



MARINA MATES

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

We find ourselves at the end of another year – is it just me or does time seem to be passing more quickly? I think it may be an age thing!

The Marina is going from strength to strength and the whole surrounding areas have taken on a distinctly 'Mediterranean' feel – with all of the cafes, bistros and bars etc – shame we don't have the Mediterranean weather. . I am sure that they will prove to be very popular venues this Christmas and New Year.

We now have a Marina that is the envy of many – and we should be proud that we are part of it. Many new berths have been taken this year and I am sure that this will continue in the future. This year Hartlepool hosted some of the Tall Ships and this was a very successful venture for all concerned, as was the 'Lantern Parade,' I am sure that we will continue to see different activities and events at the Marina in the near future.

Marina Mates will continue to be issued bi-monthly in 2006, but I do need your articles to make it as informative and as interesting as possible! If you do have anything that you feel would be suitable – then please either send to mirosa@ntlworld.com or leave for my attention (Mike Fellows) in an envelope at the Lock Office.

Wishing all our readers fair winds and safe sailing in 2006!

2 OLDGITS IN A BOAT CIRCUMNAVIGATION

It is with great pleasure I can say that **Clive** and **Les** in **Quintet** have successfully completed their circumnavigation of the UK. They set out from Fosdyke on June 19th 2005 and completed their journey on September 18th 2005. This epic journey, (because that's what it is, make no mistake about it) took 92 days sailing a total of 1561 miles. They have produced 62 in depth reports ranging from 250 words to let us know that they are still alive to 2,000 words telling us how good it is to be alive. (I know just what they mean). Each of these reports is a very good read and accompanied by some very good photographs. The web site is www.2oldgitsinaboat.co.uk - this is a great site and is thoroughly recommended by Sailtales and Marina Mates. The following cartoon is from Geoff at Sail Tails, cheers Geoff and thanks for your article.



I actually sailed north to meet them on 7th September in Kes. I received a radio call from Quintet, saying that they were quite close inshore so I altered course to rendezvous with them. We actually met up at about 12.45 and sailed to Hartlepool together. At this stage I didn't realize that we were racing, in fact I didn't know that we were racing until I read it on their web site! We got into the marina and tied up, I then went over and introduced myself and Ged, (a friend who had come out with me). We indulged in a couple of beers on Quintet then Clive and Les came over to Kes where we continued to chat over another couple of beers. I went down again to see them off on the 10th and wished them well. They had both thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Hartlepool and they send a big thank you to everyone that they met at the marina and in the 'Smallies'. Congratulations again, so many people have the intention of doing it but that's as far as it goes, to actually do it is pretty special. **Editor**

"Thar she blows!"

Or whales in the Little Minch

Captiva's log 5th July 2004

"Cleared Loch Scresort, Island of Rum at 0600, a pure blue morning, turned North West towards The Uists and Berneray.....furling mainsail and with half a genoa, boat speed less than two knots, trolling for mackerel "

"No bites but crew see flock of gulls over to starboard towards Skye, SSE off Glen Brittle Bay. Turn towards the birds, Meraidh fiddles in the cockpit. Genoa eased, to slow the boat. Jimmy recalls calculus and reasons as follows, the birds are feeding on small fish, where there are small fish there will be bigger fish, etc.. "

Whales! Minkies, one, two, three, no! no! six! Climbing harness on, Jimmy is winched to the crosstrees and looking down into deep clear water can see the shoal. The adults are herding the fish towards the calves!" We sailed alongside the pod for more than half an hour, while Meraidh played Breton Tunes and a set of Irish Jigs ("diddly diddley"). The whales dived beneath Captiva and swam with us towards the Western Isles. Then suddenly, they turned away and sounded.

The whales were feeding on the shoal of sand eels, although Balenteens, Minkies do also eat fish! In the North Pacific, the minke whale feeds on euphausiids i.e. krill. In the North Atlantic the minke whale is known to feed on krill, sand lance, sand eel, and even salmon, capelin, mackerel, cod and herring! Whilst in the Antarctic they feed predominantly on krill. The shoal of sand eels was like a tornado of fish around which the minkies took turns at herding, whilst one swam through the middle feeding!

We have often had brief glimpses of minkies in this area, especially in the Sound of Harris and off the Island of Rum or near Eigg. They usually simply surface two or three times and then disappear. Whale spotting conditions are best in little or no wind with a smooth sea. You simply need to be looking in the right direction at the right time but it is clear that birds feeding on the surface are worth investigating and that a boat under sail is less disturbing and possibly even more interesting if a pretty girl is playing a fiddle on board!

