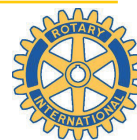




ROTAFLEET NEWS



The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This Fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International.

Summer 2009

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Memorable Year for IYFR Yachts and Boats – and Planes

The Birmingham RI Convention brings to a close a successful year for the Rotary Boating Fellowship (IYFR) in Great Britain and Ireland.

A year ago, members were in California attending the Los Angeles convention and enjoying a sail on a brigantine in Long Beach Harbour during the post convention cruise. In the intervening period, boaters have enjoyed days afloat in motor cruisers, yachts, narrow boats, barges, schooners, sloops and yawls (and those are only those the editor has heard about). We have enjoyed a fantastic handover weekend on the Thames in Henley and sailed along the famous Regatta course in a converted paddle-steamer.

Since then we have joined together for two fascinating weekends of Rotarian fellowship. Firstly, in the Lake District, where we braved the weather on Ullswater in a small steamer. And then in the flat rolling fields of Lincolnshire, where the memories of Bomber Command in WW2 are kept alive in the museum at Woodhall Spa. Members' accounts of these get-togethers are given inside.

But now, as another Rotary year closes, we get ready to welcome our overseas boaters and Rotary friends to Birmingham, and, (for some,) the bracing waters of the River Clyde estuary.



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IYFR in GB & I AGM Report

GB&I Commodore Michael Pooley took the chair at the 2009 AGM held at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa. About 50 members attended. The full minutes of the meeting have been sent to all Fleet Commodores but the following are the more important points raised:

- Michael Pooley looks forward to receiving invitations to visit all the Fleets in GB&I.
- Annette Lewis, the Treasurer, reported bank balances of nearly £11,000. In line with the policy of reducing these balances, a budget for 2009/2010 showing a prospective loss of about £2,500 was approved with no increase in the annual subscription. Membership has declined by about 40.
- Rodney Davis, the Secretary, is proposing a review of the GB&I Rules to bring them up-to-date and in line with the International Rules. The proposed amendments, which can be viewed on the GB&I web-site, (www.iyfrgbandi.co.uk) will be formally circulated with a view to them being submitted for approval to the 2010 AGM.
- All Fleets, except Poole and Solent, have accepted the offer from GB&I to subsidise a jewel for their Fleet Commodore.
- Substantial progress is being made with the formation of a new Fleet in North Wales and there are hopes of reviving the

Lake District Fleet. A national narrowboat fleet is also being investigated.

- Rotafleet News is being published regularly again.
- A formal decision was made that "The Plate" be used as a trophy for challenges between Fleets (the challenge may take any form)

On the International front, International Commodore Bryan Skinner reported that he had visited 51 Fleets. Fourteen new Fleets have been formed and only three have been lost. Plans are well advanced for events during the RI Convention in Birmingham and for the Post Convention Cruise in Scotland. Sergio Santi of the North West Italy Fleet has been elected as the new International Rear Commodore. The incoming International Commodore, Terry Stretton, from New Zealand, will be visiting the Broads, Medway, Solent, Suffolk and Thames Fleets whilst in the UK for the Convention.

GB&I Rules

The last major review of the GB&I Rules was carried out in 1997/1998 and the current Rules were approved at the AGM on the 14th February, 1998. The only change since is an amendment agreed at the AGM in 2007 to make any International Commodore, Vice Commodore or Rear Commodore an ex officio member of the GB&I Bridge.

Since 1998, substantial changes have been made to the IYFR (International) Rules, particularly to the provisions regarding membership, and a further initial review of the GB&I Rules has therefore been undertaken with a view to putting forward a revised set for approval at the 2010 AGM. Formal notice of the proposed changes must be given to the Fleets by no later than the 1st November, 2009.

