

## BOC South Coast Region Summer Report

Until the strong winds and heavy rains in July we have, by and large, enjoyed a good sailing summer. Although the August forecast has been for unsettled weather, hopefully we can still look forward to some continuing sunshine and calm seas for our remaining active sailing months.

**1** The South Coast has enjoyed a busy events' programme starting with a **Lunch at the Boathouse** in Hythe Marina on the 26th February enjoyed by 27 members and guest. Most attended by car but two boats braved the winter chills. This was a well attended addition to our line up so may well be repeated next year.



**2** Lunch at Hythe was followed on the 8<sup>th</sup> April by our now traditional **Royal Lymington Dinner** attended by 28 members all anticipating the start, for most perhaps, of the active sailing season. Post dinner, our Chairman also entertained us with her lively history of the formation and early years of our club.



**3** The season got into full swing with our **Yarmouth Rally** over the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Our eight Brooms made a mighty impressive sight together on the Harold Hayles pontoon, notwithstanding its rather eccentric organisation. Dinner on the Friday evening was at the On The Rocks restaurant. Why does food seem to taste so very much better, mostly anyway, when you cook it yourself?

On the Saturday, several members took advantage of the pleasant weather to enjoy some leisurely exercise exploring the scenic banks of the river Yar before very welcome evening Drinks and Nibbles on the pontoon next to G&T - thanks very much Terry and Gill. After a sobering walk, we then all dined very well at the Royal Solent Yacht Club.

Although some had to make an early departure, the majority stayed on to enjoy a fine Sunday

**lunch at the Kings Head.**

**4 The Summer Cruise in Company** started on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, organised and led by Warwick and Jan Morgan and, after brief spells in Yarmouth and Weymouth, set sail for Brixham and the West Country where they enjoyed great weather, fine food and excellent company.

Whilst the start date may be fixed, summer cruise destinations can be flexible and as some invariably cross the Channel, it could be a way of inspiring confidence for those who may not have ventured before across the Channel either to the Channel Islands or further south. Perhaps, if you might want to venture further afield, you might wish to consider joining us next year?



**5** Our ever popular visit to **Island Harbour** was well attended by boats and people, not withstanding the weather's harsh attempt to dampen spirits. As I was not able to attend, I am grateful to John Oldham for his report:

**28-31 July Island Harbour Rally 'The Dunkirk spirit revisited!'** Despite force 6 winds and turbulent seas, 9 boats (with 23 members and guests) arrived at Island Harbour on the River Medina, Isle of Wight. We were very pleased to welcome Kelston and Jackie Tobin (S.E. region members) and honorary member Louise Busby.

Continuing heavy rain meant that the outdoor drinks reception planned for Friday evening was held in a reception room in the on-site Breeze restaurant, thanks to the generosity of its manager, Jane. At this event, four other members who sensibly arrived by car!

Saturday dawned with even more typically-British wet weather, so the scheduled lunchtime barbecue-on-the-green was cancelled, but (in true Dunkirk/BOC spirit) members developed alternative strategies, including on-board barbecues and excursions to nearby venues.

Happily, Sunday dawned bright and breezy, so we were able to hold the traditional sports event on the sloping green. Organised by David Harrison and studiously umpired by Peter Upcher, and supported by some members of the Island Harbour Yacht Club, members present wanged wellies, bowled boules, aimed arrows, hurled horseshoes and lobbed lines around a post. This year 'men' beat the 'ladies' and were awarded the prestigious challenge club, while the ladies received the ceremonial wooden spoon. Great was had by all!

The weekend was rounded off on Saturday evening with an excellent meal at the Breeze restaurant, attended by 29 members and guests (including some who had specially travelled over by ferry from the mainland).



Luckily, despite the early tide the next morning, harbour staff kindly arrived at 6.30 am to allow those that needed a prompt return to do so. Others left on the rising tide later that afternoon, while others stayed on for a while to sample further the delights of the Island.



Our

thanks to Peter Upcher for organising this successful event (though he could have done better with the weather!)

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks, and yours too I am sure, to our South Coast organisers for all their hard work in helping to make our sailing season more enjoyable. Without them, there would be no events and our sailing pleasure somewhat diminished.

**The Boathouse, Hythe**  
**Dinner at the Royal Lym.**  
**Yarmouth Rally**  
**Cruise in Company**  
**Island Harbour Rally**

**Julia Greenhalf**  
**John Adcock**  
**Terry & Gill Bishop**  
**Warwick Morgan**  
**Peter Upcher**

There are still several further events to enjoy, details of which have been circulated. If you haven't already booked, it might still be worth a call to an organiser.

**Bembridge Rally**

**5-8 September**

**Simon Atwell**

**Royal Southampton YC Reception**

**22 September**

**Gill Oldham**

**No Mans Fort Lunch**

**30 September**

**Chris Dawson**

Enjoy our remaining events and the rest of your sailing season.

Best wishes, Anton Bates

SC Regional co-ordinator 15 August 2017