



ROTA FLEET 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.

Autumn 2011

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New Faces at the Helm for International IYFR USA team take over from the Kiwis



For most of us it's only when the Rotary Convention is held in the UK (as it has been in Glasgow and in Birmingham in recent times) that we realise that IYFR is a worldwide body and encompasses a lot more fleets and boaters than those who fly the Rotary burgee in British waters.

The summer of 2011 brought home to those of us who made the journey to New Orleans the International nature of the fellowship and recalled many memories for IYFR members in UK, especially those who had been on the Clyde in 2009 for that year's PCC. Many of us still have memories in Largs of the small Kiwi in Scottish wig being handed the baton by the rather taller, Bryan Skinner.

But after two years of control from the Southern hemisphere the baton once again changed this year from Terry and Merle, the incumbent New Zealanders to the incoming IC Clint Collier and his wife Bev.

Clint, who many of us will already have met on the Clyde in 2009, is a somewhat larger-than-life resident of the San Francisco Bay area of the States who is keen to marry up IYFR ideals with the Rotary objectives of community service. Inside you will see that our area of IYFR has been allocated a considerable sum of the funds available for service projects. Commodore Bob is keen to hear from fleets with plans to use these funds to tackle local projects.

Also in this edition you will find details of IC Clint's first Convention and PCC in Bangkok next May. For those of us who might find Bangkok a little too far from the home reaches of the Clyde or Thames, we look forward to welcoming Clint and Bev back to UK waters sometime during his two-year tenure of office

“Hunting the Light”



Jeanne and Rodney ‘locked’ in a recent cruise

Next year (2012) is supposed to be a very good year for seeing the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). One way of doing this is to take the *Hurtigruten* (Norwegian for fast route) Ferry up the Norwegian coast. This service sails every day from Bergen to Kirkenes, a port close to the border with Russia, calling at 34 towns en route, taking about 12 days there and back. There are opportunities for shore-based trips such as snowmobiling.

It is a trip that we can heartily recommend. Although the ships are ferries and take cars, freight and passengers, they have become primarily vessels for tourists and are fitted out to a high standard. Compared to a “cruise”, there is much more opportunity to visit the ports of call – just walk off the ship and into town, there are no “formal” nights and little in the way of entertainment – so if this last issue is important, this may not be the choice for you. It is also necessary to bear in mind that because the ships are Norwegian, drinks prices are also Norwegian!

The scenery is of course spectacular virtually all the way because the ship keeps close to the coast (and is protected by the thousands of islands that stretch all the way north) but since to see the Lights it is necessary to travel in winter (November to mid March is best), the weather can be bad so it can snow a lot! The best chance to see the Lights is when the ship is within the Arctic Circle ($66^{\circ} 33'51''$ N) – this accounts for about 6 days out of the 12 for the complete round trip. It is of course possible just to go one way (or only part of the way) but because of the weather, it is best to have the maximum time within the Circle to give you the best opportunity to see the lights.

We travelled on the *MS Trollfjord*, one of the newest ships in the Hurtigruten Fleet. – We saw the Lights four times.

Jeanne and Rodney Davis



RI Convention and PCC in New Orleans



Late May found us jetting off to America to attend the RI Convention and the IYFR Post Convention Cruise (PCC) to Cozumel in Mexico. Having never been to New Orleans or cruised in the Caribbean Sea, you can imagine how excited I was.

However, our arrival in New Orleans was a bit too exciting for me as we had to fly round a thunder storm on our flight from Dallas which took an extra hour in the air.

We had to be up bright and early in the morning as we had to register for the Convention (to get our tickets) before heading off on the river boat *Natchez* for the RIBI breakfast. It was lovely to meet up with fellow IYForians and enjoy breakfast while a Jazz band played. Commodore Bob and I then had to rush from the boat to the Jack's Building to attend the New Orleans Cook School demonstration. I can thoroughly recommend this event as not only was the food excellent but the 'chat' was very witty and informative. I was beginning to realise that my waistline was going to expand even before we got on that cruise ship!

