

# Seaward Squadron

## Rally Report - Dartmouth - June 7th - 9th 2019

This year, 2019, Dartmouth was chosen as the location for the annual Seaward Squadron Rally. This gave a chance for boats from the West Country to attend and gave a little more of a cruise for those from the Solent area. It also suited the skippers from Guernsey as Dartmouth is one of the closest ports from the Channel Islands.



It had been arranged that we would berth in Darthaven Marina, which is on the eastern shore of the Dart river. Here they have an area for visiting boats and we were able to berth close together, which gives a more sociable atmosphere. The Marina office prepared a berthing plan so that boats of similar sizes were moored neatly together.

Although the rally was scheduled to begin on the Friday, many boats arrived on the Thursday, as there was a forecast for stronger winds over the week-end. The marina rose to the occasion and managed to make space and fitted everybody in.

The fleet of Seawards, berthed together made a fine sight and attracted many comments from around the marina.



The final fleet of fourteen boats were joined by George and Yvonne Latymer, who have a new Seaward 29 under build. Euan & Elizabeth McNair were not able to bring "Sirius of Weymouth" as they had commitments early the following week. Apologies were received from Robbie and Jane McCann, "Vikla III" and from Paul and Debbie Kelsey, "Tasman". These two Seawards were enjoying a season on the West coast of Scotland. We were pleased to welcome Chris and Karen Clayton, and Angus and Shirley Belcher, from the Boat Development Company.

### Seaward Squadron

Members Attending Rally -Darthaven Marina - Friday 7th, Sunday 9th, June 2019

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Boat Name	Type	Skipper's Name	Crew's Name	Home Port
Boat Development Co		Angus Belcher	Shirley Belcher	Cowes
Boat Development Co		Chris Clayton	Karen Clayton	Cowes
Bounder	42-001	Mike Gribbin	Jen Barnwell	Dartmouth
Greta	35-016	Johann Etasse	David Le Jean	St Peter Port
Growler	29-026	Mike Jones	Lesley Jones	River Hamble
Kuonana III	25-073	Alastair Cameron	Alison Cameron	Alderney
Lady Ruth	23-041	Richard Villalard	-	St Peter Port
Little Lucy	35-017	John Gibbins	Gaynor Gibbins	Hamble
Magic	39-001	David Harland	Ann Harland, Paul Frampton	St Peter Port
Merlin	25-018	Ron Foster	Tony Foster	Yarmouth, IOW
Odin	25-072	John Davis	Fenella Davis	Torquay
Reveller	29-036	Mark Huntley	-	St Peter Port
Sarnia	25-035	Roger Crew	Alan Gill	East Cowes
Sea Urchin	23-101	Robin Farey	Bob Llewellyn	Hamble
Sirius of Weymouth	25-027	Euan McNair	Elizabeth McNair	Weymouth
Stormchaser	29-039	Fiona Russell	-	Guernsey
Under Build	29-000	George Latymer	Yvonne Latymer	
Verity	23-103	Felix Hetherington	Diana Hetherington	Bembridge Harbour

18 Records Listed

As there were no formal events organised for the Thursday evening, so many people made their way over to Dartmouth, to enjoy a meal at Rockfish, one of the best 'Fish & Chip' restaurants on the south coast.





On Friday morning the fleet was joined by John and Fenella Davis in their Sea-ward 25 “Odin”, who had come all the way from Torquay and the rally was complete.

The weather, on Friday morning was better than forecast and although there was a fair breeze, the sky was clear. Many crews used the day to explore Dartmouth, others took a ride on the Dartmouth Steam Railway to Totnes or Paignton.



On Friday evening the Squadron met at the Dart Yacht Club, located on Dartmouth’s South Embankment, the fine clubhouse has spectacular views of the river and down to the river mouth. After a few drinks, squadron members were able to make and renew friendships and then enjoy a fine hot buffet meal.



Saturday, again dawned as a fine day, and everyone looked forward to the planned visit to the Britannia Royal Naval College. Situated on the hill behind Dartmouth the college is the centre for Royal Naval officer training. Naval training has taken place in Dartmouth since 1863 and the current campus was completed in 1905.

We were fortunate that Euan McNair, who is ex-navy, was able to arrange the visit as they are not normally available at this time of year.







The tour was lead by Cdr RN Rtd. Peter White, who gave us all a very informative insight into the iconic architecture and the many features and facets of life at the College, from the earliest days, through the Second World War, and right up to the world class training the College delivers today.

After the visit the group enjoyed tea and biscuits, before returning to Dartmouth.







On Saturday evening the Seaward Squadron met at the Royal Dart Yacht Club for their Gala Dinner. Pre-dinner drinks were enjoyed on the balcony, overlooking the Dart River before we moved into the dining room for our meal. David Harland said a few words of welcome to everyone at this the 32nd annual rally of Seaward owners. Paul Frampton said Grace before the meal was served. Wine for the pre-dinner drinks and wine served with the meal was kindly provided by The Boat Development Company.



After the meal a short presentation was made by Chris Clayton, Managing Director of The Boat Development Company. Chris gave a summary of the work in progress at the factory with a Seaward 29, a Seaward 35 and three Seaward 27's in production. One of these 27's will be despatched to Japan.



Chris then introduced Mark Huntly. Mark, who is a Seaward owner, has recently joined The Boat Development Company as Chairman of the Board.

Mark said his aim is to take a strategic part in forward planning within the company, helping to develop new models and new markets.



Then followed the presentation of the *"John Hickman Award for Achievement"*. This award is made to the skipper, who it is considered has made the most effort to attend the rally. This year Robin Farey had made the passage in his Seaward 23, "Sea Urchin" from The Hamble, a distance of nearly 100 miles. Robin was accompanied by his crew Bob Llewelin.





Seaward had kindly donated a number of prizes for a small raffle. The main prize for the raffle was a Days Training with the Seaward Sea School. Appropriately this prize was won by George and Yvonne Latymer. George and Yvonne are awaiting delivery of their new Seaward 29, so this prize will be of great value to them.

This brought the evening to a conclusion and everyone made their way back to their boats or accommodation.

Sunday dawned a fine settled day and after breakfast many boats started to make their way back to their home ports, several cruised in company as they made their way along the coast. Three of the Guernsey boats, Lady Ruth, Storm Chaser and Greta took advantage of the settled conditions and stayed another night, returning home in company on Tuesday.

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## Seaward Squadron Rally 2020

Next year, it is proposed that the Rally will be held in Lymington, over the weekend of Friday 12th to Sunday 14th June 2020.



Space has been reserved on the “Dan Bran” Walk Ashore pontoon. This is situated just a short stroll from the centre of town, the yacht clubs and Mayflower public house.

Full details of the rally will be provided around Easter time and as space on the pontoon may be limited, I would ask that you confirm your place, as soon as the Booking Form is made available.