

ROTA FLEET

I.Y.F.R.
IN ENGLAND, IRELAND
SCOTLAND and WALES

NEWS

WINTER 2004

THE ISLAND EXPERIENCE

The weekend for the handover of the National Bridge was scheduled for 2-4th July. A large number were travelling from all over Great Britain, both by car, staying at Warners in Yarmouth and by boat. 18 boats were scheduled into Yarmouth to stay on the pontoons. Unfortunately nobody told the weathermen and they threw all they had at us. Christopher Bishop with his wife Jane, was bringing the International Commodore, Ferit Biren, on his Drascombe Coaster. On check-



I.Y.F.R. International
Commodore Ferit Biren

ing with the Hamble river harbour master, they were advised to get going as quickly as possible. Without more ado the motor was started, mizzen set and off they went from Warsash. Some time later, they arrived at Cowes, wet from head to foot, having survived strong winds and steep waves. Another boat from Gosport also made it as far as Cowes and turned in there as they were also unable to make any headway against the ferocious wind. At one time in the early afternoon 41 knots was registered being a strong gale force 9 across the deck.

Of the 18 boats booked in, one cried off with osmosis, three arrived, one taking three hours from Cowes with a storm jib and three reefs, two stopped at Cowes and the other nine stayed safely in port, the crews making it across on the ferry, where possible.

INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

The official weekend celebrations began with drinks on the hard at Yarmouth. A gazebo had been brought to keep the drinks dry, in case of rain, but it was not put up because the worry was that it would be found in Cowes. However, sailors are hardy souls and a large number mustered and after a few, seemed quite content.



After the drinks everyone went their own way for dinner. On Saturday the Historic Lifeboat went out as scheduled, but failed to make it to the Needles in the rough seas, as the skipper wanted to keep his passengers safe. Instead, they went to visit 'Patricia', the Trinity House ship that was in the area doing work on the buoys. On return everybody said that it was quite an experience. The afternoon trip was postponed until the Sunday, for safety reasons.

In the evening eighty-five people gathered at the Royal Solent Yacht Club where a superb meal was followed by the official inductions. The Solent Commodore, John Kernan, conducted the evening with considerable panache. The retiring Commodore, Bryan Skinner was presented with his Past Commodore's Burgee, together with a book on the famous sailing Hunter fleet on the Broads. He was also given a half cut model of his boat 'Bonnie'. His wife, Chris, was thanked for all her support and was presented with a leather photograph album, as their current one was getting full. In turn, Christopher Bishop was presented with his Commodore's burgee.



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Commodore Christopher and Past Commodore Bryan

EDITORIAL

It is inevitable that in this 'electronic world' the organisation of IYFR International will come more under its influence. We are already offered the 'ROTAFLOAT' magazine both in electronic and printed format. The preparation of the International Membership Roster is now underway. John Barnsley, the IYFR GB&I Webmaster, is preparing the GB&I Database and has produced initial labels that are being used by Rodney Davis (as Secretary) and the Editors of Rotafleet. Inevitably, this database contains a number of minor errors (and quite possibly superseded addresses) or other information that needs to be sorted out.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL and email John on iyfr@delmep.co.uk or, alternatively, contact your Fleet Secretary if the information needs alteration. Please bear with us whilst this is done, and accept our apologies if your label is not 100% accurate at the moment.

When you do at last sit down – or what ever else you do – and read Rotafleet you may be transported to last season's more poignant events! Perhaps that shoreward wind, the particularly strong seaward tide when you are trying to get to an up-stream berth, the spume from the white topped waves, perhaps floating windless under a blazing sun or simply just mucking about in a boat. We would all like to join in your reminiscences – just drop the Editors a line with lots of colour photos to choose from. Better still; email your story with digitised pictures as these reproduce the best.

We look forward to meeting up with members of

other fleets again at Leamington Spa 11th – 13th March. Should you be too late to book this meeting, be the first on the list for Ripon 4th—6th November 2005.

We thank you all for your support, especially our contributors and ask for your indulgence if we have not published you yet - we will get round to it. We wish you all a memorable end of year holiday and look forward to another super season next year.

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Editors

Ian & Norma Hornsby
17 Bushmead Road
Eaton Socon
St. Neots PE19 8BP
ooOoo

Telephone

01480 216569
Fax 01480 405336

email

ian_hornsby@beeb.net

Vice Commodore Jenie Pressdee was presented with her Vice Commodore's burgee and Michael Pooley was also given his burgee as Rear Commodore. The new Commodore said how fortunate he was to have such a wonderful team to back his two years in office. It was also announced, that the Bridge had endorsed Bryan's nomination to go forward for election as International Commodore. Ferit Biren then presented Bryan with his Past International Rear Commodore's epaulettes. Finally Ferit presented the International Rear Commodore's burgee, consisting of two stars, to the Incoming Commodore Christopher Bishop.

We finished the evening being entertained by Chris Tibbs who told us about some of his sailing experiences. He had been round the world three times and much preferred sailing in the Southern Oceans with some strong winds. He is an official weather forecaster but does not work for the Met. Office but combines his love of sailing with his forecasting and specialises in forecasting for yacht races. He showed us some wonderful scenes of his adventures. Rear Commodore Michael Pooley gave a vote of thanks.

Thankfully, on Sunday the weather eased, and the boats started making their way home. Those staying at Warners organised trips to see some of the sights on the Island, including Osborne House. Once again the Historic Lifeboat went out and this time did give its passengers a view of the Needles.

So ended a wonderful weekend of Fellowship, despite the weather.



Ferit
passes
over
his
International
cap
to
Bryan
for
him
to
try
for
size!

