

ROUND HAYLING ISLAND SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

(Report by Duncan Colin Jones)



Briefing by Duncan



Setting Sail



Decision Time at Langston

The Wayfarer sail round Hayling Island had been long planned, but the weather wasn't! Eight boats gathered ready to launch but the wind was a northerly and light – F1-2. But the tide was perfect (HW 1300) so off we all went up the harbour to Langstone. It proved a pleasant sail despite a few 'holes' in the wind and we all arrived close together at the Ship Inn, with our safety RIB following and with plenty of time before high water. So we enjoyed a drink and food out on the sea wall, the sun shone, and it was very convivial. Martin Jenner, who was unable to sail with us, was active with the camera. Then the debate should be return the way we had come as the winds were so light, or should we give the circumnavigation a try? The prospect of a sea breeze was our hope and we all decided to give it a go – except the wise Doug Dunlop who, with his two young daughters, returned down Chichester Harbour.

So the seven Wayfarers either troll eyed across the road, or shot the bridge, and then set off down Langstone harbour. The sea breeze tried to come in, but it didn't try hard enough, and then the cloud increased giving us just zephyrs from the south-west. This separated the pragmatists from the purists! Some paddled; for some, Wayfarers just didn't do that. Alick and Claire, John Hartley with his son George and a friend – real muscle there – and Duncan and Sandy paddled intermittently. Getting a little boat speed with the paddle, aided by the ebbing tide and the zephyrs made enough wind to make progress for several hundred yards before a repeat short paddle boost was needed. So those three boats made it out into the bay....where there was still little wind. Aleck and Claire were leading by a large margin, and even had the spinnaker up and making progress along the Hayling sea front, but it was clear that we would not get round until very late indeed, so another RIB was requested from the club and we all had to be towed home. The tide was ebbing strongly out of Chichester harbour making a slow trip back even under tow, so we were all grateful for the help of George, Will, and Steve in the two RIBS. Sailing in Langstone harbour is a new area to enjoy and has much to see, so it had been an interesting trip, albeit, not ending as we had planned!

Afterwards, the mood was cheerful despite the long day, and the sentiment was - yes, let's do it again next year. Do join us, we'll try to do better with the weather!

AGM AND CHRISTMAS DINNER SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

This will be the final event of a successful year. All Wayfarer fleet members are urged to attend what will be an enjoyable and festive event. Full details and booking information will be sent out in late October.