Later on in the afternoon, we went to the House of Friendship and found the IYFR Stand. What a welcome! We were overwhelmed with the greetings we got from folk we had not seen since the 2009 PCC in Scotland – truly the 'Family of Rotary' in action. The fellowship continued at the Meet & Greet party, as well as more nibbles and drinks. We finished off the evening by going to dinner before walking back to the hotel.

The Convention Centre was certainly cool enough after the heat outside, actually it was 'Baltic'. I wish I'd taken my thermals. However, things did warm up a bit at the Pre-AGM meeting to discuss the numerous proposed rule changes. Thank goodness Commodore Bob had packed our printouts of the current rules, proposed new rules and explanation of the changes. Bob, Bryan and Peter Ibbotson leant weight to overturning some of the changes with support from Canada and Australia as well. Next time I'm sure everyone will have copies of all relevant documents to hand. Our dinner that night was a Jazz Cruise with dinner on the *Creole Queen* which I can recommend to anyone visiting New Orleans. We met new friends while we ate good food and listened to good jazz.

We manned the IYFR Stand on the Tuesday afternoon so we were ready in uniform for the AGM at the Southern Yacht Club. The building is very new as it had to be rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina triggered a gas explosion which demolished the building and melted their beautiful prize silver cups. Fortunately, Lipton's gifted them a replica cup for their most prized possession which was a twin to the Americas Cup. I must admit that I have never attended an AGM dinner where the business part was actually conducted during the meal – something to do with a misunderstanding about timings I believe. The changes to the constitution were discussed and the votes taken. Peter Johns and Vera Barnard did a wonderful job counting the votes and returning the results – all the while we enjoyed more fellowship. Some of the changes were accepted and

GB & I BRIDGE OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

Commodore	Bob Burns
Vice Commodore	Paul Quaile
Rear Commodore	Annette Lewis
Immediate	
Past Commodore	Michael Pooley

BRIDGE STAFF

HON. SECRETARY	Murray GRUBB
HON. TREASURER	John CRANSTON
EXTENSION OFFICER	Annette LEWIS
WEB & DATABASE MANAGER	John BARNESLEY
EDITOR, <i>Rotafleet News</i>	Ian BLACK
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Paul QUAILE

some were rejected but may come back next year once they have been 'tidied up'. International Commodore Terry Stretton thanked his bridge for all their support during his term in office and then installed Clint Collier as the new International Commodore. Peter Johns blew the bugle as the flag was being lowered to bring the evening to a close.

On Wednesday we sang 'Cowboy Logic' for the last time and the IYFR Stand was taken down for another year. The Convention was over and we left the Centre to get warmed up. A last dinner ashore and then onto *The Carnival Triumph* for unlimited food on the PCC!!

On boarding the ship, we were delighted to find that most IYForians had cabins all together in a row. A cocktail party had been arranged for the first night and I must admit the nibbles were a meal themselves. Thank goodness my semi-formal clothes were quite loose. The pattern for the cruise had been set with great fellowship in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. Cozumel is a very interesting island and well worth a visit. The 'balcony party' on the last night was memorable as the screens were taken down between two of the cabins which allowed us all to get together in true IYFR fashion. Our bags were collected for disembarkation and it only remained to have one last midnight (actually 10.30 pm) ice cream and hot chocolate drink before retiring to our cabin for our last sleep aboard.

Ann Lockhart, June 2011

Welcome to New Members

The GB & I Bridge welcomes the following new members (since 1st July '11) and hopes to meet them, either on the water or especially, at our regular Fellowship weekends.

The next one of these will be from 4th to 6th November, 2011 in Edinburgh

Mark Doyle		GB& I Fleet (Dublin)
Pamela O'loughlin		GB& I Fleet (Dublin)
Kenneth Arthur Braithwaite	409	Humber Fleet
Neville Roberts (Andrea)	949	North Wales Fleet
Patrick Tyrell	950	North Wales Fleet
Anne Tyrell	953	North Wales Fleet

Commodore's Report

I can hardly believe that I am already more than halfway through my term of office.