Message from John Barnsley—Sussex Fleet
Want to fast track into IYFR September 2004 issue of Rotafloat? - then type
into your internet browser:-
<http://www.iyfr/2004-Sep.pdf>

VISITING THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN JAPAN Bryan Skinner

Commodore Ferit and the Japanese IYFR Bridge arranged our hotel in Osaka. It was convenient and had been westernised. The Convention Centre Hotel, Righa Royal, was within walking distance although buses were available. It was a vast hotel and held both the Fellowship Hall and the Hall of Friendship. All small meetings were held there. The Plenary sessions were held in an enormous Baseball Dome, which could hold 50,000 people, but was about five kilometres away.

We attended the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony –green tea and wafers. The Opening Plenary Session was in the Dome and there were about 45,000 people there. Transport from hotel to the Dome was a real problem! Moving 45,000 people by bus meant hours of queuing. However IYFR Japan had the answer for us. They supplied three launches to carry all of us on the river from door to door. We were the first to land at the Dome on a brand new quayside presented by IYFR Japan.

We had to attend the opening ceremony, which was photographed and televised. We were introduced to the officials including the Lady Governor of the area and the President and Vice-President of Rotary International. The first session was over one hour late starting. The first three speakers spoke Japanese only for an hour. There was much disquiet. Then the President of R.I., Jonathan Majiyagbe, addressed us in English. At this about half the audience, 20,000 Japanese-speaking people got up and left the Dome. Earphones were available but costly; there was no translation on screens. We sat it out and heard the four sessions address of Rotary. We also heard an interesting account of the fantastic things Rotary had done all over the world. To conclude we were entertained by a traditional Japanese mime, very slow and boring, as we did not know what it all meant. Music followed, then dancers, all very good. We returned by river in a leisurely manner.

The following days were spent helping to man the Booth and having our IYFR AGM and Luncheon. Christopher and I were asked to read the proposed changes to the rules. After discussion and further alterations I had to propose their adoption at the AGM. The Commodore of the Osaka Bay Fleet, Kozo Kajino, seconded this. The whole International Bridge, including GB & I, attended the Fellowships AGM on behalf of IYFR. There were great discussions re Insurance etc. and the meeting ended with us drawing up an ultimatum, in the form of a resolution, to persuade RI to change their minds regarding insurance. The entire meeting backed this.

On the last day we attended the final plenary session to see how RI votes in all its officers. Then the next Rotary President and family were presented, Glenn

Estess, whom I had met. He told us all the wonderful things which will happen in Rotary during the centenary year, culminating in Chicago for the Convention. We were then introduced to the President Elect for the year 05/06, Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer. He is Swedish and a very charming man. Wonderful Brazilian dancers, well worth seeing, followed this. The closing session took place that evening.

Every evening we were entertained either by Japanese hosts, or the International Bridge. We had many different foods, half of which we did not recognise and some of which we wished we had not recognised!

On Saturday Chris and I were invited to join the International Bridge for a very special meal given by our Japanese hosts. We were picked up in taxis and taken to the best hotel in Town. There a lot of bowing went on and we had a very formal, but exquisite, ten to twelve course meal. During the evening we received gifts and had to stand up and speak about ourselves – our interpreter was, of course, present.

On the Monday it was Home Stay evening but since the Japanese homes are very tiny, about six square metres per person, they do not entertain in them. Instead they had a big event down river with food and entertainment. Our hosts took us on the river in a big flat open barge, with BBQs in the middle. We were fed, entertained, and shown Osaka with its many bridges from the river.

The Post Convention Cruise consisted of four days sightseeing in Kyoto, Nara and Kushimoto. We saw the Golden Temple and in Nara the Todai-ji Temple where we had a private tour by an IYFR Buddhist monk. He showed us the biggest Buddha in the world, made of solid bronze that had taken three years to pour into the mould. That evening we were taken to a four hundred years old restaurant where we sat on our knees on the floor whilst Geisha girls served a really beautiful Japanese meal to us. These Geisha girls were very high ranking and beautiful women.

The next day we visited more temples and Nijo-jo castle, a magnificent building surrounded by a moat, and not a chair in sight! It was the home of a Shogan, built c1600 with a lovely Japanese garden within its walls. That evening we had a paddle steamer cruise on Lake Biwa with a lovely meal followed by dancing to an Australian band on the top deck.

On our last day we went by train on a four hours' journey to Kushimoto where, in the late 19th century, there had



been a terrible shipwreck in which five hundred and eighty Turkish seamen lost their lives. We all went in uniform to the memorial and our Commodore Ferit, all the Turkish contingent, and the Mayor of Kushimoto laid wreaths. We also put flowers on the memorial. The ceremony was photographed and televised and it was all very impressive with a museum overlooking the very spot where the shipwreck happened

That evening we had a final dinner in Kushimoto Royal Hotel, yet another traditional meal, followed by each country offering entertainment. The three of us had everyone on their feet singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The Japanese were very hospitable and generous throughout our stay. This was a chance in a lifetime to visit a beautiful country and see sights not generally open to tourists. We were very privileged to represent IYFR.



After the wreath laying it was the photographers' turn.

COMMODORE'S CHAT

My term of office started in Yarmouth, at the handover meeting and, apart from the weather, I hope that everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. Then I started on my travels. I first went to the Broads Fleet who entertained myself and Jane with a hog roast on a beautiful summer's evening overlooking South Walsham Broad. We were even given our own cabin overnight on Bryan & Chris Skinner's boat! At Weymouth we met the Poole Fleet, where we began with drinks on the Commodore's yacht followed by supper at the Yacht Club. Then on to the Medway, where we had a glorious sail up and down the river before mooring at the Chatham Dockyard for drinks and a delicious buffet. This was followed by tea and coffee, sitting in the sun on the club house terrace.

