

## OUT TO LUNCH – Hardway

*After the free-for-all in the entrance we find something to tempt us up the Harbour*



With small craft trying to pass on both sides - or so it seemed - and commercial traffic from hovercraft to fast catamarans, ferries to container ships all pressing their right of way, you might be forgiven for avoiding **Portsmouth**. But with sharp eyes, an ear for QHM on VHF and some homework about the Small Ships Channel, we made it; but you can hardly miss it!

Not anticipated were tide rips in the Narrows, and a firm hand was needed on the helm.

Passing dockyard and commercial port to the right and several marinas to the left, we skirted a cluster of moorings until rusting warships mothballed opposite Hardway Sailing Club marked our destination.

The club's long pontoon has 1.5 m of deep water only at the outer end, the rest drying to soft mud. And it can be very busy with no charge for a 3-hour stay.



This is one of our regular stops: the chandlery is well-stocked and there are two hostelries nearby.



Right opposite is The Old House at Home, recently refurbished and offering a good selection of food.

While just down the road is The Jolly Roger which claims to be both pub and restaurant, a title which is reflected in the prices, but we found the bar menu offered best value.



*Verdict: A busy waterside venue with free berthing for visitors and a choice of pubs*

Tide on the day: HW Portsmouth 1230 ht 4.5m  
Club pontoon with strong tides, depths variable

Old House at Home tel 02392 582119  
The Jolly Roger tel 02392 582584