Sequel

But what about coincidence? Sailing south from Ardrishaig towards Loch Ranza 2nd July 2005. On this occasion, we were investigating diving gannets off Skipness Point, They were racked up in squadrons of 12-15 birds, barrel rolling and then diving in sequence from a height of some 50 metres before flying off with fish! We caught maybe 12 mackerel, whilst hove-to amongst them and kept the 5 best ones for supper! Pan fried with a fresh, home made salsa! As we sailed away Meraidh was fiddling again in the cockpit when close too on port side a minkie whale and calf, surfaced and then ran with the boat for 10 minutes or more before diving. That girl on the fiddle has only been sailing twice!

Lee Ho! John Harris, (Captiva)

WHO HAS RIGHT OF WAY?

An account of a radio conversation reported in The Daily Telegraph, the source was the United States Navy.

Radio 1; 'Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid collision.'

Radio 2; 'Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid collision.'

Radio 1; 'This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again divert your course.'

Radio 2; 'No I say again you divert your course.'

Radio 1; 'This is the aircraft carrier Enterprise; we are a large warship of the United States Navy. Divert your course NOW.'

Radio 2; 'This is a lighthouse. Your call!'

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Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bullshit before

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruit and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

* * * * *

Upon my Sole!

Picking my way through the puddles in the car park between the pontoons and the marina office at Holyhead I became aware I had a wet foot and, sure enough, I found a split in my trainers. Oh well, they were 4 years old and had been used for everything so, time to get some new ones.

In the town I found a shoe shop. And they were having a sale! Perfect. They had a few trainers I liked the look of, but not being sure they would prove to be non-marking I opted for a rather old-fashioned, plimsoll type pair with a white sole. Who am I kidding? They were the only ones I thought I could get away with wearing in the street.

I asked to try a size 8. When they came I couldn't get my foot into them they were so small so I tried the size 10 display shoe which fitted perfectly. The assistant fetched the pair and I bought them but I couldn't help remarking how surprised I was that I needed a size 10 as I've always been an 8."Oh well sir," Said the assistant "I think these are size 10 on the outside!" .I'm not making this up ... well, I couldn't!

All the best, Geoff www.sailtales.co.uk

Article taken from a British Newspaper

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied, he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was of any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff top. (Aberdeen Evening Express)



54North Sail-makers is a new enterprise based on Hartlepool Marina to provide a comprehensive sail-making service to Marina customers and others.

Sail-maker Tim Boagey's services offered include: new sails, repairs, UV replacement, covers and rope work. All are offered at competitive prices by an experienced sail maker and sailor. Contact Telephone No is 07802 350138.

The winner of the competition in the last issue drawn from the hat was Richard Hope. **Congratulations Rich – on winning a fabulous 54North kit bag.** You have to be in it to win it!!

THE CREATION

When God was making Scotland – Jesus was sitting beside him, watching the great architect at work and asking questions, as children do.

“What are you doing now daddy?”

“I’m creating Scotland”

“What sort of place is that daddy?”

“It’s a beautiful country with blue hills (called The Cairngorms) clear deep Lakes, (called lochs) silver rivers, beautiful beaches and sea shores with Sand Dunes (called Links) and necklaces of islands to break the waves. This is the very best country that I’ve ever created my son!”

“And what are you doing now daddy?”

“Well son, I’m creating deer to roam the hills & mountains for the people to hunt and eat as venison, and I will create golden salmon for the people to catch and eat as one of the world’s greatest delicacies - smoked salmon. Here they will discover wild barley and I will give the people inspiration to malt the barley and distillery a fine drink call Whisky (Uisge beatha – the water of life) and they will have the intellect to invent a game called Golf to play on the links overlooking the sea.”

“But daddy, daddy! everyone will want to live there!”

“No son, no son! Wait until you see the neighbours!”

John Harris. Chalmont 1999.

‘Doc, I can’t stop singing ‘The green, green grass of home.’ ‘That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome.’ ‘Is it common?’ ‘Well It’s not unusual....’

Two cows standing next to each other in a field, Daisy says to Dolly, ‘I was artificially inseminated this morning’ ‘I don’t believe you,’ said Dolly. ‘It’s true, straight up, no bull’

DO YACHTSMEN GIVE A TOSS FOR THE RNLI?

'Of course I'll always support the RNLI', you say as you show your generosity by dropping a coin into the lifeboat box in the clubhouse or pub. Unfortunately statistics uncover the shocking truth, 97% of yacht owners make little more than token gestures similar to this. Less than 3% of us are listed as regular supporters.