I met the Sussex Fleet at Hayling Island Sailing Club and, after a dinner, we were entertained with a quiz to stretch our brains, an interesting variation to the 'norm'. Challenging questions were posed, with answers being provided by John Blake – much fun was had by all. My latest visit was to the Fenland Fleet, who were holding their AGM and I was thrilled to see such a big turnout – congratulations Fenland. Despite the Commodore's plane being weather-bound in Europe, the

meeting went very well, thanks to the Vice-Commodore and Secretary – well done. The fleet enjoyed a wonderful meal, during which the rotund chef carved delicious slices of roast meat for the assembled company

Those who went to Mudeford will know what a good time was had and I am very much looking forward to Leamington Spa, for another weekend with friends on the 11-13th March 2005. For those who were sadly unable to join us, the hotel boasted an exceptional view of Christchurch harbour and provided excellent food and very good company. The speaker showed us the waterside as it was at the turn of the Century, and we were lucky enough to enjoy the river ourselves on a lovely sunny day in a classic boat. This followed a beautiful and moving church service in Christchurch Priory for Remembrance Sunday.

Being Commodore gives me the feeling of being on top of a mountain. The views are fantastic but unless there was a solid base underneath you, you would feel very precarious. I am very blessed by having a great Bridge team who have supported me very well. The fleet has also kept me afloat wonderfully and I would like to extend thanks to all those who have made my visits so enjoyable. I especially felt this at Mudeford, where one member found the venue and made arrangements for us to go to the Priory, whilst another found the speaker. All this was much appreciated.

In ending, if I have not been to your Fleet yet, do not despair, as I am really looking forward to my visit to you in the near future.

Christopher Bishop Commodore GB & I

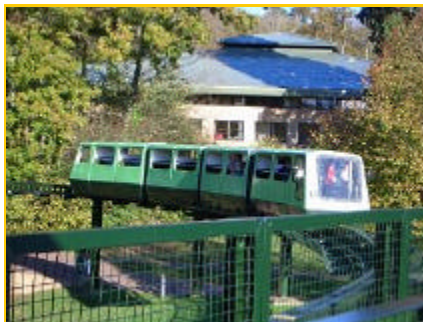


Christopher at the helm—South Africa 2004

MUDEFORD FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND ENJOYED BY BOB BURNS

In the middle of the sailing season, the Fellowship Weekend in Mudeford seemed ages away, then, suddenly, it had arrived and what an excellent weekend it was. Flying in on the Friday, at the exorbitant cost of a penny each way, plus airport tax, it was straight to the first meeting of the new Bridge, with all its new faces and a very happy Bridge I am sure it is going to be.

Saturday began as Friday had ended, with more food. Once satisfied everyone headed towards Beaulieu, where we split into two parties, one to hear the Palace House's gossip related by a very knowledgeable guide, the other to the National Motor Museum. I opted for the motor museum, which had developed somewhat in the forty years since my last visit! Our guide took us very ably through the history of the motorcar from the first horseless carriages, past the Model T Ford, a black one of course, to more modern vehicles, where we could reminisce over some of the cars we had known or even owned. The collection varied from the yellow Trotters' Independent Traders' three wheeler to the Uri Geller car, an American saloon covered in bent spoons and forks. There were racing cars from all ages and Graham Hill's and his son Damon Hill's World Championship winning cars were side by side, highlighting the change that has occurred over the years. Before returning, we took the opportunity of viewing the grounds from the **monorail**, which was a different experience again.



The Executive Meeting was followed by dinner after which, the speaker who was a local Rotarian, gave an interesting illustrated talk on the boating history of the area and introduced us to the '*Merry Widow*', which would take us up the River Stour the next day.



Sunday began for some of us at the Service of Remembrance in the Priory Church at Christchurch, where it was standing room only by the time the service started. From here we met up for our promised trip on the Stour and the Avon on the converted steamboat, '*Merry Widow*'. Who needs an African Queen when you have a Merry Widow! The trip provided a very pleasant way to see

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NEWS FROM THE FLEETS

BROADS FLEET

The Broads Fleet, which currently has forty members (four new this year), has had another truly memorable and enjoyable year. We started last December when our Commodore arranged a 'first' - a Christmas Dinner with the opportunity to stay overnight after further refreshment at his daughter's hotel in Sheringham. Our Winter Get-Together and the Rigging Out Supper were each enjoyed by around forty Iyforians and this was followed by our monthly boating rallies on the Norfolk Broads

Three events merit special mention - first and foremost our Fleet had the largest contingent attending our own Bryan's Handover on the Isle of Wight and the following month some sixty-seven of us enjoyed our Hog Roast and the traditional Peaches in Red Wine in glorious sunshine at the special venue of Peter and Judy Barfield's gardens at South Walsham Broad with overnight moorings (and festivities!)

Above all was the visit of our friends from the Thames Fleet in September. The whole weekend was blessed with rare hot sunshine. On Friday evening we entertained them at Broadlands RC's annual Art Festival Preview (£3000 raised) and on Saturday we all cruised the Norfolk Broads to rally at private moorings for a sumptuous lunch and drinks with a formal dinner in the evening. Sunday we took them to the Museum of the Broads where one of the exhibits is a 177-year-old Lateener. Farewells then took place after a lunch at the Norfolk Broads Y.C to conclude a really special weekend.

Eleven Fleet members enjoyed the Mudeford Executive and Fellowship Weekend and the final meeting will be the AGM with plans for our 2005 programme already agreed.

Tony Rushton, Secretary.

THAMES FLEET

The Up River Cruise in July started with ten boats and twenty-seven members enjoying a Dinner & Dance at The Great House Sonning. We had a fun lunch, raiding the Wallingford Rotary Club at the riverside Shillingford Bridge Hotel. In the evening we were joined by car-driving members for an excellent dinner at the Plough at Clifton Hampden.

The weather was not bad for July and we managed the happy hours each day on the bank, without getting rained off. Delightful Amy, the granddaughter of a new transferee member from the Solent Fleet, was our mascot during the cruise and she had an honorary win of the golf chipping competition.