My feet hardly seem to have touched the ground this year. After our AGM in Deganwy in March, Ann and I went to Dublin, where we manned a stand at the RIBI Conference helped by other Rotarians, in particular Rodney and Jeanne Davis, and Peter and Jean Skinley, from the Thames Fleet. Peter Ibbotson (Solent Fleet), who was on the Hosting Fellowship stand, also helped by pointing likely members in our direction. The event was successful, in that it produced some new members, and suggestions of other possible areas to look to form new fleets, with offers of help in these areas.

This was followed in May by the RI Convention in New Orleans, with the AGM and the Post Convention Cruise. The AGM was interesting and I hope that the proposed rule changes which would have been against the interests of GB & I have all now been dropped. I am pleased to report that grants were again approved and, as we are in the largest area in IYFR, US\$17,223 are available to undertake IYFR projects this year and similar grants are forecast for the following years. Details of application are available on the Members Page of the IYFR website.

The PCC, while not being what we might understand as an IYFR PCC, was one where fellowship was enjoyed to the fullest and old friendships were strengthened.

Then it was back home, where July saw us at the Tall Ships Race in Greenock, where we had a stand in a Rotary marquee and again hopefully enrolled some new members from various parts of the country.

Ann and I have enjoyed some great hospitality this year from various fleets around the country. In mid-June we

received a very warm welcome for a sail on the Tay with the East of Scotland Fleet, when even the rain, stopped in time for the sail. Commodore Andre and Jane ensured our stay was a memorable one, hosting us and giving us a tour of the local area, which, I am ashamed to say, we had never seen before, close as it is to home.

At the end of the month we were privileged to spend a day with the Suffolk Fleet on their bi-annual barge trip for the disabled. Commodore Chris Bridgewater made us most welcome and with John Negus and members of the Suffolk Fleet, along with members of local Rotary Clubs and their partners, provided us with a most uplifting experience, which could provide an example for ideas for other fleets to follow. They gave experience to disabled children that will live with them for the rest of their lives.

This was followed in August by a trip to the Broads, where Commodore John Young and Jeni looked after us admirably. Members of the fleet came round to meet us for dinner, when we arrived, before giving us a real Broads greeting at a muster on Blackwater Broad the following day. Brian and Sally Ollington treated us to a sail on their beautiful classic boat before we transferred to the more modern, but equally delightful, boat of Tony and Mavis Rushton. Everyone had gone to great trouble in providing food and drink to make the event one to be remembered. The final day of a trip to the Museum of the Broads with John and Jeni rounded off a perfect visit.

We are about to depart for our visit to the Sussex Fleet and then on to the Ouse for the Fenland Fleet Cruise. We really feel very privileged people.

I hope you have had a good 2011 boating season, in spite of the weather.

Yachtboard Recipes Nov 2011 (Noreen Pearson)

Winter seems to be fast approaching and we've now got some windy and showery weather up here in Argyll. Added to that, it wasn't the best of sailing seasons either so probably some comfort food is in order. These recipes are easy and quick to produce and suitable for informal entertaining. The first recipe is a sort of South American fish braise.

Caldeirada

Serves 4

800g (1 lb 12oz) waxy potatoes thickly sliced	60ml (1/4 cup) olive oil
4 large garlic cloves chopped	1 tblspn paprika
1 large onion thinly sliced	1 tblspn red wine vinegar
4 large firm white fish steaks	1 red pepper sliced
100ml (3 1/2 fl oz) dry white wine	400g (14 oz) mussels cleaned
12 large prawns peeled and de-veined	Seasoning

Cook the potatoes until tender then drain and arrange in a serving dish and keep hot in a low oven. Heat the oil in a large pan with a lid and cook the onions for 5 minutes over a medium heat. Add the garlic and pepper and cook for 1 minute stirring. Then add the paprika, vinegar, wine and 2 1/2 tablespoons of water and bring to the boil. Add the mussels and cover. Cook for 4 minutes to open the mussels then remove discarding any not open. Reduce the heat to low and put the fish steaks and prawns on top of the onion mixture, cover and cook for 7 minutes, turning them over half way through. Return the mussels to the pan for the last minute to

heat through. Season and spoon on top of the potatoes.