A first redraft of the Rules has been placed on the GB&I web-site – www.iyfrgbandi.co.uk The main changes proposed are:

- The amendments necessary to bring the membership provisions in line with the IYFR Rules. Only active Rotarians and their spouses and Rotaractors can be full members. Past Rotarians and their spouses can be designated honorary members. To avoid confusion, the draft Rules introduce the concept of Honoris Causa members for existing Life and honorary members in the UK sense. However, IYFR Rules do not permit this category as such so it will not be possible to award Honoris Causa memberships in the future
- It is proposed that the office of Web-site Manager be added to the GB&I Bridge. His/her duties have been set out, as have the duties of the Rotafleet News editor. It is made clear that the Newsletter has to be sent by post unless otherwise agreed by the Executive Committee
- The Treasurer is re-named Treasurer/Membership Secretary to reflect the actual role
- The obligation to send the AGM agenda to all members has been removed. All members will still be notified of the AGM but the Agenda will only be sent beforehand to members of the Executive Committee (they are the only ones who have a vote). The full agenda will be available at the AGM itself
- References to "Regional" fleets have been removed. Under the IYFR Rules, GB&I is the Regional Fleet
- Fleet Commodores can appoint a representative to vote on their behalf. The representative should be a member of the same Fleet
- Notices – the ability to send notices where possible by e-mail has been added (this does not apply to Rotafleet News)
- Life and Honoris Causa Members do not have to pay individual subscriptions



Titanic Talk in Suffolk

Having very much enjoyed the Titanic talk at the Bridge meeting at Norwich, I persuaded our Rotary Club of Harwich & Dovercourt to allow me to arrange a fund raising evening with Rob Goldsmith to present his story to us.

We had a very enjoyable dinner at the Cliff Hotel Dovercourt, our normal meeting place. We opened the evening to the public and the District Governor and the Mayor of Harwich were present together with Rotarians from several local clubs. The total audience was 120 people. Rob's illustrated talk has been refined and was greeted with applause and generous remarks and many questions.

The sum of £800 was raised for the two charities that we agreed to support - "End Polio Now" and "Sailing for the Disabled". As the evening was a Suffolk fleet organised event, we split the funds - £300 to Polio, and £500 to the Woolverstone trust. This body arranges and organises the local branch of Sailability which has facilities at Alton Water, near Ipswich in Suffolk. Several Rotarians, including our Commodore Tony Burrows and myself, have become helpers and the benefits to the disabled sailors are wonderful to see. Apart from the odd Monday morning when the wind is too strong, they have sailed right through the winter.

Thus, out of a very enjoyable evening's entertainment we were able to provide a substantial cheque to a very worthy cause, which we will be put to an open regatta for all the participants and helpers at Alton Water. All 12 craft will be used, and starting techniques and tactics practised.

John Negus Suffolk Fleet

Wind Farms: All At Sea?



It's fair to say that in recent years, the question of where our energy supplies are going to come from has become an increasingly serious issue.

Terms such as 'renewable energy' and 'greenhouse effect' have been with us for quite a while, but it is the current energy crisis that has finally made us all sit up and realise that a 'carbon footprint' means more than simply trampling the embers of your barbecue across the deck of your yacht.

This brings us on to the subject of wind farms, more specifically, offshore ones: Several have been springing up around the UK, and a recent Government announcement that it will commit £1.4bn worth of funding into developing offshore wind farms, carbon capture schemes and green technology shows that they are here to stay.

So what does all this mean for you, the cruiser? What impact will this have on you? Well, theoretically, the effect could be quite detrimental if the wind farm was put smack in the middle of a cruising ground.

With this in mind, the RYA has worked hard to monitor the development of offshore wind farms, and played a key role in ensuring that there was enough clearance for your average yacht mast below the rotors.

We have also been closely monitoring the latest developments on your behalf and the release of a new consultation paper issued by the Department of Energy and Climate Change has pushed the issue back into the spotlight.

The RYA's Spokesperson explains: "While the RYA is supportive of the Government's efforts to promote renewable energy, we want to be absolutely sure that the safety of navigation for recreational boaters is a priority.

"We have responded to the Department's consultation paper outlining our concerns to ensure that the rights of the recreational boating community are considered."

The consultation paper looks at the overall strategy for offshore wind farm development and on the proposed zones where farms would eventually be built.

