
Seaward Squadron

Rally Report - Portland & Weymouth - June 7th to 10th 2018

Each year, the members of the Seaward Squadron gather together for a rally, where skippers and crew can meet new Seaward owners and renew old friendships.

This year, 2018, it was decided that rally would take place over three days, with a visit to Portland Marina on the Thursday and then onto Weymouth, for the main event on Friday and Saturday.

When organising a rally the weather is of great concern, especially for boats coming from Guernsey and the West Country. Fortunately, the forecasts were good this year; several boats took advantage of the settled conditions to make the passage to Portland on the Wednesday. Little Lucy (Seaward 35) was the first to arrive, after her trip from The Hamble and was soon joined by Magic (Seaward 39), from Guernsey. Other boats arrived over the next few hours. Thursday was a rest day, and everybody had a relaxing time, in the evening, many crews joined together for an informal meal at The Cove House Inn, overlooking Chesil Beach.



Friday dawned a fine day and after breakfast the boats prepared to make the short passage to Weymouth Harbour. The harbour staff had been very helpful in reserving space, but it was limited, so it was important that everybody knew their place. Skippers were given numbers and asked to proceed in convey, the larger boats berthed first and then the smaller vessels fitted in. The process went smoothly and soon everyone was settled.



During the morning the boats, that had not been able to come to Portland, arrived to join the gathering and by lunchtime there were fifteen Seawards in the fleet.



The pontoon, we were allocated, was on the north side of Weymouth Harbour which is a busy working harbour and there was always some activity going on. It was also just a short walk to the centre of Weymouth with its shops and pubs.



In the evening a Pontoon Party was held where everybody met together before proceeding to the Weymouth Sailing Club for a Buffet Meal. This had been arranged by Euan McNair, who in his dual role as a Seaward owner and Commodore of the Weymouth Sailing Club, made sure everything went well. Everyone had a very enjoyable evening.



Saturday morning dawned with clear skies. After breakfast everyone was free to explore the area around Weymouth as they wished. Euan McNair kindly arranged to take a party on his Seaward 25 "Sirius of Weymouth" for a cruise to Lulworth Cove and the famous natural arch, Durdle Door. On the way back to Weymouth they explored Portland Harbour and the old forts and defences.



On Saturday evening, the main event of the weekend was the gala dinner, arranged at the elegant Al Molo restaurant. Situated in the Old Pier Bandstand, the restaurant enjoys panoramic views over Weymouth Bay. Pre-dinner drinks were enjoyed on the balcony in the fine evening sunshine.

Before the meal was served, David Harland said a few words of welcome to everyone at this the 31st annual rally of Seaward owners.

David said he was particularly pleased to welcome Alison Kimber, former director of Seaward Marine and Chris Clayton, Chairman of the Boat Development Company. Chris was accompanied by his wife, Karen.

Paul Frampton then said Grace before the meal was served. Wine to accompany the meal and for the pre-dinner drinks was kindly provided by The Boat Development Company.



After the meal Chris Clayton gave an outline of developments at the factory. He said there was a steady order-book with several new models in the pipeline, the new Seaward 27 is in production and with its integrated bathing platform, giving access through a gate from the cockpit, sets a trend that will follow in other new models. Chris said Seaward Squadron members were always welcome to visit the factory and he looked forwards to meeting many at the Southampton Boat Show.

Then came the presentation of the *'John Hickman Award for Achievement'*. This award is presented to the skipper, whom it is considered has made the most effort to attend the rally. This year the worthy winner was John Davis. This was John's first rally and he had made the passage, single handed, in his Seaward 25 'Odin'.

Seaward had kindly donated a number of Seaward-branded Gill items, a Crew Jacket, Polo shirts and Sailing Caps and a raffle was held for these. The lucky winners were delighted with their prizes.



This brought the celebrations for the evening to a conclusion and everybody wended their way back along the esplanade, to the harbour and their boats for a goods night sleep.

On the Sunday morning , after breakfast, boats started to depart, some to their home ports, others to continue their cruising.



Many thanks Alan Jones, Alastair Cameron and Robbie McCann for the photographs used in the newsletter.

Seaward Squadron Rally 2019

It is planned that the rally next year will take place in Dartmouth, Friday 7th - Sunday 9th June. Space has been reserved at Kingswear Marina and the Gala Dinner will be held at the Royal Dartmouth Yacht Club, on the Saturday. Full details will be provided closer to the time but please make a note in your diary now. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible in Dartmouth and if you feel that you can not make the passage in your boat, you are just as welcome to travel by car and stay ashore.

If there is any member of the Squadron based in the Dartmouth area who can assist in making arrangements then I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Seaward 35 owner Qualifies as RYA Yachtmaster with The Seaward Sea School

Seaward 35 owner, Richard Harrison, likes to aim high and challenge himself in all things, his boating is no exception. After lots of self study and some training sessions in his home port of Plymouth, Richard came to The Seaward Sea School in Cowes, with his Seaward 35 'Bruiser' to attend a preparation course for his RYA Yachtmaster Offshore.