There were a lot more narrow boats taking up the moorings this year but we managed to get all the boats in each night for lots of excellent fellowship.



Amy being presented with the cup by Commodore David Stern

Michael Pooley Secretary

EAST COAST FLEET

Commodore Chris Graves reported that the Fleet had been fairly active regardless of their reduction in actual boats. Members enjoyed a well attended Pot Luck Supper in January followed in February by a visit to Medway YC to meet the Medway Fleet.

At the Launch Supper in March they listened to an excellent talk on the Jubilee Trust whilst in May they dined with a local Rotary Club.

Raft ups took place in June at the Brandyhole YC and at West Wick on the Crouch River in July. They also enjoyed a day's sail with guests from Wickford R.C

Bradwell Marina was visited in August where there was much eating, drinking and fellowship. In August guests from Basildon R.C. were invited for a day out on his boat. The year finished with a Laying up supper and the year was considered to be excellent in spite of the weather.

He concluded by saying that 2005 would start with another Pot Luck Supper and also that a contingent will be attending QE2 in June. He promises to report on this in a later edition!

If Leamington Spa is full for March book up and join the fun in Ripon 4th—6th November 2005

EAST OF SCOTLAND FLEET

In April five couples had a wonderful time visiting Bruges travelling as foot passengers on the new Rosyth/Zeebrugge ferry. The sea could not have been calmer – in both directions unlike our experience of crossing the North Sea to Norway the previous June. The weather in Bruges was bright and sunny and, in addition to the city tour, visits were made to the brewery, the chocolate museum, the bell tower with 366 steps and the canal boat trip. On the first evening spent in Bruges we had an excellent meal with good food and wine and superb service in a hostelry near to our central hotel. On the second evening our wives dined together whilst the men visited the Brugge 't Vrije Rotary Club where we were made very welcome. It turned out that it was their Ladies Night and all their wives were present! However, as the speaker was to conduct his talk in Dutch one of the Rotarians took us to a splendid old tavern and introduced us to yet another Belgian beer (over 100 varieties of beer are brewed in Belgium). On our return boat trip we helped Duncan to celebrate his birthday and the waiters, together with some of the diners, sang Happy Birthday while presenting him with a cake! Altogether a memorable trip.

A good night was had by all who attended the Fitting Out Supper held on 21st May at the Grouse & Claret near Kinross. Another lovely evening, just the same as we experienced in May 2003, good food, good company good fellowship – which is what it is all about

On 4th June four boats took part in the Tay Race Night in what can only be described as idyllic conditions. The sun shone in a blue, almost cloudless sky, with a flat sea state and a steady warm breeze, just perfect for racing. Skipper John in '*Tres Cher*' raced away to an early lead but, by confusing the correct lifeboat buoy, he cut the course and was disqualified. This left three boats rounding the correct buoy together, but the different strategies employed by the three skippers resulted in the boats spreading out. Ultimately Skipper Alex in '*Capella*' won the race regaining the cup from '*Tres Cher*' who was last year's winner. The evening finished in the Bell Rock Tavern where much discussion took place regarding the 'lifeboat buoy'!

On 13th June sixteen Rotarians sailed in five boats for a most enjoyable day out on the Tay. In bright sunny weather the blustery breeze, coupled with the wind over tide wave pattern, made the going somewhat different to the smooth water experienced on race night! No dolphins were sighted in the turbulent waters. As has become customary the usual excellent standard of high tea was served in the Royal Tay Y.C where we were joined by three of the non sailing wives together with three of the Corinthian Club boat owners and their wives. It was here that plans were hatched for a barge outing in September.

In July Murray, Liz, Lorraine and myself represented the Fleet at the Handover on

the Isle of Wight where we met some old friends and made many new. Due to the gale force winds buffeting the island no yacht sailing took place but it did not stop us enjoying ourselves and we did have a trip on an old lifeboat out towards the Needles.

On Saturday 31st July seven couples from the East of Scotland Fleet helped Past Commodore Howard and Linda to celebrate their marriage at St Peter's Church in Musselburgh followed by a splendid reception at Lorretto School. The lovely school grounds provided a most magnificent setting on the lovely sunny day that followed the 'haar' rolling away. (For the English readers this is a coastal mist!) The photograph shows the present and past Commodores of the Fleet with Howard and Linda.



Photograph from left to right shows:

VC Ian Cowie

PC Charlie Snedden

Linda with PC Howard Thompson

PC Stuart Shepherd

Commodore Dennis Hopper

PC Murray Grubb

Glenrothes RC

Linlithgow Bo'ness RC

Edinburgh RC

Abertay RC

St Andrews RC

Glenrothes RC

On 8th August the east coast haar, in evidence around the tip of Fife that day, prevented the trip to the May Island taking place. However, the Barbecue did and was enjoyed by all – even if we came indoors for the coffee!. This is the second time the IYFR trip to the May Island has had to be called off! Maybe next year!

The weather 21/22nd August proved to be just what was needed for a very good weekend sail with the Clyde Fleet to Lochranza on the island of Arran. Six boats took part and in addition to the visitors from the East Coast Fleet, the IPC GB & I Bryan Skinner and the Cmdr. of the Broads Fleet, Ian Thomson, also attended. The fellowship – as always – was splendid. Twenty-four attended the meal on the Saturday evening at the Lochranza Distillery restaurant.

On 19th September twenty- two attended the lunch on the Ratho Barge. Nine clubs were represented including six members from the Clyde Fleet together with Cmdr. Barclay and two guests from the St Andrews Club. The food and fellowship were good and for once we did not need to consider the tides, the weather, the navigation or the cooking. It was all done for us as we glided at walking pace viewing the wildlife on the canal banks.