The RYA has responded to this consultation, outlining four main concerns. These are as follows:

- Navigational Safety – for example collision risks, emergency response, weather
- Location – loss of cruising routes, squeeze in to commercial routes
- End of Life – dereliction, decommissioning
- Consultation

The RYA has also looked closely at the proposals for the zones for the next round of wind farms and has fed back to the Department its thoughts on the feasibility for each site.

One such site is the Severn Estuary, which is in phase one consultation to which the RYA has voiced its concerns.

RYA spokesperson explains: "The proposed site lies almost entirely within the 12 nautical mile (nm) zone and is a busy navigational area. We believe there is limited potential to develop this zone without adversely impacting recreational boating."

(With Thanks to RYA publications)

FLEET OFFICERS 2008 – 09

Broads	Commodore Secretary	Brian George	OLLINGTON BLAKE
Clyde	Commodore Secretary	Peter Bill	EYRE KENNEDY
East Coast	Commodore Secretary	Robin A. John	SUDLOW MELLARD
East of Scotland	Commodore Secretary	John Duncan	GALLOWAY MEEK
Fenland	Commodore Secretary	Jill Judy	SALLIS BELL
Great Britain	Commodore Secretary	Michael Rodney	POOLEY DAVIS
Humber	Commodore/Secretary	Les	DICKINSON
Medway	Commodore Secretary	Derek Joan	LAVERICK VAUGHAN
Poole	Commodore Secretary	Richard Brian	EVANS RICHARDSON
Solent	Commodore Secretary	Colin David	BROOKES ROBERTSON
Suffolk	Commodore Secretary	Tony John	BURROWS NEGUS
Sussex	Commodore Secretary	Nick Harriet	MASON COLEMAN
Thames	Commodore Secretary	Brian Leslie	FRANKLIN WILKINSON

Welcome to New Members

The GB & I Bridge welcomes the following new members (since 1st July '08) and hopes to meet them either on the water or especially, at our regular Fellowship weekends. The next one will be Nov. 6th – 8th at the Hatherley Manor Hotel, nr. Gloucester.

Ann LOCKHART (Bob)	Clyde Fleet
Rosemary SUDLOW (Robin) 344	East Coast
Robert FRANCIS (Janet) 299	East Coast
Valerie ROOT (John) 291	East Coast
Christopher BAILEY (Judith)	East Coast
Lawrence MITCHELL (Joyce) 808	East of Scotland
Jennifer STEPHENS (Stanley) 744	Sussex
Michael SOLANO (Julia) 717	Sussex
Peter SKINLEY (Jean) 794	Thames
Greg WILKINSON (Terry)	Thames
John COGLEY (Christine) 648	Solent

Commodore's Diary

Following Handover in Henley in July, Jackie & I were invited to join the Medway fleet for a delightful sight-seeing (and very windy) Sunday yacht trip on the Medway followed by lunch at the Medway Yacht club, meeting many members of the Medway fleet.

In November, 73 of us spent the weekend at Lodore Falls Hotel on Derwentwater in Borrowdale in the Lake District. The Fellowship weekend and Executive meeting included a very wet and windy Saturday boat trip on Ullswater visiting Pooley Bridge for our first time. After the Bridge meeting followed by the Executive meeting, we enjoyed an excellent dinner with a local Rotarian speaking after dinner on navigating the Niger Delta. We did have an unscheduled meeting at 4.30am when the fire alarm brought everybody (including several accompanying dogs) to the reception area for what turned out to be (fortunately) a false alarm.

In January, a Bridge Meeting was held in the RYA meeting room to coincide with the London Boat Show. A fairly unique venue for one of our meetings on this occasion.

In March, over 60 attended the Fellowship and AGM weekend at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa, in Lincolnshire. This hotel was

the officers' mess for 617 (Dambusters) Squadron during the war - complete with Ghosts. On the Friday night the hotel staged a very pleasurable musical evening with the London Mozart players, playing a wide selection of music. On the Saturday morning we visited the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre (memorial and museum to Bomber Command). A very interesting and moving morning complete with an Avro Lancaster "Just Jane" In the afternoon a Bridge meeting followed by the AGM was smoothly completed, followed by a delicious dinner with a local historian telling us about the rather racy, pre-war history of the hotel building.