Baked Chicken and Rice in White Wine

Serves 4

2 onions peeled and thinly sliced	1 red pepper thinly sliced
1 handful basil leaves torn	1 yellow pepper thinly sliced
2 tblspns olive oil	2 garlic cloves crushed
4 chicken breasts or 8 thighs	250g (9oz) long grain rice
16 pitted olives	500ml (18fl oz) white wine
1 large can chopped tomatoes	2 tblspns tomato puree
salt and pepper	paprika

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas4. Heat the oil in a flameproof casserole or a frying pan and fry the chicken for 2-3 minutes until lightly browned. Remove and drain. Saute the onions and pepper until softened and then add the garlic and rice. Give the rice a good stir to coat and then add the tomatoes, olives, tomato puree. Season and stir the mixture. Bring to the boil and if using a frying pan transfer the contents to a lidded casserole. Lay the chicken on top and gently press down. Tuck in the basil leaves, cover and cook for 30 minutes if using breasts or 35-40 minutes if using thighs. Add a little more water or wine if the chicken is not cooked and return to the oven for a few more minutes. Serve with warm crusty bread.

Keep warm and eat well.

Thames Fleet join the Fenland Fleet on their river cruise.



The weather was fair and we set off upstream for the Lazy Otter pub at Stretham. A big learning curve getting the hang of the hire boats on a very narrow river. It was very windy for the whole cruise and a couple of boats were blown onto the mud in the shallows. (Not the Thames fleet members) The next day we cruised through several very narrow locks (one manned) to overnight mooring at Fenland fleet member Nigel Kember's home at St Ives. He laid on a great "Happy hour" in his home. Later we all had a meal at the Dolphin Hotel and were joined by the Commodore and other members of the Fenland fleet. The next day we doubled up on boats and cruised to the pretty village of Hemmingford Grey, just getting under the bridge at St Ives. Returning to Nigel's for the evening. Off to the "Five Miles from Anywhere" pub 6 hours down

river. Joined by 2 Fenland fleet boats. Happy hour on boats. Set off in high winds to join the River Cam mooring, at first double banked outside members Don & Sue Mackey. Later the Cam river authority told us we could not raft out so we had to move the outside boats to an obliging neighbour's moorings and pub moorings. Thames fleet organised a splendid "Happy Hour" and all enjoyed a fish & chip supper. Going back to the boats through the rather eccentric neighbour's house where she offered wine hospitality and with a parrot on her shoulder and 3 dogs one of which liked to bite, we were all rather confused by her antics. Torrential rain returning to the boats. The next day we double up and visited Cambridge for a few hours. Heading back to the boatyard to overnight. Many moored at Ely and visited the town, returning to the boat yard to stern moor. In the evening we had a communal dinner at The Old Boathouse Restaurant (about 36 members).

Summary. The boats were old but well laid out. Our commodore hit his head many times and the TV gave up. (*Not sure if these 2 incidents are connected, Ed*) Rodney & Mike's boat would not start (twice) and had the heating & shower unit changed. All the effluent went into the river which was very clear. The locks were very narrow and quite exciting. The countryside was very flat and hardly any towns, but we all enjoyed the difference and the fellowship. Once is enough - we prefer the Thames.

Did have a puncture at the boat yard, so we used the 5 hours wait (to get a replacement, "runflat" tyre) to visit the magnificent Ely cathedral and enjoy a splendid lunch.

Michael Pooley, Thames Fleet

Suffolk Fleet Barge Trip



June in Ipswich and the Suffolk Fleet set out on their bi-annual barge trip with disabled folk. What a wonderful experience, sailing on *Hydrogen*, a restored Thames Sailing Barge, down the River Orwell and back. The difference the day made to the kids (young and old) on board was something to see. Some came aboard brash and cocky, some were shy and retiring, but all left happy and smiling after such a wonderful day. What a turnaround – maybe it had

something to do with the fish 'n chips and apple pie tea to finish. The hard work of the IYFR team was all worthwhile. The camaraderie of the IYForians, Rotarians and friends who worked tirelessly to make the 2 days so successful, was a wonder to behold. A truly humbling experience.