Dennis Hopper Commodore

CLYDE FLEET

3rd April Fitting out Supper A very sociable evening was spent in the Tontine Hotel in Greenock where 15 members, associate members and partners enjoyed the Hotel's Gourmet meal. Informal discussion took place on the forthcoming year's programme and dates were pencilled in diaries, plans made, and a good time was had by all..



At the Tontine, the gourmet meal having been devoured

15th May The Rotary Race – The Barrhead Bell The day of the race coincided with the Opal Marine Regatta at Kip Marina. (No matter what date is selected for the race, it is sure to clash with another event, or holiday by a member).

Four boats had been entered:

Name	Rotary Club	Skipper
Bloo Hoolit	Berwick-on-Tweed	Jonathon Ayre
Elizabeth A	Hunterston	Tom Wilkinson
Floodtide	Greenock	Bob Burns
Jura Star	Parsley Callents	David Hart

And a fifth put on a standby list, namely Roy De Silva's '*Rhett Butler*'.

On Friday night, the crews had a very enjoyable get together in the Chartroom – the pub/restaurant at Kip Marina - where the race instructions and course details were distributed. We learned that IPC Sandy would not be able to provide the committee boat as hoped, and Jim Strong on '*Elizabeth A*' agreed to do Race Officer.



Hazard on the Clyde

On Saturday morning, the Race started on Course B at 9.40. There were light SW winds and boats were tacking through a flotilla of vessels preparing for the Kip



Bob and Ann on Floodtide

Regatta. As the fleet of regatta entrants thinned out, the wind strength seemed to lessen and the race was eventually extended to 5 hours. Even then, '*Floodtide*' and '*Elizabeth A*' did not finish. Once the

elapsed times had been adjusted, The Barrhead Bell was awarded to '*Bloo Hoolit*', a Beneteau 210. The presentation took place at a barbeque held after the race at **Wreck Bay** on the



The crew of Elizabeth A

north east coast of the Isle of Bute where



'Heretic' joined us. This celebration involved an overnight stay at anchor for the boats and their crews.

19th June The Ancient Mariners' Outing

A group from the Sir Gabriel Woods Mariners' Home in Greenock was taken on a day's sail to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. The Mariners' Home - situated in the west end of Greenock - was founded in 1850, the legacy of Government Commissioner Sir Gabriel Wood, who was born in Gourock. Traditionally, the home has met the needs of elderly seafarers and has operated as a charity since its inception. In modern times the House has been registered with the Social Work Department as a Residential Care Home for up to thirty-



'Bloo Hoolit' with Ancient Mariner



Helping hands on the pontoon at Rothesay

nine elderly residents. Its commitment is to provide the highest standard of care to elderly seafarers, their dependents and the local community.

Clyde Fleet had 6 boats involved in the Ancient Mariners' Outing and there were 10 Mariners and 3 carers from the Home. We all had a great time and subsequent reports from the Home were very positive. The manager at Sir Gabriel Woods Home is anticipating our repeating the exercise next year.

19th July Muster at Loch Nevis

Considering all the various sailing events on the west coast of Scotland at this time of year and people's holiday arrangements – never mind the vagaries of the weather – we considered the muster a success. There were three boats in Loch Ness on the day, 'Heretic', 'Floodtide' and 'Elizabeth A', and ten sat down to dinner in the Old Forge restaurant at Inverie.

Inverie is well known for being inaccessible except by boat (look it up on the map) and a meeting of crews at this location is also a bit of an adventure



The usual arrival point is the ferry jetty



OK you can reach Inverie from land

21st August Sail to Lochranza

What turned out to be our last event of the season was a great outing to Lochranza on the Isle of Arran where the Clyde fleet has its own mooring.

During the Saturday there were good conditions for sailing (part of the way at least) and a very sociable raft-up on arrival at Lochranza Bay for the six boats that took part. The Arran Distillery provided us with a splendid dinner for 24 people, including two visitors from the East of Scotland Fleet, two from the Broads Fleet and two guests – our local mooring monitors, Pip and Chris.

The Visitor centre Manager was persuaded by our attendance that visiting yachties might be a lucrative weekend clientele. Indeed, I have since been contacted for advice on the Distillery putting out their own moorings in the Bay. They were referred to the Lochranza Mooring Owners' Association.

There can always be a comment on the weather – usually derogatory – but this time it was the forecast for Sunday – a SE wind going from 2/3 to 6/7. This prediction was responsible for boats departing Lochranza early in the morning to get to the shelter of Kip or Largs before the storm hit. Of course, no such event occurred. Instead it was a pleasant, if uneventful, sail home for the last official trip of the season

Barclay Smith Commodore

P.S. We also went on a trip with the East coast Fleet from Ratho on the canal

Two well known



worthies from Clyde

SUSSEX FLEET

Sussex Fleet organised its "Kids Out on the Water" as usual this year despite a few problems with the Chichester lock. Regrettably the channel was being dredged and it was vital work which had to be carried out in the same week as the event. Consequently we lost a vital picking up point which affected the number of special needs children sailing on the day. We were down by 80 in all as a result. However, those that did take part once again enjoyed a sail down to East Head where we anchored as a fleet with our packed lunches. The coastguard helicopter flew over the fleet to be greeted by lots of cheers from our passengers. The weather was somewhat grey this year but in all our years of organising the event it has only been cancelled the once! Next year sees the 25th Anniversary of "Kids Out on the Water" so we are hoping that it will be a bumper year with no hiccups! Our thanks as usual go to John Blake who has for some time now been the organiser of the whole event which takes one year to set up.

After waving our farewells to the children the evening was sunny and warm. A supper was laid on by the Chichester Yacht Club where the skippers and their crew relaxed in good company. Our main speaker was Rtn. Alan Priddy who is leading the '*Lively Lady*' project which will enable disadvantaged young people to sail various legs of a challenging voyage around the world.

