

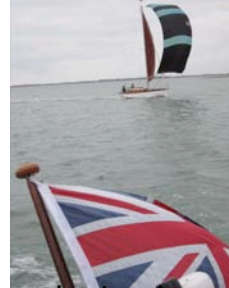
Pilsey Island Rally 2011



The day dawned true to forecast, settled, mild and with excellent visibility. *Masquerade's* early departure was thwarted, as the Itchenor Burgee became totally snarled during hoisting, and an unravelling masthead visit was required.



The Club pontoon quickly became active as crews laden with supplies mustered to the various boats. The very light southerly and spring flood tide made for a testing sail to Pilsey Island, with all using some engine for some or all of the voyage. *Masquerade* with sails up, motored down harbour and out towards to Bar Beacon in an effort to find some wind and for evaluation of the 'Glintwein' (mulled wine) by our Russian contingent! On return, an enthusiastic dinghy fleet from Mengeham Rythe was setting up to race over the Pilsey sands. John Tremlett was spied in his Finn, but he declined an offer of mulled wine, preferring a discussion on tactics for his first beat!... right? or left?



Vera Jane was the first to anchor, with *Masquerade* next, placing her anchor with lots of scope and dropping back alongside to form the trot. *Avion*, *Fie* and *Wotan* were soon alongside and refreshments and eats were soon well in circulation. *Blue Eagle*, *Grace* and *Cherete* followed as the party swelled. *Masquerade* accommodated the whole party with her freeboard settling to well below her marks.



A mild day, temperatures in double figures, made for a good party, regrettably the sun remained illusive to our anchorage, but it was tantalizing clearly visible somewhere to the south of the Nab Tower! Once the ebb was away, it was time for home on the new breeze that had filled in.

Given the excellent sailing conditions and crews suitably fortified by the party, an unscheduled

Race home for some was agreed. The start proved a little random, but broadly fair, with the short beat to John Davies, with all rounding in close quarters. *Cherete* led for the long run home, followed by the *Blue Eagle*, who slipped away to established a good lead. *Vera Jane* decided to go for a spinnaker, which on filling brought her close to the Pilsey shallows that she bounced and scraped across on the fast falling tide! *Masquerade*, the largest competitor, stayed within the fleet and just enjoyed the spectacle of the sail. *Vera Jane* now was well in her stride, slowly eased her way into the lead and continued her sail all the way up to her mooring off Tuffs Hard.



If handicap is considered, *Blue Eagle*, who certainly showed her pedigree, slippery both up and down wind; is the winner! In many ways, we were all winners on the day, as it was an excellent day out, party and 'Winter Jolly in Chichester Harbour'.

<i>Grace</i>	Graine and Jim
<i>Blue Eagle</i>	Sandy and Michael
<i>Wotan</i>	Ant, Kess and Dianna
<i>Arion</i>	Graham, Chris and Colin...
<i>Masquerade</i>	Susanna, Alastair, Mimie, Richard, Chris, Anna and Varya
<i>Vera Jane</i>	Andrew, Michael, Harvey and Christine
<i>Fie</i>	Tina and John
<i>Cherete</i>	Brian and Rob



Observations:

- Half the boats were classic wooden boats
- Avion, Blue Eagle and Cherete, the only boats that effectively sailed to Pilsey
- Anna and Varya travelled all the way from Russia for the party
- Rob came up from Cornwall and had to borrow Granny's Hat
- Richard and Harvey our regular contingent from the Royal Lympington YC
- Wotan, the senior vessel, with our past and new Rear Commodores aboard!
- Probably the largest Itchenor rally in 2011

