

## East Cowes Rally 18 – 20 September 2026

The penultimate Solent branch rally of 2026 took us to East Cowes Marina where we were warmly welcomed by the efficient marina staff. For the 6 boats arriving on the Friday we all enjoyed fabulous sailing condition, light winds with sunshine and blue skies. On early Friday evening we decided to have a bring your own drink and nibbles to share get together on the pontoon but unfortunately the earlier sunshine and blue skies deserted us and were replaced by grey sky increasing wind and drizzle just as we were about to set up, so 12 of us huddled together under the cockpit tent of our Moody 35 – Team Spirit. Who knew you could get so many people on a 35! We started at 5pm and the last people left us at about 10.30pm so we declared it a successful and enjoyable evening!

We woke to a gusty Saturday morning and a further 3 boats joined during the day all declaring their sail to be 'bracing' and encountering 30-35 Knot gusts- definitely not for the faint hearted! Luckily only one boat decided not to make the journey due to the weather forecast and an engine issue. Everyone did their own thing during the day on Saturday, some walking into Cowes, others took the opportunity to visit Osborne House – Queen Victoria & Prince Albert's seaside palace. At 5pm we all gathered at the marina's outside hospitality area for a drinks and nibbles party. It was lovely to see everybody mingling, Ian & Jill Martindale off Estrella (Moody 35) declaring this was only their second visit to a Moody rally in over 11 years! We hope they won't leave it as long to join us again!! The drinks party drew to a close at about 7pm as it got dark and people made their way either to The Lifeboat the on-site pub or the local Italian restaurant - Prego for supper.

On Sunday we woke to blue skies, sunshine and light winds and all boats departed at their leisure.



