

Seaward Squadron

Rally Report - Dartmouth - Devon. June 6th - June 8th 2014



As the weekend for the 2014 Seaward Squadron Rally approached, everybody was avidly scanning the weather forecasts. All seemed set fair but then strong westerly winds started to appear for the middle of the week. With the majority of boats coming from the Solent area, a westerly wind against the tide across Lyme Bay, was not good news.



Although a number of skippers decided that they could not subject their crews to the ordeal and arranged to travel to Dartmouth by car, the vast majority made it safe and sound. Only two of the original skippers were unable to attend, one due to illness and the other due to family reasons.

Alchemy made the passage from Guernsey on Tuesday morning and had a very good trip in just four hours. David thought, that as the organiser, he had better be sure of being in Dartmouth. Over the next few days' boats arrived, one by

one and by Friday afternoon, sixteen Seaward boats had gathered at Kingswear Marina. Ten other skippers came by road/air and everybody was ready to enjoy the rally.

	Boat Name	Skipper's Name	Crew's Name	Home Port	Boat Type
√	Alchemy	David Harland	Ann	St Peter Port	35-004
*	Blue Dawn	Kevin Horton	Margaret	Weymouth	23-085
√	Blue Lady	Richard Harrison	Jane	Plymouth	29-021
√	Cool Blue II	John Wotton OBE	Mark	Dartmouth	25-072
√	Endeavour	Angus Belcher	Paul	Cowes	29-034
*	Esk VIII	David Woodley	Michelle	Ocean village	29-029
√	Grand Finale	Geoffrey Simpson	Pat & Marion	Fowey	23-054
√	Greta	Johann Etasse	David Le Jean	St Peter Port	29-024
√	Gullfoss	Steve Walker	Marion	Port Solent	35-015
*	Jumper	Michael Awty	Janet	Hamble Point Marina	25-040
√	Lady Ruth	Richard Villalard	-	St Peter Port	23-041
*	Larina	Jack Acres	Lesley	Hamble	23-114
√	Merlin	Ron Foster	John	Yarmouth, IW	25-018
*	Peel Truant	Pam Moxon		Peel, Isle of Man	35-001
√	Sarnia	Roger Crew	Susan	East Cowes	25-035
√	Sea Otter	Gilbert Park	Maire	Emsworth	25-065
*	Sea Urchin	Ian Delooze	Sue	Conway, North Wales	23-101
*	Seaward	Chris Clayton	Nick Burnham	The Boat Dev' Co.	
*	Seaward	Mike Burnham		The Boat Dev' Co.	
√	Seaward Moon	John Bloomfield	Lynn	Plymouth	35-009
√	Sirdar	Mike Snelling	Mary	St Sampsons	35-006
*	Verity	Felix Hetherington	Diana	Bembridge Harbour	23-103
√	Victory	Paul Frampton	David & Richard	Hythe	Dale 38
√	Vikla III	Robbie McCann	Jane	Lymington	35-008
*	Vikla IV	John Webb	Sue Hayley	Hythe	25-067
√	Yuletide	David Burnham	Sue	Dartmouth	23-113
√ = attended with boat * came by road/air					

The first organised event, of the weekend was a meal at the Dartmouth Yacht Club; this is on the opposite side of the river to the marina, so the ferry took the party over to Dartmouth Town. There the squadron members, who had travelled by road, rail and air, joined the group. This year we were especially pleased to welcome Ian and Sue Delooze, who keep their boat in Conway, North Wales and Pam Moxon, who has her Seaward in Peel, Isle of Man. We were also pleased to be joined by Mike Burnham, Managing Director of Seaward, "The Boat Development Company".





Saturday morning dawned to blue skies and light winds, perfect for the planned cruise, up river. The River Dart winds its way up past the Britannia Royal Naval College and the village of Dittisham, through unspoilt countryside to Totnes, a distance of some eight miles. Berthing space, in Totnes is limited, so the plan was to take the smaller boats and after a bit of frantic organisation, everyone



was allocated a space on one or other of the craft. The flotilla was lead by David Burnham; David keeps his Seaward 23, Yuletide, in Dartmouth and he provided the local knowledge and arranged for permission to berth in Totnes.

Totnes is a pretty old market town with remnants of the city walls and many historic buildings but most people did not make it past The Steam Packet Inn, where they enjoyed lunch! As the tide started to fall the flotilla cruised slowly back down river, to the pontoons at Kingswear Marina.

On Saturday evening the Squadron Gala Dinner took place at the Royal Dartmouth Yacht Club. It was a lovely evening and pre-dinner drinks were enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the River Dart.



Before dinner was served David Harland said a few words to welcome everyone to the rally. He said, " It is a great pleasure to welcome so many people here tonight, we have fifty-seven dining tonight, the largest rally to date. I am also please to welcome Chris Clayton, Chairman of Seaward and Sarah from Everard Insurance"

John Webb then kindly said grace and the meal commenced. The Boat Development Company kindly provided the wine, that was enjoyed with the meal.

Each year, **The John Hickman Award for Achievement**, is given to the skipper, whom, it is considered, has made the greatest effort to attend the rally. It



is based on a formula using boat length, engine size, skipper's age and distance travelled. Often this can be a difficult decision, with boats just coming from the

Solent area. This year there were two contenders; both had battled the weather and waves, one from Yarmouth and one from Chichester. Although the distance from Chichester was further, when the age factor was added to the calculation, age won over beauty and Ron Foster was the worthy winner. Sarah, from Everard Insurance, who kindly sponsors the prize, presented the award, an engraved, crystal tankard.