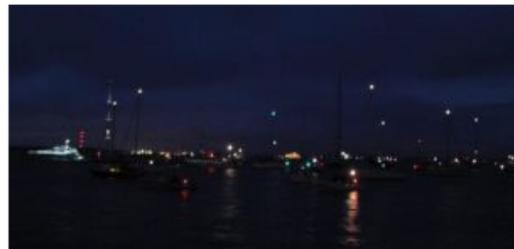


A few, challenging, long days with instructor Angus Belcher, including two complex night exercises in one of the UK's busiest waterways, and Richard was ready for his exam.

Richard was put through tough boat handling tests, answered questions on lights, shapes, weather and navigation theory while at sea and was set day and night navigation exercises.

After tying up, late at night, in Southampton Richard was rewarded with a pass.

Congratulations Richard!



The Travels of “Magic” 2018

A few weeks after the Seaward Squadron Rally, in Weymouth, “Magic” joined the Nelson Boat Owners Club for their rally in Portsmouth and Bembridge I.O.W.

After a very enjoyable weekend, six of the Nelson Boats set off for a passage, along the south coast, via Brighton, Ramsgate and Chatham to Limehouse Basin, close to Tower Bridge, London.

Our first stop was in Brighton Marina, surrounded by modern buildings and chain restaurants, it has little to commend itself, compared to the harbours of Brittany, that I am more used to. The forecast for strong winds gave us an extra day in Brighton and we had an opportunity to explore the town.



The passage from Brighton to Ramsgate was more interesting as we passed the famous white cliffs around Beachy Head and Dover.



After an overnight stop in Ramsgate we set off past Margate and into the Thames. There was very little traffic and we had a very easy passage past the Red Sand Forts. These quadruped giants were constructed in the second world war to protect the Thames from aerial and navel attacks. They make an eerie site as you pass them by.

That evening we berthed in the Chatham Marina where we had a pleasant evening alfresco, bring and shared picnic.



Next morning the fleet squeezed into the lock to start our journey up the Thames. Navigation on the Thames is not difficult, but you must follow the rules, and these can be obtained in a leaflet provided by The Port of London Authority. Again, there was very little traffic on the river and we had an interesting passage, upriver, passing underneath the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, through the Thames Barrier and into the City of London.



The Limehouse Basin, where we were to berth for three nights, is entered by a lock. This can only take two boats at a time, so a schedule was drawn up. As we had time to spare, we cruised further



upriver, under Tower Bridge, past Westminster and on as far as Battersea. To see all the famous landmarks of London from the river was amazing and something we will remember for a very long time.

On our allocated time we returned to Limehouse and locked through in the basin to join the rest of the fleet.

The area around Limehouse is a very interesting with lots of maritime history and interesting walks along the river and old pubs to visit. The Prospect of Whitby, built circa 1520, being one of the most famous.



I had been accompanied on the first part of my cruise by my very good friend, Paul Frampton. Paul has owned a number of Seaward and Nelson craft over the years, so his experience and companionship at the Seaward Rally and on this part of my cruise was greatly appreciated.

Paul returned home on Sunday and I was joined by my brother Mike who was going to crew for me on the return passage to Guernsey. We locked out of Limehouse on Monday morning and made the 72-mile trip back to Ramsgate in one hop. Arriving mid-afternoon, we made our way to the fuel pontoon only to be told that there was shortage and we could only have 200 litres. After explaining our needs were more like 1,600 litres to get us back to Guernsey, we were directed to the fisherman's fuel pontoon and were allowed to fill our tanks.

Next morning, we set off to cross the Straits of Dover, passing inshore of the Goodwin Sands we cruised south until we could turn to port and cross the shipping lanes towards the coast of France. Our cruise along the coast of Normandy took us to Boulogne, Saint Valery-sur-Somme, Dieppe, Deauville, Saint Vaast and Cherbourg.



We were blessed by the settled weather that we all enjoyed in the summer of 2018 and it was great to wake each morning knowing that we could expect sunshine and light winds for the foreseeable future.

One of our favorite marinas was Deauville and we spent two nights here. It was quite and sheltered and within easy walking distance of the town. It was Bastille Day, on our second day and we enjoyed a fantastic firework display, on the beach in the evening.



The next day we moved onto St Vaast, this was the day of the FIFA World Football Finals with France playing Croatia. We were relaxing onboard; when France scored the peace was shattered by dozens of fog horns and sirens being sounded. When the full time whistle was blown the town went mad, cars crowded the streets sounding their horns. People were everywhere waving flags.



We were nearly home, just one more night in Cherbourg before we made the passage around the Cap de la Hague and down to Guernsey.

The total distance covered since we left Guernsey to join the Seaward Rally was 818 miles

News wanted from Squadron Members

It is always good to hear from other Squadron Members regarding their boating exploits.

If you have details of your recent trips, along with a few photos I would be pleased to publish them in the next Newsletter.

David Harland

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