



# SHRIMPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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## SOLENT CRUISE WEEK 2010

### **PRE EVENT BRIEFING NOTES**      All tide times BST.

Dear Shrimpers,

The Cruise week is almost upon us and I am delighted to report that we have 30 boats signed up for the event although not all the boats for the whole week. As always we have the flexibility to accommodate various members 'dipping in and out' to suit busy personal schedules.

I plan to give a pontoon briefing each morning to pass on weather forecasts, tidal considerations, alterations of plans etc... any questions can be fielded at these briefings. These are generally light hearted affairs but they do sometime contain some important information so please try to attend. The times of the briefings can be determined the night before at supper.

The £10 entry fee will be collected when you arrive and to ensure everyone has seen the SOA Event Disclosure you will be asked to sign a confirmation.

Quite a number of our fleet will be starting off from Chichester ( including me) and I suggest those that wish to sail in company meet at the Fishery Bouy at 09.00am on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> to sail the 9-10 miles to Wootton Creek. The Royal Victoria Yacht Club pontoon dries at low water so it is best to arrive by 13.00hrs ( HW Portsmouth +3.5hrs). We are booked in for a 'club supper' and there is a very welcoming bar. We are showing 16 boats for this first night so we will have to raft out on the pontoon. I suggest we monitor the process of drying out during the afternoon so the next low water during the night does not interfere with our snoring too much! This is probably a good time to remind all Shrimpers to have fenders and mooring lines in place before attempting to come alongside others.

Setting off next morning we head for Keyhaven to anchor temporarily in the pool just inside the entrance. Alternatively ( and different to the original plan) if the weather is calm, some may prefer to anchor in Alum Bay ( coloured sands in the cliffs) before visiting the Needles at slack low water before heading back into Yarmouth afterwards.

We are booked onto the 'walk ashore' pontoons in Yarmouth. We have reserved 10 alongside spaces and can raft out three deep to accommodate the expected 21 boats that evening. Two of our number are Crabbers at 24 feet so I suggest we allow those two to raft together with maybe another Shrimper outside with the remaining Shrimpers all rafting as required. We are all booked into the Royal Solent YC courtesy of Howard Crouch (Sea Urchin 856) for a light supper.

The morning of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August sees us heading up through the Yarmouth swing bridge to the upper reaches of the River Yar. This delightful trip is a period of escape from the usual Solent ports and is reminiscent of sailing in a bygone era. The upper reaches dry out. The bridge has specified opening times so we should utilise the 10.00am opening for our trip up and 14.00hrs for our return. This gives plenty of time for a picnic lunch on board rafted up in groups of three. Some may prefer not to take their boats through the bridge but others will be happy to take passengers especially if carrying wine or other goodies!

We leave Yarmouth and head across the Solent to Lymington.

Richard Shaw ( Gamba 218) has kindly arranged for our berthing on the Dan Bran pontoon ( please see attachment if you are not sure of the pontoon location) and has also booked us into the Royal Lymington Yacht Club for dinner. We have a total of 23 boats and a staggering 43 people for this day.

Tuesday is very much a 'rest day'. For those that wish to do so, the plan is to head over to Newtown Creek, anchor, raft up picnic, sleep .....etc.. or maybe if there is enough energy and enthusiasm we can arrange a dingy rowing race. We remain at anchor overnight but I suggest we anchor individually unless conditions are very calm.

Wednesday takes us to Beaulieu and we should take advantage of the last of the flood tide to take us up river. We are once again booked onto the Swiftsure ferry pontoon giving walk ashore access. We will have plenty of time to take the beautiful riverside walk up to Beaulieu village in the afternoon before returning to the Master Builders hotel where we can partake of their Summer BBQ Menu which appears to be reasonable value. We have avoided the DIY bbq this year as it has become rather an onerous task to arrange charcoal etc. for the large numbers participating. We have 22 boats and 41 people at Beaulieu.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> takes us on the morning tide to Bembridge. I propose an alteration to the original plan of the week at this point with the suggestion that, should the weather be settled, we continue past Bembridge to anchor for lunch in White Cliff Bay. *( I personally have never anchored in this bay and would like to do so. The original plan to visit the bay on Friday is, on more detailed examination, not really convenient.)*

We then put into Bembridge early afternoon by around 16.00hrs.

Alternatively we go straight to Bembridge and maybe take the a lovely walk to Priory Bay and beyond if you are feeling energetic. We dine in the Brading Haven Yacht Club who always lay on a great spread for us so it should be a great evening. We are 18 boats and 32 people this night.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. Our last day of the cruise and we head back to Chichester. With high water at 14.35hrs it makes sense to depart Bembridge as soon as there is sufficient rise. We can anchor off East Head, still on a rising tide for those that might like a

touch of beach cricket or boules before heading on up to Birdham Pool Marina for our overnight berths and final supper at Chichester Yacht Club. We have to 'lock in' at Birdham Pool but there is free flow around high water 14.35hrs. otherwise access via lock is approx 3 +/- HW Portsmouth.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> We leave Birdham Pool around midday for home ports.