

Sailing to Lymington

by Clive Williams

Winning entry in "Most Amusing lymeric" competition at a sailing dinner.

It describes the voyage from Beaulieu to Lymington in 2008 for a smart dinner at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. The banks had gone bust around the world and the wind was extreme. The TV show "Strictly" was hot favourite at the time. For the uninitiated, it is easy under pressure to mistake the depth instrument reading 12 mtrs (normal) for the boat speed instrument reading 12 knots which would be absurdly fast for an average cruising yacht.

By Beaulieu with the wind screaming evils.
My God, there go inside out seag'ls.
Twelve knots of boat speed!
No, that's the depth that I read
Slow down or we'll wash past the Needles.

Look out! There's a ferry advancing;
Is this wise, for a do, life enhancing?
We'll get a posh nosh
(if the bank's still got dosh),
But we'll miss out on Strictly Come Dancing.