



Seaward Squadron

Portland Rally 2009

Friday 5th June - Sunday 7th June



Brand new for 2009, Portland Marina offers modern facilities for boats of all sizes, up-to 44m. The marina is part of the venue for hosting the 2012 Olympic games.

On Friday June 5th eleven boats assembled at Portland Marina in fine weather. These were:

Alchemy	Seaward 35	David Harland & David Mortimer
Boxer	Seaward 29	Jill Murphy & crew
Blue Dawn	Seaward 23	Kevin and Margaret Horton
Braveheart	Seaward 35	James & Daphne Gilbert
Cressey III	Seaward 29	John Hickman
Greta	Seaward 29	Johann Etasse and crew
Jumper	Seaward 23	Michael Awty
Lady Ruth	Seaward 23	Richard Villalard
Merlin	Seaward 25	Ron Foster and Alan Dawe
Seaward Moon	Seaward 35	John & Lynn Bloomfield
Stormrider	Seaward 25	Fiona and Patrick Russell

The Seaward Squadron

The Seaward Squadron is an informal association of Seaward owners.

It gives a forum for owners of Seaward boats to meet and exchange ideas. New and prospective owners are always welcome to seek advice.

Each year a friendly get together is arranged. In 2001 the gathering took place in Guernsey, in 2002 we met in Cowes, so that we could visit the factory and in 2003, in Plymouth.

In 2004, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the meeting was held in Cherbourg. This was the first 'foreign' port and the visit was very much enjoyed.

The meetings in 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008 were back in the UK at Weymouth, Portsmouth, Guernsey & Poole

This year, Portland was chosen at the venue, as it gave easy access for boats based on the South Coast and the Channel Islands.

John Hickman

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SEAWARD SQUADRON

PORTLAND RALLY 5TH AND 6TH JUNE 2009

The majority of craft arrived in Portland the Friday. Alchemy had crossed from Guernsey on the Thursday and spent the night in Weymouth.



Seawards gather in Portland

The other Guernsey boats waited until Friday when the winds were forecast to ease and give a smooth crossing.



Portland Harbour

Ayo, C'Time and Blue Legend elected to arrive on Saturday which turned out to be a bad decision as the weather had deteriorated to a SE force 6 gusting 7. BLUE LEGEND a 45 made it from Poole but Dave and Jackie Hale had some hard things to say about conditions in the swash channel.



The other two were not so lucky and had to withdraw.



RDYC from across the river

On Friday evening the Royal Dorset Yacht Club provided an excellent carvery and we were joined by Barry and Alison Kimber together with John Webb and Sue Hayley [Vickla II] and



Reggie Jeffs [Indigo] all of whom were staying at the Portland Heights Hotel.

The trip to Weymouth and back was in a launch provided by White Motor Boats. On the return voyage we were halted by a fisherman who had apparently laid a



net across the fairway. Having avoided this obstacle we landed at the Marina in the dark. It immediately became apparent to me that there were shortcomings in the lighting on the pontoons and this was even more evident on the Saturday evening when we had a longer walk. Ideally pontoon lighting should shine downwards so one can see where you are placing your feet. I found the lighting at Portland shone in my face and taking a step involved an act of faith that there was a solid surface in front of me. I did e-mail the marina to thank them for their excellent service to us and their friendly

staff and mentioned this problem. There was no reaction so lets hope there will not be an accident. An “expert” assured me that when there were more boats moored in the marina the problem would ease as the lights would be reflected off the moored boats

Because of the weather the proposed trip to Lulworth Cove on Saturday had to be abandoned. Many found that there was a very good bus service to Weymouth and back while others sampled the pubs at Portland.

At the dinner on Saturday evening at the Portland Heights Hotel we were joined by Mike and Linda Wood who had been responsible for founding the Seaward Squadron. I thought the dinner was well served and presented.



Pre-dinner drinks - Barry, Linda Wood, John and Alison

The Index of Achievement award went to James and Daphne Gilbert in Braveheart for their epic voyage from Ipswich. We then drew lots for nautical clothing generously donated by Barry and Alison Kimber in addition to their sponsorship of the wine and pre dinner drink.



The four tables at the Dinner

I have had only two suggestions for the 2010 rally. These were for Port Solent and Cherbourg. Subject to correction from a higher power

I propose to adopt both in the sense that the main rally will be on Friday and Saturday at Port Solent in Portsmouth Harbour and on Sunday there will be an optional voyage to Cherbourg for those who wish to do so.

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This newsletter was designed and laid out by David Harland.
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