

# 1970s teen hero pulls in the crowds

By David Newble

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IT WASN'T quite the screaming crowds of thousands of teenagers he was used to in his heyday.

Nearly four decades have passed since 70s heartthrob David Cassidy set young girls' hearts pounding.

But the superstar still proved he could pull in the crowds when he dropped into Cowes Yacht Haven last week, much to the delight of his hardcore fans.

Around 150 people — mostly women — from all over the world paid £299 each for the chance to meet, talk and exchange hugs with the former *Partridge Family* star.

And the two IW women, one with her husband in tow, agreed they had a memorable time.

Housewife Julie Hinchliffe, 50, from Carisbrooke Road, Newport, told the *County Press* she had been a lifelong fan of the singer — even to the extent of hiring a black cab along with other fans when she was 14 and chasing him from his London hotel to Heathrow Airport.

She still has copies of



David Cassidy meets his lifetime fans at Cowes Yacht Haven. David, second right, with IW residents, from left, John and Julie Hinchliffe and Pam Gustar. 1108-R09345

David's fan magazines dating from the 1970s and has all his records. She even brought along her husband, John, to meet David at the event.

She said: "I did all the usual stuff when I was younger. I had a picture of him on my wall. I thought of all the places in the world

you would not expect him to come to the IW.

"It was a dream come true. He took time to genuinely speak to each person. I think he was touched by the affection there."

Sales assistant Pam Gustar, 44, from Cooper Road, Newport, said she

wished she had had more time with the singer.

She said: "I started watching the *Partridge Family* and just really like his music. He is a very nice looking man. It just does not seem it really happened."

● Cassidy was magic, see letters page 30.