats had been dressed all over, ready for the competition judging of “best-dressed GCCC boat”. Andrew paced around critically reviewing each offering as we waited with nervous anticipation, and then said that the results would be announced at the evening dinner!



By this time our visiting past members were beginning to make themselves known by dint of much laughter and loud stories. We were delighted to be joined re-by Nigel and Sue Wright (Panthera), who were being hosted by Hugh and Val Dickinson; and Dan and Pennie Homewood (Mindbender) who joined us from Yarmouth. David and Sarah Cockburn arrived by land, staying in a local B & for a couple of nights. Welcome all!



At 1800 the Pontoon Party was declared officially “Open”, and Pimms, Prosecco, wine, beer, cider, tasty seafood blinis and a wide range of other snacks were eagerly consumed. Photos were taken, time flew by, and soon the call was “off to the Club – it’s dinnertime!”



On the way, Paul went along towards the Lymington Town SC clubhouse (it was going to be the Lionesses football the next morning and we needed a TV), having to step over a sheaf of papers entitled “LHC Friday Berthing Plan” – all ripped up, and below an open window!! Oh dear!!!

At the Royal Lymington YC drinks were ordered, we had a look from the terrace over the river and we adjourned to our exclusive room, where we enjoyed an excellent 2 and 3 course meal.



The noise levels had been high, a good sign that everyone was getting along well and having a good time. Andrew officially welcomed all the guests, and then announced, to cheers, that Symphony was the best-dressed boat, and awarded a bottle of bubbly to Hugh & Val.



By then it was getting late and most of the conversations on the way back to the boats revolved around “who is leaving their flags up all night? Won’t they be noisy?” At which stage the loudest firework EVER went off, from the opposite bank of the Lymington River! There then followed a wonderful 10 minute display! I only wish that we as GCCC could claim some involvement, provided as a surprise finale to the evening for the party-goers, but I’m not sure our reserves would cover that amount of fireworks!!



Personally I proposed that a couple of nightcap glasses of good red wine was the answer to any noise question, and so it proved for my crew – we heard nothing!

Sunday morning was bright and clear with a gentle south-westerly so most boats were off with the rising tide back to their Portsmouth and Chichester berths, enjoying a leisurely sail. Pagetal’s crew were off to the RLYC again ... this time for coffee, bacon roll and then beer in that order as we watched the Women’s World Cup Final. ‘Nuff said.

A Great GCCC Jubilee 50th Sailaway Weekend!!

PS: The bit about the berthing plan was an author’s ploy to keep you engaged! ☺