A raffle was also held for a very smart Musto Sailing Jacket, with the new Seaward Logo. This prize was kindly donated by Seaward and was



Ron Foster (right) with Geoffrey Simpson

won by Richard Ashcroft, crew on Victory.

After the presentation, David handed over to Chris Clayton to say a few words about developments at the Seaward factory and plans for the future. This brought the evening to a conclusion and everyone slowly dispersed to his or her accommodation or boat.

The next day, Sunday, dawned to a fine day and after breakfast boats started to disperse. Most boats returned to their homeports around the Solent or along the west coast. The Guernsey contingent, Lady Ruth, Greta, and Sirdar travelled back in company with Vikla III, who spent a week relaxing in the St. Peter Port sunshine.

Alchemy was lifted out at Kingswear, placed on transport and sent up to Largs Yacht Haven, on the Firth of Clyde, Scotland. David has provided the following report of his travels.

Alchemy in Scotland 2014

After the rally, Ann I flew home to Guernsey, leaving Alchemy in the care of the staff of Kingswear Marina. The boat transport company picked her up on the Tuesday and on Wednesday afternoon I had a phone call from Largs Yacht Haven to say she had arrived, had been launched and placed on a berth. It could not have been easier!

On the Saturday of that week we flew up to Glasgow and then by train to Largs, leaving Guernsey at 07:15 we were on-board by 12:30.

For the first two weeks we cruised around the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne, visiting East Loch Tarbert, Portavadie, Isle of Bute, Rhu and Millport on Great Cumbrae, before returning to Largs for a crew change.



Ron on his way in Merlin



Alchemy on her way



Tipanie and Alchemy in Rothesay

During our time in Largs we met Chris & Jane Pink, on their Seaward 35, Tipanie and we met up again in Rothesay, Isle of Bute.

After Ann left, I was joined by two friends, David and Brian, who had agreed to help me take Alchemy around to the Hebridean Isles. There are two routes to the western isles from Firth of Clyde, one through the Crinan Canal and the other around the Mull of Kintyre. The Mull has a reputation for being one of the roughest headlands in the UK but on this day the weather was perfect with just a light wind. We departed Largs at 10:00 and after a 74-mile cruise, in clear blue skies, we pick up a buoy off Gigha.



Isle of Gigha from our anchorage.

As we rounded the Mull, you could see how, on a rougher day it could be more challenging; there were several strong tide-rips but we avoided these and had a pleasant passage.

Our cruise continued via Islay, Jura, through the Gulf of Corryvreckan to Oban. On the way we visited many secluded lochs and anchorages. We finally arrived in Oban where Alchemy was left, while I returned home for 10 days.

I joined the boat again in the third week of July with my good friend, Paul Frampton, to continue the cruise northwards calling into Tobermory, Muck, Eigg, Rum, Canna, Arisaig, Mallaig, Plockton, Gairloch and Portree. Finally we returned to Mallaig where we left Alchemy and returned home.



David & Brian enjoying supper

I fly back to Scotland with Ann on August 18th to continue our adventures around Skye and after a couple more crew changes, Alchemy will return to Guernsey in at the end of September.

The west coast of Scotland is a fantastic cruising ground with marvellous scenery and lots of interesting anchorages. The waters are very sheltered and you are always close to land. It was particularly interesting how many Seawards we came across on our travels. I have mentioned Tipanie, who we met in Largs. We also came across, Spirit of Cumbrae (29) in Millport, Spindrift (23) in Port Bannatyne, Osprey (23) and Savannah (29) in Loch Feochan and one of the old police boats (25) in Mallaig. Everywhere we went Alchemy created interest and we received complimentary comments.



Savannah on Loch Feochan

Seaward Rally 2015

It has been proposed that the venue for 2015 should be St Peter Port, Guernsey This would be over the weekend of **Friday 5th June - Sunday 7th June.**

It would be appreciated, if you would indicate your agreement with this proposal and advise if you intend to participate. If you did not wish to make the passage in your own boat there are good transport links to Guernsey and there is a wide range of accommodation.

Please email your comments and suggestions to:

davidharland@guernsey.net

Seaward at the Southampton Boatshow

“Seaward – The Boat Development Co Ltd are bringing three boats to the Southampton Boat Show this year, in their usual place on the water; berths M122 to M124. We will be showing the Sea School 29 along with a 25 and the new Seaward 25 E14 – watch out for the press release! We welcome one and all and look forward to seeing you at the show. Please contact the office if you require more information; Sadie will be only too pleased to assist.”

Everard Insurance Brokers Seaward Insurance Scheme

Everard Insurance Brokers have now launched an exclusive 'Seaward Owners' vessel scheme with these benefits that are exclusive to us and not available from insurers direct: which are

5% Seaward Owners discount

Protected No Claims Bonus

Your No Claims Bonus is protected and there will be no loss of no-claims bonus unless two or more claims occur during any period of insurance.

No Excess on Specified Item

The policy excess does not apply to claims for specified items noted on the schedule.

Any Seaward Owner requiring a quotation from us for this scheme should contact Sarah.cracroft@everardinsurance.co.uk or Hayley.watson@everardinsurance.co.uk and they will be sent an application form

Photo credits: Robbie McCann, Steve Walker and David Harland, David Greenwood have kindly provided the photos used in this newsletter

Seaward Squadron

If you require any information about the Seaward Squadron or you have any interesting stories and photographs about your boating experiences that you would like to share with our Seaward owners please contact:

David Harland
Lothlorien
Rue des Tamaris
Castel
Guernsey
GY5 7BA
davidharland@guernsey.net