

Cruising Report to the WPCA AGM for the 2020 season

For the 2020 season the planned cruising programme included a Spring Rally to Lymington, monthly day cruises, a cross channel cruise to Cherbourg, a West Country cruise, and an Autumn Solent Cruise. Then Covid happened. Staying away overnight was not allowed until 4th July and Crossing the Channel risked quarantine so the Spring Rally, Cross Channel cruise and West Country Cruise could not take place. Day sails were allowed from early May so this is a report of the club cruises that took place and of the Autumn Rally which went to Lymington. A feature of the cruises was the presence of up to 8 anchored cruise ships in Weymouth Bay and the fleet of trip boats from Weymouth taking sightseers.

Day Cruise Sat 11 April (Easter Sat) Cancelled

Spring Rally Lymington 30 Apr to 4 May. Bookings were made for this for 8 boats but then had to be cancelled due to lock down 1.

Sun 24th May This was the first cruise of the year and 2 boats, Monterey and Cornish Lady departed on the 10:00 bridge lift bound for Mupe Bay with a F5 Westerly wind giving a run to Mupe arriving at 11:55. We beat back to Newtons Cove with 1 reef in the sails and anchored to wait for the 18:00 bridge lift.

West Country Cruise 4 June Cancelled (no overnight stays permitted)

Tues 9 June Cruise to Lulworth. On a beautiful sunny day 8 boats took part departing with the 10:00 bridge lift and a light wind giving a broad reach to Lulworth Cove. After lunch at anchor departed Lulworth for a beat back to Weymouth in a F3-4 wind.

24th June Ad-Hoc cruise to Lulworth Cove. A good forecast with a wind of ESE F3 led to a cruise that departed Weymouth with the 10:00 for Lulworth Cove for Monterey, Madeleine, Stella, Pennyroyal and Aquamist returning for the 16:00 inbound bridge lift.

Monday 6th July The restriction on staying away from home overnight was lifted on 4th July so Monterey headed round Portland bill to Dartmouth. Monterey was joined 1 week later by Madeleine and cruised on to Fowey together, where Madeleine turned to cruise back to Weymouth with Monterey continuing Westward.

Thurs 9 July No takers

Fri 7 August (Barbecue) 10 boats took part in a day sail to Worbarrow. It was a windless day and all boats motored to the Bay then went ashore to enjoy a barbecue. Stella, Cornish Lady and Eleanor stayed overnight and had an uncomfortable night at anchor when the wind got up. All three boats decided to leave for home early in the morning and the reward was a great sail back to Weymouth arriving in time for the 1400 bridge.

Sat 5 Sept 12 boats took part in a cruise to Mupe bay for a picnic on the beach. 10am bridge lift outbound. Run to Mupe with a F4 beat back to Weymouth. Monterey was caught on a pot marker on the return trip and had to be released by a team from warship Dragon.

Autumn Rally Yarmouth 11 to 14 Sept. 10 club boats with 20 club members gathered for the Autumn Cruise to Lymington. Stella had already had some days away visiting Swanage and Yarmouth

before arriving at The Dan Bran pontoon in Lymington on Thursday 10th September. Osprey, Eleanor and Minnehaha left Weymouth on Thursday with enough wind to sail as far as Old Harry Rocks. Minnehaha stayed at anchor in Studland Bay overnight whilst the other 2 boats carried on to Lymington. Happy Wanderer, Madeline, Monterey, Aquillo, Penny Royal and Thyia left Weymouth on Friday morning with very light winds so motoring was the only option as far as St Aldhelms Head when the wind filled from behind so cruising chutes were deployed. Once settled at the pontoon the crews had an enjoyable meal at The Mayflower in socially distanced tables of 6!! Saturday was fine and sunny so most set off to walk to Keyhaven with a bus ride back. In the evening we were able to support a pop up restaurant at the Bath Road recreation ground which had outlets that would normally have been at festivals. Some boats left for Weymouth early on Sunday to make the most of the tide across Christchurch Bay. Eleanor went across to Yarmouth with 4 boats remaining for a further night in Lymington. Stella, Osprey and Madeline made an early start Monday to break the journey home in Swanage. Monterey departed at noon bound for The Medina River for a few days. It was good that so many supported the rally and that Lymington Harbour were able to accommodate us safely in these difficult times.

Chris Reid

Cruising Officer