The following day a number of boats from Sussex Fleet rallied in Bembridge and enjoyed hot sunshine and blue skies with a good wind. Sussex Fleet Commodore Jenie Pressdee handed over the Bridge to Rtn. Doug Minto on the Saturday evening which was followed by supper at the Baywatch restaurant which as usual produced delicious fish dishes to round off a superb weekend.

The sailing this year in the Solent was rather disappointing generally and therefore a number of plans were scuppered because of the weather and other commitments. However the Laying Up Supper took place at the state of the art Hayling Island Yacht Club where the cuisine once again was excellent. A quiz took place which puzzled a number of us and a jolly time was had by all.

At the recent 1250 District Conference in Bournemouth a number of Sussex Fleet members took part in a Rotary project presentation of "Kids Out on the Water". Here we had a chance to extol the advantages of the Fellowship and also share the enthusiasm and fun which we all have when preparing for the big day. Our GB & I Commodore Christopher Bishop had a walk on slot when he was able to show off his impressive Japanese IYFR kimono style jacket in bright yellow from the RI Convention in Osaka. He is of course the third 1250 member to have become GB & I Commodore (is this a record?) ... of course, we have a fourth coming up ... !

Jenie Pressdee, Commodore

SOLENT FLEET

A well-attended Fitting-Out supper was held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club in March. Then we had high hopes that the superb summer of 03 would be repeated this year, but the Weather Gods obviously did not share our thoughts, and by and large, we have not had the conditions we would choose.

Our first event was a rally to Gunwharf, Portsmouth. We chose this venue thinking that it was pretty central for most people and would be a very popular venue as it offered a great choice in shopping and restaurants. Sorry to say this was not correct! In truth the weather was simply awful, but as we were entertaining the then Commodore of GB & I Bryan Skinner to an official Fleet visit, together with our own Chris Bishop who was to succeed him in July, we obviously had to be there. The only other boats due to attend were John Clark, who developed engine troubles, and John Robinson who wisely decided against the trip in the prevailing condition. He kindly drove down in the evening to join us for supper.

We had hoped that the next event, the mid-week rally to Bucklers Hard, would have a wide appeal as we intended to combine it with a visit to Exbury Gardens. Again the conditions were very much against us. Frank Chalstrey joined the Commodore on '*Clio*' (our jointly owned Trapper 31) and John and April Robinson on '*Tusi*' also came, so at least we could claim to have had twice as many boats as on our opening rally!

Coming into May we had quite different conditions for the Haskell Turner Race. Ten or more yachts crossed the start line on a beautiful morning. Shortly after that the breeze died and we found ourselves being carried rapidly west on a strong ebb tide with no chance of even making the first mark. So, after a shortened course failed to solve the problem, the race was abandoned. Following a very jolly lunch in Cowes we all went home on a beautiful breeze that sprang up from nowhere.

The Progressive Supper was in a new venue this year as we went into the Island Harbour Marina just above the Folly Inn on the River Medina near Cowes. I think we were all pleasantly surprised by the place. The facilities were good and it was nice to have a riverbank walk in the sunshine into Newport. Thanks to Julian Lloyd and Hilary for all the organisation which goes into this event.

Our next scheduled event was the Cowes Fun Rally. Jaik Tari in particular had put an enormous amount of hard work and planning into this event, but sorry to say, it simply did not attract the support it deserved. As there is a considerable cost involved in staging the event it was felt that the only course open was to cancel. Let's hope that Jaik will not be deterred from organising it again next year, as it has always been a popular event.

The installation of Chris Bishop as G B & I Commodore took place over the

weekend of 2nd/4th July. Again enormous effort had been put into planning the event and members of the Fellowship had travelled from all over the UK to be there. Unfortunately the weather did everything in its power to put a damper on the occasion, but it did not succeed, although only a handful of boats sailed to the event instead of the full house that we had anticipated. We were honoured to have no less a figure than the International Commodore Ferit Biren in attendance, and what a super chap he is. In spite of the weather everyone had a good weekend – it was great to meet so many people from other fleets.

Three weeks later the weather turned fair for our mid-week rally to Newtown (the original capital of the Isle of Wight). This was a great success with 10 boats turning up. After drinks aboard the Commodore's Power Boat we went up river in dinghies to the quay and then had a fairly long walk to Shalfleet. The New Inn did us proud and it was just as well that tables had been booked as the place was full. The following day we all said a leisurely farewell and those of us who had yachts managed to sail home.

Having abandoned the Haskell Turner Race earlier in the season it was decided to try again on 14th September. The weather this time was the other extreme with gale force winds in the morning. The competitors retired for lunch and tried again in the afternoon when the wind had abated a little. Three yachts only, this time, took part and guess who won – the Commodore, of course!

On 16th September we held our annual lunchtime visit to the Rotary Club of Cowes. Although this event is organised by the Solent Fleet it is for any Rotarian who has a boat, plus guests. 105 sat down for an excellent lunch provided, this year, by the Royal London Yacht Club.

Unfortunately our annual BBQ at Botley at the head of the Hamble River had to be cancelled as the organiser was otherwise engaged in Rotary business. Our Laying-Up Supper at Gins Farm (part of the Royal Southampton YC) on the Beaulieu River saw 27 of us sitting down for the meal. We were able to see all the new building which has been going on and which had been opened by Princess Anne two weeks before.

Our final event of the year will be the A.G.M. to be held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on Friday 26th November.

Derek Thomerson Secretary

FENLAND FLEET

We had a good turnout for our Fitting Out Lunch in March. Commodore Nigel together with Annette Lewis liased with the Westerleys Club for a joint weekend at Woodbridge. It was a beautiful May evening for the BBQ. On Sunday members were invited to join the Westerley Club for a sail down river to Ramsholt.

We had hoped that the Medway Fleet would join us on the River Ouse but they had to cancel. Commodore Nigel and Audrey organised some very good weather for a fantastic paella lunch at their house instead.

