



Royal Torbay Yacht Club

Motorboat & Cruising Group

2025 South West Cruise

Saturday 14th June

Our Cruise began Saturday morning from Torquay after speculative debate over the forecasted unsettled weather - which once again dominated our passage planning to Salcombe.

Amares, Skippered by Dominic Hogan decided to leave a day early on Friday 13th, and not surprisingly had a rough time with wave height and wind. The two Motor cruisers, Whisper and Yolo left early on and arrived in Salcombe to prepare our reserved pontoon space in "The Bag". A quiet and peaceful location for 2 nights. The remaining 5 yachts, Quintet, Jupiter, Faraday, Mojito and Piseas were met on Saturday morning with a healthy 12 knots from the South slowly increasing, with some being entertained by dolphins and even a squall that included a brief period of heavy rain and gusty wind. The challenge was met and they all battled on.

The yachts had a different story to tell after they turned around Start Point to be met with a heavy 2 metre swell and Force 5 wind on the nose. Mojito, skippered by Tom & Twiz Filon, had engine failure and had to call the Salcombe Harbourmaster for a tow into the harbour. Both safely arrived on to our Pontoon looking a little worse for wear, but happy enough to of finally made it.



Sunday saw a complete change in the weather to hot sun and glorious views of the surrounding countryside in Kingsbridge. The water taxi into town was very good value at £2 each. Some of us had lunch at the Salcombe Yacht Club and did not require any pre-booking.

After making our way back from town, Whisper and Yolo demonstrated their amazing capability to offer hospitality onboard with the Rear Commodore, Martin Godfrey, having on a display an array of food, beer, wine and spirits for us all to party with until late in the evening. Whilst another gathering took place onboard Jupiter and Faraday for those in a quieter mood. Special Guest was Juno arriving - skippered by George Rock Evans and his crew.



Day 3 of the cruise has seen us make our way to Plymouth – so look out for further news on our passage making in next weeks Club Newsletter.

Monday 16th June

After arriving in Plymouth having made our way from Salcombe, we were now down to 6 boats, after Amares departing for home and Mojito having engine problems.

The Rear Commodore was shocked to find out Queen Annes Battery Marina was not expecting us despite having confirmed our berth booking. But the marina staff rose to the occasion and managed to allocate all of us pontoon berths, albeit a little spread out. This did not stop impromptu onboard hospitality invitations and a meal together at the local Bistro.



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Tuesday 17th June

A rest day saw individual groups explore the nearby sites of Plymouth with scenic views out to sea in the glorious sunshine. This included a ferry to and guided tour of Drakes Island to learn about its fascinating military history with many original artefacts still in place.



Wednesday 18th June

The “Drop In/Drop Out” design of our joint cruising together led to Pi-seas and Jupiter to deciding to stay on in Plymouth, Whilst Whisper, Yolo, Quintet and Far-A-Day making their way to Fowey. It was the last day of easy cruising in a calm sea state as strong Easterlies were forecast over the next 3 days.

The Rear Commodore sourced a magical gem called Penmarlem Marina on the River Fowey for 3 nights that had long visitors’ pontoon with electric and water. Well done Martin Godfrey ! Sheltered with scenic views down the river it was the ideal location to hole up from the weather at sea.





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Saturday 21st June

Quintet was first to leave Fowey at 0900hrs aiming to take advantage of a positive tidal stream heading east. Heading for Dartmouth via Start Point. Sadly the forecasted change back to a westerly wind did not happen. So a classic wind against tide experience followed over the 43 mile passage causing a touch uncomfortable time with 100% motoring.

Whisper and Yolo overtook Quintet around 1000hrs as they cruised together at 18 knots. Whilst Jupiter and Piseas dropped back into the cruise as they made way from Plymouth. Eventually we all ended up in Dartmouth, except for Far-a-Day deciding to head further west from Fowey to Falmouth and beyond.



Sunday & Monday 22nd and 23rd June

Once again Quintet left early from Dartmouth to make their way home to Torquay. The wind was forecasted to increase during the day. Whisper and Yolo arrived home 1240hrs to ensure the cill was open for entry into the inner harbour. Next day, on Monday, Jupiter took advantage of daylight at 0500hrs and had a pleasant passage back. Next was Piseas who despite concerns over sea state made the courageous decision to sail the last leg back to Torquay.

Summary

This was the best Motorboat and Cruising Group Rally so far. Relationships were bonded with lots of get togethers onboard and ashore. The downside was in the end we were all satisfyingly exhausted and thankful of a safe landfall back in our home port. Quote from the Rear Commodore, Martin Godrey, *"I don't need therapy; I just need to cruise with other boats and unwind !"*