John Negus has to be congratulated for keeping the event going for over 20 years

Broads Fleet: August 2011

August saw Commodore Bob and Anne heading south once more to visit the **Broads Fleet** on their muster to Black Horse Broad. John and Jeni Young were wonderful hosts and had even invited some of the Fleet round for dinner to meet and greet the commodore. Again it was great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. John and Jeni had also arranged for the commodore to sail with Brian and Sally Ollington down from Stalham on their classic Broads boat *Dawn Star* so that we could see as much of the area as possible and get a feel for sailing on the Norfolk Broads. They sailed down the River Ant then

onto the River Bure before rafting up with the other boats in Black Horse Broad. Going under Ludham Bridge was scary as there were only inches to spare. Bridges never look tall enough from the water. The muster was terrific. Again the food and fellowship flowed. Anne now knows that it is more prudent to take one's glass with you between boats so you don't lose 'count'. When the raft broke up, Commodore Bob and she transferred to Tony and Mavis Rushton's boat *Misty* to carry on up to Wroxham Bridge before returning to their berth at the bottom of their garden. Tony's berthing skills were much

admired as he 'parked' the boat with inches to spare all round and not a 'hair' turned.





From Your Own

IYFR accommodations in Bangkok

We have obtained a block of hotel rooms for IYFR members at the Courtyard Marriott in Bangkok for the convention. This is a Rotary approved hotel and will be a stop for the shuttles to the convention and is where many of the International Staff will be staying and the location from which we will be providing transportation to the Commodore's Dinner event.

Members wishing to avail themselves of one of these

rooms should e-mail the chief of staff at chiefstaff@iyfr.net indicating their desire to take one of these rooms. You will receive a special web address and password where you can then book your room at the discounted rate of ~\$129US (at today's exchange rate). Please let the chief of staff know when you have completed your booking so we can keep track of the number of rooms taken.

Post Convention Cruise

Thursday May 10 – Monday May 14, 2012 \$1100

This is a once in a life time experience! Come join the fun and adventure of this scenic tour westward through the South Thailand Chao Phraya river landscapes.

We'll start out on a guided bus tour from Bangkok to a unique retreat known as Mom Chailai River Retreat or Antique Boat Hotel. Your room will be one of the many unique rooms on one of the restored boat houses consisting of converted rice-barges into accommodations, an outstanding cuisine, boats for river cruises and a floating restaurant, all right on the river. Throughout your 3 night stay you can relax and enjoy the beautiful swimming pool and/or spa services that are offered. We will visit ancient times, museums and temples. You'll cruise the Chailai river to visit the 100 year old floating market and observe Thai and Chinese culture. There will be festive dinners and local folk dance shows. You can do a little shopping or explore the surrounding

vicinity at your leisure.

During the guided bus tour back to Bangkok we will stopover at the Samphran Elephant Ground and Zoo. The zoo boasts an elephant theme show which includes elephants training by mahouts, elephants at work, dancing, playing football and scenes of ancient elephant-back battle. The zoo also includes a crocodile farm with more than 10,000 crocodiles, where daily crocodile wrestling shows are held.

Once back in Bangkok we will return to our hotel for our final night and from which you will be picked up and transported to our "Special Farewell Dinner Cruise".

A Monday morning breakfast concludes the event as we bid farewell to our friends until we meet again.

Cost for this event is \$1,100 (*\$1,350 for a single supplement*) or purchases an early bird ticket for \$980 (*\$1,230 with the single supplement*) or see below for additional savings on package deals.

DHF for Bryan Skinner in New Orleans

The highlight of the IYFR dinner at the Rotary Convention at New Orleans in May (for IYFR British members) was when new International Commodore Clint, as his first duty on receiving the Commodore's Jewel, awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to Past International Commodore Bryan Skinner for all he has done on behalf of IYFR. A popular and well-earned award (Bryan's second Paul Harris!)