In Britain there are estimated to be more than 505,000 sailing yachts with nearly a million yachtsmen enjoying the safety net provided by the RNLI. Yet it amazes me that less than 20,000 are members of the RNLI Offshore or Shoreline, and these are the ones that are most likely to call on the assistance of the RNLI in an emergency. Reasons for not joining are, 'I haven't got round to it yet' and 'it's too expensive' or 'I've never used them in ten years sailing' etc etc.

The cost shouldn't come into the equation when yachtsmen spend an average of £2,000 a year on their hobby, (figures from the British Marine Industries Federation). Very little of that finds its way to the coffers of the RNLI, and the flag days and collection boxes in clubs and pubs only gives about 25% of the RNLI running costs, the real money comes from legacies, which account for about 60% of the Institution's income.

The RNLI gives 100% in their protection of us often laying their own lives on the line in the process, and this service is subsidised by a very generous Joe public that are probably unaware that yachtsmen are the greatest beneficiaries of their generosity! The RNLI is very diplomatic in not criticising yachtsmen, or other boat users, because it's **NOT ONLY YACHTSMEN** who fail to support them.

Many of the 1,869 launches to help sailing boats were to sensible, qualified skippers; even the best can be caught out by the unexpected squall or MOB etc. The RNLI saved over 450 sailing crews lives last year alone, this makes yachts the biggest category that they deal with. Bad weather, stranding, fouled prop, engine failure, sails, steering were among the most common causes of rescues. So for the sailor that has everything why not join the **RNLI Offshore, or Shoreline** as a Christmas present and also to help a worthy case that one day may save your **LIFE. After all it's just a drop in the ocean!!**

Editor

HEROES IN YELLOW MUSTO

Heroes come in every shape and form, keeping people safe from harm
Mine don a yellow uniform, when they hear the raised alarm
No matter what they are doing, whatever time, night or day
As soon as that alarm bell rings they hurry on their way
Their chariot of sunset orange forces its way over the waves
The crew all standing strong like Native American braves
Teamwork is essential to have the job well done
With all casualties and vessels safe each battle with the sea is won
To fight gale forces and mighty swells they must put aside their own fears
Strong in will and brave in heart they are the RNLI volunteers

Christine Robinson

HARTLEPOOL'S 1st LANTERN BOAT PARADE

Saturday 10th December was a frenzy of activity at the marina. DIY sailors pretending to be electricians bedecking their boats with numerous lights, snowmen, santa clause, stars, Christmas trees etc. The parade of boats was taking place on the evening. They would be following Santa's sleigh from the lock then around Jackson's Dock and finishing up on the Sea Cadets pontoon in the north basin. Generators were kindly supplied by Hartlepool Council to anyone that needed one to light their boat up.

Start time was 19.00hrs and all the boats taking part (Twenty) were on E & F pontoons ready to peel off and follow the sleigh. It looked fantastic and that was just from my boat, I was told by lots of people that it was a truly spectacular display.

On the night, there were stilt walkers, a children's lantern and Sea Cadets parade plus Hartlepool Community Choir and Highland Bagpiper along with other activities with a large firework display on the south pier as a grand finale.

There were thousands of on lookers, cheering and wishing everyone, 'A Merry Xmas'. The whole procession lasted over an hour, and I'm certain that everyone that took part and the spectators enjoyed the proceedings. I hope that this turns into an annual event. Well done Hartlepool Marina and Hartlepool Borough Council, it was well worth all of the efforts of all concerned! Book your place for next year as soon as possible, I think that it will get bigger and better and places will need to be booked in advance.

Mike Fellows

Pocket papers

**The 'big' little shop on Hartlepool marina
Newsagents, general dealers,
Off-licence Craft shop,
&
Small run and foil printers
and agents for book binding**

STORRARS NO FRILLS SALE



Loads of boring bargains including:

- 1 only Wetline 265L inflatable complete with Mercury 8HP outboard. RRP £1755.00, sale price £1295.00
- 1 only 2nd hand Avon inflatable complete with 10HP outboard, used (we think) ½ dozen times in anger £400.00
- 1 only 2nd hand T-frame road trailer, modified to take an inflatable. Brand new wheels £100.00
- 1 only Moto-Roma 800 2HP generator, RRP £139.95, sale price £69.95

Sale starts 9.30am Monday 2nd January

**Storrrar Marine, 181-183 Coast Road, Cochrane Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7RR
Tel – 0191 266 1037 – Check out www.storrrarmarine.co.uk for full details**