Our numbers are on the increase, two new members joined us for our Laying up Supper in November with the likelihood of more boat owners joining shortly. Unfortunately Commodore Nigel and Audrey's flight out of Strasburg was cancelled due to weather conditions so he was unable to greet National Commodore Christopher Bishop and Jane who joined us for the Supper.

One highlight of the summer was 'Our Betty' reaching another big 0 anniversary which she celebrated by cruising the Norwegian fjords. Betty's husband Vic was an East Coast Fleet member from the 60s and together they formed the Broads Fleet in 1984 and the Fenland Fleet in 1990. In 1988 she and Vic were elected Secretary and Treasurer of the National Bridge. Betty held this post under National Commodores:

1988	Geoffrey Pearce
1990	Mac Magrill,
1992	Grahame Howe -Piper
1994	Eric Gibbard
1996	John Billingham



MORE NEWS FROM GEORGE TODD IYFR/IFFR

Following on from the Article in the Spring 2004 "Rotafleet News," I am pleased to write that my syndicate has now acquired another aircraft to take the place of crashed G-BIOR. Our "new" machine is a Cessna 150, two seats, single engine plane and is younger than G-BIOR, having been entirely rebuilt in 1975 after being imported from the U.S. the previous year.



The plane arrived at our airfield in July and I'm pleased to say that all is still well with it and I have managed to get some 4 hours or so flying it (between showers and other forms of inclement weather!). Yes, the weather, I'm afraid, does continue to make life still frustrating at times!

Per Ardua Ad Astra!

FINAL NEWS FROM 'ISTAR'

We have received a very long, but very interesting report from Mike and Janet Oliver Jones relating their cruising in Greek and Turkish waters. They left Lefkas on 26th May and sailed towards Corinth going under the new bridge built especially for the Olympics at Rio. They reported that the weather was unsettled with intermittent rain, strong winds and choppy seas. They were enjoying a sail to Andikiro on 6th June when this school of dolphins followed them.

It cost 196 Euros to go through the 3.2 miles long, 25 metres wide, 8 metres deep Corinth Canal. The canal fee is worked out on a formula of length, depth and width. Before the canal was dug sailing ships were put on sledges and pulled across the isthmus on rails by horses or they sailed right around the Peloponnese.

On 13th June they reached the island of Megalo Petali – the high point of the sail was



watching a swordfish spiralling continuously out of the water. Here the wind reached Force 7. The island being hilly with a valley, the katabatic wind was even stronger. Mike had to keep anchor watch. Around this time Janet was stung by a jellyfish, the initial sting was nasty but she suffered no ill effects.

They were in Turkish waters by 16th July visiting the ancient site of Epheus. After that they travelled through the Samos Straits and reached Bodrum on 20th. One night high winds caused some gulleets to drag their anchors. On 'Istar' they put down extra lines and took the bimini down. They likened the wind to a 'hot blast from a furnace' even in the early hours of the morning. By the 30th still with a 30 knot wind they reached Marmaris. They spent August in and around the Gulf of Fethiye.

They moved on to Rhodes where they spent several days and then 8th September on to Crete. The seas were over the top of their 'shed' on the way to the Island of Karpathos (about midway between Rhodes and Crete). With a forecast of more Force 8/9 winds they remained there for three days, gave up being tossed about on 'Istar' and rented a room for two nights. It was very hot, no clouds just big seas crashing around the wall and into the harbour.

The huge seas and high winds were with them all along the coast of Crete until 20th Sept when they motor sailed to Rethymon. Radar helped them one evening when they were sailing south of the Peloponnese in a terrific thunderstorm that

completely obscured their vision of the very rocky coast. They headed for the shelter of the third finger of the Peloponnese and made their way to Kayio aiming for the lights of a village; which suddenly went out! Had the storm caused a massive power cut? After an hour the lights came on and they were able to navigate a narrow entrance and be rewarded with a delightful bay and two tavernas.

The engine stopped on 28th after they had left Pylos and had just been warned of a Force 6 wind. Mike found that the diaphragm of the pump was damaged but managed to get the engine going. Whilst going across Navarino Bay they watched the Coastguard boat and a Lifeboat shepherding an old green motorboat into the coast. As it got close to shore about forty to fifty men leapt off, obviously illegal immigrants. There was quite a chase. 'Istar' anchored near the activity and had the port police circling them twice to check that they were not part of the illegal operation



In a calm sea on 1st Oct they reached the home straight - - passed the east coast of Ithaca, west of Megannisi and into the Lefkas canal. They were home after a very enjoyable and exciting trip pleased that they were now able to ignore weather forecasts. So ends 'News From 'Istar'' as she is now up for sale.

If you would like more details of their adventures and boat, Mike's email is: Istarjcb@aol.com, he would be pleased to hear from you.

MUDEFORD FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

(cont. from page 9)

the area, before going for a different view, climbing the 177 steps to the top of the tower at the Priory Church. We paused on the way up to look at the bells. Thank goodness there was no service imminent! Finally it was back for another meal and bed before departing the next day.

As we have come to expect, we were entertained to a very full and enjoyable weekend and it seems that with Rodney Davis stepping into Michael Pooley's shoes, we can look forward to a continuing programme of weekends of true Rotary fellowship and fun.

DART FLEET

Following their excellent talk to the Fleet, reported in the Spring Edition of Rotafleet, the Dartmouth's Ocean Rowing Four have been asked to speak all around the country.

The A.G.M. in May saw the election of a new Commodore, Michael Angliss and, importantly, a formula for electing future Fleet Commodores. Tom Newberry received the praise of everyone, and the Norman Minns Trophy, for carrying the mantle of Commodore for so long.