I am sure we all join in offering sincere congratulations to Bryan.



Correspondent



Commodores Handover 2012



It only seems a short while since we were up on the Clyde to witness Bob becoming our Commodore. Bob's two year tour of duty comes to an end at the end of this Rotary Year and plans are well under way for the seals of office to be passed over to Paul Quaile.

Plenty of time for you to get the date in your diary (or plan a summer holiday on the Wirral or North Wales)

When: Friday 6th July to Sunday 8th July 2012.

Where: The Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Paul tells me the Holiday Inn hotel has been rebuilt (the old one burnt down) and is adjacent to the National Waterways Museum, all rooms having waterside views.

Pirates - the latest news (from the Internet)

G..... S...s, an investment bank, is being questioned by the U.S. Senate for some of its unethical practices...the firm sold products that it itself was betting against. Numerous internal e-mails talked about how bad the products were. When a Congressman read out one of the e-mails and asked the Financial Director if he thought G..... S...s should have been selling the products the Finance Director answered, "I think that's a very unfortunate thing to have in an e-mail."

People in the hearing room burst out laughing. Sometimes it helps to laugh.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a civil suit for investment fraud against the company, but it isn't clear that they can prove any law was broken. So [a US financial commentator](#) had fun with the situation in his latest report. He says eleven indicted Somali pirates are claiming their operations have been legal because they weren't pirates. Instead they are investment bankers. They allegedly became a subsidiary of G..... S...s in 2008 and had simply attacked ships that G..... S...s had bet against. They merged their operations with the banking giant in order to get their fair share of the government bailout money and also because the laws against investment bankers are much more lenient than the laws against pirates. One government source quoted said, "There are many laws that could bring these guys down if they were, in fact, pirates. But if they're bankers, our hands are tied."

Changes to the IYFR Website

John Barnsley and Commodore Bob have been discussing ways of improving the GB & I website and visitors to the website will see that John has already started work. It is very difficult to persuade members to send reports of events, so John has set up a trial photo page and he would appreciate it if you would send him some pictures of your fleet events, so that he can build up a record for all members

LOOKING FORWARD TO: (Dates for your Diary)

2011 Fellowship Weekend and Executive Meeting, Edinburgh

4th – 6th November Apex Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh EH1 3BH

2012 Fellowship Weekend and AGM, Bucks

9th - 11th March, 2012 Whittlebury Hall Hotel, Towcester, Bucks

103rd Rotary International Convention

6th – 9th May, 2012 Bangkok Thailand

IYFR World AGM & Dinner

Tuesday May 8th Blue Elephant Restaurant, Bangkok (AGM in Convention Centre)

Post-Convention Cruise, Bangkok and Chalai River

Thursday May 10th – Monday May 14th, 2012

IYFR GB&I Handover Weekend, Ellesmere Port

6th - 8th July 2010: Holiday Inn Hotel, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

to see and also to help advertise IYFR. You will also see that John has now introduced links to other websites, where you can order all the chandlery, books and clothing you need, but never get round to buying at the marina. Please visit your website at www.iyfrgbi.org and encourage others to do likewise. John would be most grateful for any comments you may have concerning the website and would welcome any suggestions you may have to develop it.

Boating Cuisine

I first met Noreen Pearson and her partner David Naylor at the handover at Gourrock on the Clyde last year. Conversation got round to the trials of cooking a meal on a yacht in the Firth of Clyde and it ended up with Noreen promising me some of her favourite recipes. In this edition, these recipes are now available for producing simple mouth-watering meals on board, courtesy of Noreen Pearson. They are all specifically designed for preparing in a practical way afloat. If you have a problem half way through a meal preparation and in a Force 5, don't ring me. Noreen's details are in the Pink Book

East of Scotland Fleet News?