These weekends are very enjoyable, discovering new parts of the country, doing different things, meeting old and new friends with lots of fellowship. If you haven't attended one to date, I urge you to give it a whirl!!

GB & I Commodore Mike Michael

The new Marine Bill: Will it Affect You?

The government's proposed Marine Bill has garnered a mixed reaction from the boating fraternity. The bill aims to put in place legislation which will protect all aspects of marine life; from how our waters are fished and the creation of new coastal conservation areas, right through to introducing new planning laws governing our waters.

And herein lies the dilemma for all boaters; we all want to see our beautiful waters and coastline protected, but at the same time we don't want Government to introduce a whole raft of legislation which will leave us drowning in red tape.

A spokesperson for the RYA says "The marine bill is a massive and wide ranging document, and whilst there are aspects which concern us, on the whole we are supportive. The good news is that we are fully engaged with Government and what has been most encouraging is that many of the concerns which we voiced during the consultation period have been taken onboard."

Different aspects of the Marine Bill

So what is the Marine Bill? Well, it's more than just a case of introducing one piece of legislation; this is a whole raft of different measures.

In the words of DEFRA, the department responsible for its implementation, it aims to: 'deliver our vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

Here is a brief summary of the different aspects of the bill:

Marine Planning

This will be the creation of a new planning strategy, aimed at planning the long term objectives for the sea, and in particular the sea bed. At present there isn't really any coherent planning in place on this matter. The main point of interest on this matter will be when it comes to offshore wind farms and where they are going to be placed.

Marine Licensing

This aims to simplify and streamline the current licensing rules in order to make the system quicker and easier to use.

From the boater's point of view this will cover things like, if you are a sailing club and you want to put in a new pontoon, the process for applying will be easier.

Marine Nature Conservation

This aspect of the bill promises to be the most contentious for recreational boaters. Government is looking to introduce a network of marine conservation zones around the coast. These zones would exist alongside existing nature reserves and could see the introduction of a range of restrictions on speed, anchoring etc. This could potentially be a bone of contention.

The draft bill was published earlier this session and has been the subject of scrutiny from the relevant parliamentary committee. The bill will then be amended as necessary and then introduced to parliament. The earliest opportunity would be this autumn.

Suffolk Fleet Report

Our programme this season commenced with a get together at the Walton & Frinton Yacht Club for a light supper followed by a quiz. All the officers were present making up a total of 18 people. Rtn. Chris Opperman and his team won by a small margin. We next persuaded the Rotary club of Harwich and Dovercourt (six members of Suffolk Fleet) to host a fund raising dinner and illustrated talk by Rob Goldsmith on his dive to the Titanic.

A total of 120 people enjoyed an excellent evening which produced a profit of £800. This was donated equally to the Polio Plus campaign and our local Sailability facility at Alton Water. The cheque was presented two weeks later at Alton Water despite extremely strong winds and cancellation of sailing. They were very grateful for a large cheque held just! by our Secretary and the Sailability Officers.

Our fitting out supper was enjoyed by 28 members. This was a little disappointing but clashes of dates depressed the numbers. Our meal at the Ship Inn at Kirby Le Soken was agreed to be excellent. It was particularly pleasant to see Brian and Annette Lewis with us as joint members of Suffolk and Fenland Fleets. It was also a treat to see past Commodore Geoff and Phora Ford again.

We had several guests of members, who were made very welcome.

We had planned an early cruise to the River Blackwater, but despite very good weather during the fitting out period, we were unable to find enough boats to make the trip worth the long sail. However several vessels got afloat for a warm up sail in the lovely Walton Backwaters.

John Negus – Hon Secretary



Top Ten Insurance Claims Afloat

What do you think is the main source of insurance woe on the water? Observing some of the manoeuvres that take place in rivers, locks and marinas, a close quarters clash with a boat/pile/wall would seem like a safe bet. But no.....Insurance Company Saga decided to work out what had actually caused the most boat insurance claims last year.

