

We've had a few of these before ----- probably this is the 50th!!

It was the night of the Launch of the Summer Rally Programme, and a chance to meet any recent new Members.

Everything went to plan With about 25 Members turning up, lots of chatter and natter, there was a long queue at the bar with Shaun making sure all ran smoothly, and the room was laid out for the presentation.

Our Rear Commodore, Billie, ran us through a detailed slide show of the destinations and dates for the marinas; and restaurants as far as she could tell at this stage, together with suggestions for local things to do. A total of about 12 rallies, the Summer Cruise, plus a few midweek ones. Looks like some great weekends on the water ahead. All the details are on the website. Register NOW for rallies to make sure you get a place!

The first one is the Easter one to East Cowes marina, eating at the Lifeboat pub/restaurant. The Rally Officer is Chris Mellett. (When I look at the website this morning, I can see that there are still spaces, with a cut-off date of 31st March, so please register soon if you wish to attend!)

Andrew, our Commodore then stood up to make an announcement. After two failed attempts we have finally managed to get Noel Cockle into the clubhouse! With much applause he was awarded the Bader Rose Trophy for an Outstanding Feat of Seamanship. "What did he do?" I hear you ask

Noel belongs to and takes part in events organised by the Singlehanded Offshore Racing Club. On his way to a Round the Island Race the night before, he suffered an accidental gybe, and broke his boom completely off. Not deterred in the slightest, he created a jury rig, still took part in the Solo-handed race, and in fact finished in 8 hours 1 minute – a very creditable time by most standards!! A modest man, he responded with the comment "I've never been rewarded in such a fabulous way for being such a failure!!". He is up there with some most excellent names and feats. Well done Noel.