By now it is clear to me that some fleets operate in a vacuum, if I count the items of news that reach me from them. **East of Scotland Fleet** tend to fall into this category, although I happened to travel through Dundee and the Fife coast in June and even spoke at one of their Rotary clubs (Glenrothes) in August. However I am reliably informed that the fleet did set sail in June for a river cruise on the *Maid of Tay* from Newburgh towards Perth and back. It was great for members to renew friendships and form new ones. The picnics on board were sumptuous and then ending up at the Ship Inn for dinner completed a great day on the "silvery" River Tay.

Stop Press: I look forward to seeing all of you who plan to make the great trip north in November (before Mr Salmond has his way and we all need visas and custom posts at Carlisle.) I plan to lay down the red pen and green Visor at the end of this Rotary year (I've done 4 years) and so would like to talk to any boater who is keen to continue to keep this seat warm.

Around the Fleets in Pictures

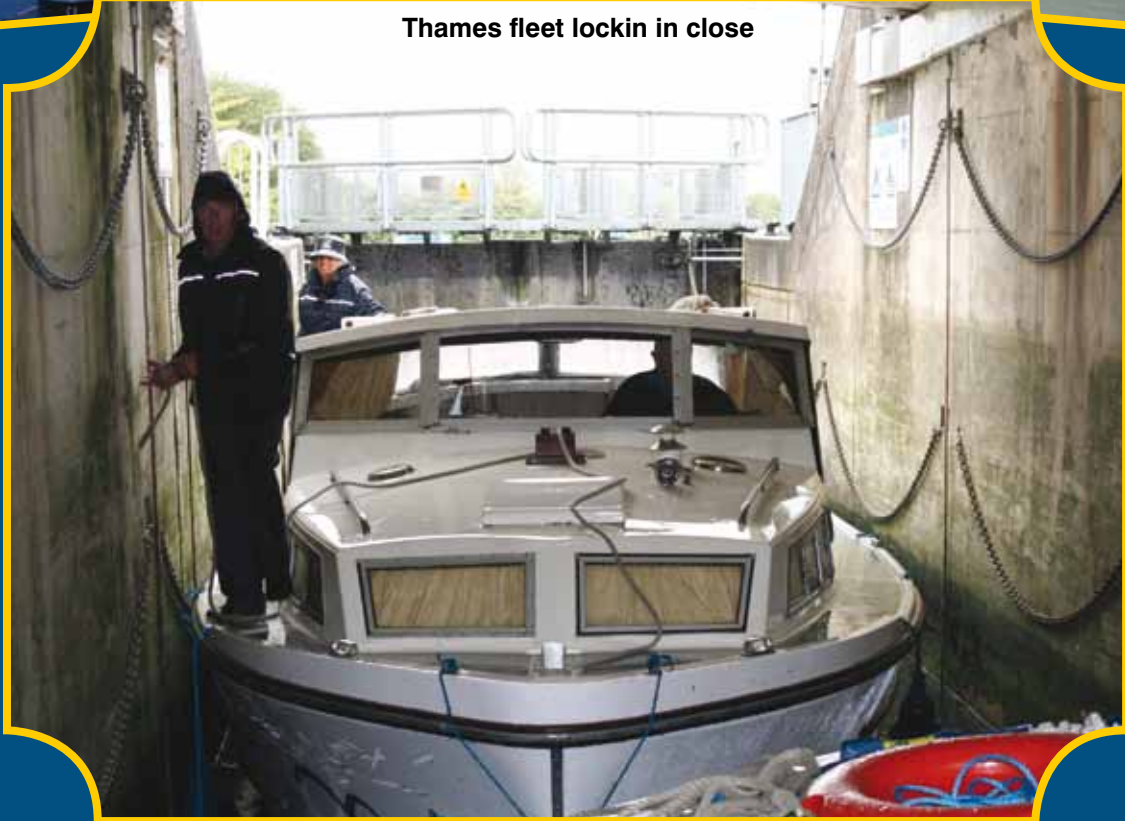
Commodores get together in Suffolk



Conway Castle at our N. Wales Weekend



Thames fleet lockin in close



Commodore and Ann in Fenland



Braods Fleet tuck in