Their findings are intriguing: the main source of claims was pinpointed as "Striking a submerged object whilst cruising" The average cost of such a collision was £2,419. On the other hand, perhaps some comfort can be taken from the fact that only 3% of such claims arise from a boat actually sinking!

TOP TEN

1. Striking a submerged object while cruising
2. Theft while moored
3. Collision while cruising
4. Wind damage while moored
5. Collision while moored
6. Flooded while moored
7. Theft while laid up
8. Negligence of owner while cruising
9. Sinking while moored
10. Accidental damage while cruising

So the advice would be to keep a good lookout while cruising in open water.

Meet Sergio Santi



Following several years of preparation, the 100th Rotary International Convention the vote of the Executive Committee at the end of December, International Commodore Bryan Skinner announced the election of Sergio Santi, Commodore of the North West Italy Fleet as International Rear Commodore nominee.

Born in Civitavecchia (Rome), Sergio is a retired Captain of the Italian Navy. He started his naval career by entering their Naval Academy in 1961 and was commissioned Ensign in the Italian Navy in 1965. During his time at the Academy he took part in intense sailing activity, and had the honour to be a member of the crew of the legendary Captain Straulino, National, European, Olympic and World sailing champion.

He spent the next 30 years serving in the Italian Navy and held numerous sea commands as well as naval air appointments, having graduated Naval Aviator in Pensacola, USA. Perhaps most notable from the Fellowship's perspective, he was the Captain of the Italian Training Ship 'Amerigo Vespucci'. He holds numerous awards and recognitions for his service to his country including Knight of the Italian Republic, Knight of St. Maurizio and Lazzaro Order and navigation bronze medal. Following his retirement in 1991 he worked as the yacht building and naval yards director in Santa Margherita Ligure and Chiavari as well as being an aeronautical advisor for Intermarine.

In 2002-03 he was president of the Rotary Club of Sarzana Leric. He went on to serve as District Secretary to the Governor of District 2030, and in 2005-06 became a member of the Rotary Club of Chiavari-Tigullio and an assistant DG.

As well as the position he holds in the Fellowship, Commodore of the Italy NW Fleet., he currently is serving as the president of his Rotary Club. He is married to Laura, and they have one daughter, Simona, who is a member of the Rotary Club Thonon Genevois International. Both Sergio and Simona are Paul Harris Fellows, truly a Rotary Family!

The executive committee of the Fellowship congratulates Sergio on his appointment and look forward to working with him as our newest International Rear Commodore when he assumes office at the AGM in Birmingham.

GB & I Fellowship Weekend and Executive

Lodore Falls Hotel, Lake District 7th – 9th November, 2008



Another superb fellowship weekend – apart from the weather.

My wife and I decided to spend a few days in the Lake District before the "get-together" – and the weather was glorious. However, Saturday changed all that and brought teeming rain and wind for the boat trip on Lake Ullswater. After the trip, (not a lot lakeside to see, unfortunately, as the boat steamed up) buffet lunch at the Inn on the Lake, close to the boat mooring, was enjoyed by all. The delicious cream gateaux for dessert were particularly welcome!

Back to the weekend – some 71 brave souls, representing 10 fleets. This was thought to be a record turnout (apart from handovers and the 60th anniversary weekend). Even more were extending their weekend, as 24 of us sat down to dinner on the Thursday in the hotel, and some stayed on after the Sunday. Once again, Jeanne and Rodney Davis are due much praise for the selection of venue – and they had to visit all our proposed venues prior to final selection.

Saturday afternoon saw the GB & I Executive meeting and we were all saddened to learn of the death of Andrew Mitchell, the only World Commodore (1991 – 93) before Bryan Skinner to hail from these islands. Christopher Bishop told us it felt a bit strange now to be off the national Bridge, after 12 happy years. Well done, Christopher. You will be missed – enjoy your increased leisure. Further reports followed keeping us up-to-date on World and GB & I Bridge activities.

A private room had been booked for the Saturday evening. The menu at dinner was excellent and our after-dinner speaker was a local Rotarian, David Allan. David is a retired ship's master and gave an amusing and informative talk on "Navigating the Niger Delta," even relating how he once managed to go aground!