The Salcombe Rally was held in June. After drinks at the Dartmouth Y.C. members and friends sailed to Salcombe. There they enjoyed a superb meal at Salcombe YC, slept on board and sailed back to Dartmouth next day.

At the end of June fifteen members had a three hour sailing experience aboard the heritage sailing trawler '*Vigilance*'. Whilst the wind was not as favourable as the previous year the crew sailed the trawler out of Brixham, past Berry Head, and into Tor Bay with the coastline to Start Point visible to the west and to Portland Bill to the east.

In July Fleet members and friends returned to Sharpham House on the River Dart and tasted the wines and cheeses made there – 'a good, hic!, trip!'

The Fleet's most popular event is the 'Firework Party'. This is held aboard the River Dart's largest pleasure boat, The Dart Explorer. Tickets were sold in no time with 160 souls setting sail. Immediately they were entertained with a display by two Royal Navy helicopters followed by the RAF's magnificent Red Arrows. They went down to the mouth of the river and then, with sufficient tide, up river to Totnes, turning and heading back to Dartmouth. During the river trip a three piece band of schoolboys, provided the entertainment coupled with a superb buffet. With a still clear night and a full moon rising over Kingswear the fireworks provided a fitting finale to the evening.

In September a few members visited Brixham Coastguard. During the evening there were two emergencies which members were allowed to watch and experience at first hand the expertise of H.M.Coastguard.

The concluding event of the season was the Laying-Up Supper. Guest speaker was Geoff Shaw who talked on the 2003 IYFR post convention tour and showed a video which included snorkelling over the Australian Great Barrier Reef. Many thanks to Geoff.

Hilary Bastone Secretary

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome all new members to our Fellowship and look forward to meeting you either on the water, **or especially, at our regular Fellowship weekends**. The next one will be **11th/13th March 2005 at the Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa**
Hon Sec. Rodney Davis has contacted you.

VALLANCE, E.H. (Ted) (Valerie) 148 Beech House Oakfield Road Aylsham, Norwich NR11 6AL (H) 01263 731584	BROADS (RC) Aylsham Vallance@beehouse.fsnet.co.uk	Foxy Feelings II Power
CRAIG J. Gordon (Truda) 149 'Highlands' Pit Rd Hemsby Gt. Yarmouth NR29 4LG (H/F) 01493 732460 (M) 07748 327499	BROADS (RC) Gt. Yarmouth gordoncraig@bigfoot.com	Tanqueray 3 Power
NEALE, Donald (Shirley) 252 12 Sheepcotes Lane Southminster Essex CM0 7AF (H)01621 772463	EAST COAST (RC) Burnham on Crouch	Pekatajo Sail
COTTAM, Brian (Jeannie) 254 'Farthings' Sheepcotes Lane Southminster, Essex CM0 7AF (H) 01621 772481 (B) 01621 773400	EAST COAST (RC) Burnham on Crouch	Dizzie Power
CRANSTON, John (Caroline) 301 'Harwood' 15 West Perry, Perry, Huntingdon, PE28 0BX (H) 01480 811273 (B) 020 8356 2530	FENLAND (RC) Kimbolton Castle sailoratperry@supanet.com	Wayfarer Sail
CROWHURST David (Geraldine) 507 11, Spring Gdns, Broadmayne, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8PP (H) 01305 852940	POOLE (RC) Dorchester	
BENNETT, Ian R (Valerie) 554 Middlefield, Garden Rd, Burley Hants BH24 4EA (H) 01425 403223	SOLENT (RC) Ringwood anurav@btinternet.com	Hi Spirits Sail
TURNER, Alan (Jenny) 551 Crooked Close, Winchester St Overton, Hants RG25 3ND (H) 01256 771119	SOLENT (RC) Basingstoke alan.turner34@btopenworld.com	Spartium Power
BUTTOLPH, John (Judy) 552 44 Endeavour Way, Hythe Marina Village Hythe, SO45 6DX (H) 02086757274 (Fax) 02086757335	SOLENT (RC) Battersea jb@pro-net.co.uk	Abigale Sail
BROOKES, Colin (Patricia) 553 3 Thornton Ave, Warsash Southampton SO31 9FL (H) 01489 573444	SOLENT (RC) Locks Heath	Usha Sail
TAYLOR, David V. (Dawn) 656 Brundells Farm, Brundells Rd Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7JP (H) 01206 250040 (B) 01206 215121	SUFFOLK (RC) Harwich & Dovercourt Dv.taylor@btinternet.com	Sunniva Sail

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UPDATES TO THE PINK BOOK

Alterations to page 3:

Broads Fleet new Commodore, **Peter Barfield** (401) tel. 01603 270258

Clyde Fleet new Commodore, **Barclay Smith** (714) tel. 01475 724052

Dart Fleet new Acting Commodore **Brian Chudley** (238) tel. 01803 557844

East Coast new Secretary **John Banks** (400) tel. 01702 524417

East of Scotland new Commodore **Ian Cowie** (683) tel. 01592 756509
new Secretary **Duncan Meek** (454) tel. 01506 842755

Humber Fleet Commodore **Grant Allan** new tel. **01507 462384**

Poole Fleet new Commodore **Keith Lacy** (813) tel. 01536 790997

Suffolk Fleet new Secretary **Philip Stanton** (659) tel. 01255 436764

Sussex Fleet new Commodore **Doug Minto** (772) tel. 01243 778187

Thames Fleet new Commodore **Michael Pooley** (245) tel. 01491 628284
new Secretary **Leslie Wilkinson** (817) tel. 01235 224676

We suggest that you cut out this
page, and staple it in the 'pink
book' to keep that record up to
date

‘NEW KIDS’ ON ‘THE BLOCK!’



Rodney Davis
Secretary IYFR GB &I



Bob Burns
Extension Officer IYFR GB&I



Annette Lewis
Treasurer IYFR GB&I
Talking to John Barnsley



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