After a good breakfast, following a night unfortunately disturbed by a fire alarm at 4am, we left on the Sunday morning. By this time the rain had turned to sleet/snow/hail which covered the car and even settled as a sort of slush for the start of the road south.

A lovely weekend, Rodney, well organised, good fellowship. But don't you have a weatherman in the Thames Fleet to help you with the elements?

Tony Slegg, Thames Fleet & John Negus, Suffolk Fleet



From Your Own

Commodore's Plans

GB & I Commodore Mike informs me that he will be attending the RI Convention in Birmingham and helping to man the IYFR stand at the House of Friendship followed by the Post Convention Cruise on the Clyde in June.

He also tells me that Jackie and he have been invited to a Handover at the Fenland Fleet in July; the 30 year celebration of the Thames Fleet in August; and a weekend celebrating the Broads Fleet 25th anniversary in September.

He looks forward to attending one of your fleet occasions.



Pooleys of that Airt?

Some of the visitors to the Fellowship weekend in the Lake District in November managed to visit the village of Pooley Bridge on Ullswater.

Talk was that this was the ancestral home of the Pooleys of Cumbria and a breeding ground of future Fleet commodores (It did have a jetty!)

No ancestral pile could be found but our picture shows Mike and Jackie examining the ancient bridge from whence the village gets its name.

That Plate

Rodney Davis, our GB & I Secretary reported to a recent Executive meeting that he had heard from the Treasurer of the East Coast Fleet with some information about "the Plate". This confirmed that the Plate was owned by GB & I rather than by an individual fleet and that it had been decided, probably in 1968, that it should be passed on each year to the most recently formed Fleet. A formal proposal about the future of the Plate was then submitted to the 2009 AGM whose decision was that "The Plate" be used as a trophy for challenges between Fleets (the challenge may take any form)

Treats in Store in Suffolk

Down Suffolk way, they tell me that on the 14th and 15th July they will be having their bi-annual Barge trip from Ipswich Docks down the River Orwell to Felixstowe and return. This is the Suffolk Fleet's treat to a wonderful day out for about 70 to 80 disabled children and adults. This year they will be sailing on the Thames Barge "Thistle" owned and provided generously at cost by Topsail Charters from Maldon. They believe this will be the 12th bi-annual charter they have provided. This event gives a great deal of enjoyment to the disabled participants and members of the Suffolk Fleet.

They are also looking forward to a visit in July from incoming World Commodore Terry Stretton from New Zealand. Weather permitting they plan to have a raft up and barbecue at a location where they can anchor after a short sail.

Past International Commodore Andrew Mitchell 1919-2008



Following a hard start in life as a Barnardo's boy, when the second World War began Andrew enlisted in the RAF. He served with distinction and was decorated as a war hero, but then was shot down in Palestine, thus ending his service. He married Patricia in 1955 and later became a Lloyds Member, also joining the 'Little Ships' Club' in London.

This was where the original Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians was formed by John Barrett.

Andrew, with others, was a founder member of the Suffolk Fleet. He met Martin Lockney, the then World Commodore, who nominated him for International Rear Commodore. Between them they then initiated proposals to heal the rift between GB&I and the World Fellowship.

When Andrew became World Commodore in 1991, he and Pat travelled the world and reorganized IYFR to its present Three Area System. He also personally supplied all the regalia used by the International Officers. Andrew and Pat made many friends all over the world, with whom he remained in contact. Sadly Pat died in 1995 and soon after Andrew became a victim of the Lloyds of London problems.

Andrew continued to be an active Rotarian and member of IYFR. He attended most of the International Conventions. He became our official historian and was the author of the 'Gold Book', recounting the history of IYFR since its conception in 1947. It was following the Convention in Los Angeles this year that he became ill and was transferred to hospital in Exeter, near to his daughter Fiona. He was later transferred to the Hospice where he died.

We in Rotary and IYFR are members of a huge organization, but sometimes we have the good fortune of knowing, supporting and working with an individual who has made a difference. Such a person was Andrew Mitchell.

Correspondent

The editor is hoping that, in subsequent editions, he will be thanking correspondents for ALL the contents of this section. Thanks to individual IYFORians who have sent him items. Copy to ianb1090@yahoo.co.uk

2010 AGM – Change of Date and Venue

GB & I Secretary Rodney Davis would like to make sure that all IYFORians are aware of the change of date and venue for next year's AGM. A new venue has now been found near York and this will involve bringing the event forward by one week. The AGM and Fellowship week-end will therefore now be held at the Parsonage Country House Hotel, Estrick, (www.parsonagehotel.co.uk), from the 12th – 14th March, 2010.

This should provide a good base for exploring York with its many attractions including the Railway and other Museums and of course, York Minster, as well as the River Ouse.

If You Can Read the Roadsigns.....

Our energetic Extension Officer, Paul Quaile tells me he has been beaver away in the Principality with the view of forming a Welsh IYFR fleet. Paul has been speaking to Bangor Rotary club on the subject of a North Wales Fleet and rumour has it that he has been across the Menai Bridge to look at prospects on the island.

More movement further south could see that a new fleet evolve to cover Abersoch, Porthmadog and Pwllheli - South Caernarvonshire (if that area still exists following local government reorganisations)

If you live in any of these places, or better still, have your boat moored on the Welsh Coast, Paul can be contacted on 01516 783121 (paul.quaile@talktalk.net)

One More River to Cross....?

Guests at the fellowship weekend at Woodhall Spa in March were treated to a type of nautical quiz, "Name that River", dreamt up by our Database Administrator, John Barnsley.

This prompted the question "How many rivers are there in England?" John's solution (plus a few from contestants) had 30, given below.

Thames, Itchen, Test, Dart, Tyne, Tees, Avon, Taff, Cherwell, Lune, East, Tweed, Windrush, Wear, Kennet, Evenlode, Isis, Cam, Thame, Wey, Trent, Humber, Severn, Ouse, Orwell, Stour, Wandle, Mersey, Aire, Eden

So this month's competition has two questions:

1. How many did John miss out?
2. How many of John's list don't flow direct into the sea?

When you've finished this, the rain should have gone off!

LOOKING FORWARD TO: (Dates for your Diary)

2nd International IYFR Meeting, Italy.

5 - 7 June 2009, Sorrento

Bodrum Fleet IYFR Rally

6- 13 June 2009, Greek Islands

IYFR Pre-Convention Dinner, Birmingham

20th June 2009: Priory Tennis Club, Birmingham
17:30 for 18:00 Hours

100th Rotary International Convention, Birmingham

21st – 24th June 2009: Birmingham Convention Centre

IYFR AGM & Lunch, Botanical Gardens, Birmingham

Tuesday 23 June. 11:30 for 12:15 to 15:00 hours

Post Convention Cruise, Clyde Estuary

25th – 28th June 2009: Kip Marina, Strathclyde, Scotland

Thames Fleet 30th Anniversary, Danesfield, Bucks

1st August 2009: Danesfield, River Thames

2009 Fellowship and Executive Committee Weekend, Gloucester

6th - 8th November, 2009: Hatherley Manor Hotel, Down Hatherley, nr.Gloucester.

2010 Fellowship Weekend and AGM, York

12th – 14th March, 2010: Parsonage Country House Hotel, Escrick, nr York

101st Rotary International Convention, Canada

20th – 23rd June, 2010: Montreal, Canada

The IYFR AGM & Lunch at the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham

Tuesday 23 June. 11:30 for 12:15

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses where the AGM takes place were designed by J. C. Loudon, a leading garden planner, horticultural journalist and publisher. They were opened to subscribers in 1832. They contain 15 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, walkabout trails and exotic birds to mention but a few of the outside attractions. There are also four glasshouses allowing visitors to roam through tropical rainforest to arid desert conditions

Around The Fleets In Pictures

Broad Fleet Rafts Up.



Yes, It rains on Ullswater.



Fireboat on Suffolk Coast.



'Just Jane' At WoodFord Spa Weekend.



All Change at Thames Fleet Handover.