

# **The CACHALOT**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHAMPTON MASTER MARINERS' CLUB

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**No.3**

**March 2002**

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Welcome to the third edition of our Newsletter, and the second in this format. The previous one seems to have been well received, or, at least, we didn't get any complaints. Nor have we been inundated with copy, (*as us editors like to call it,*) so if you do have any tales and anecdotes which you think might interest your fellow members please don't hesitate to send them in. There is a heap of high tech. wizardry in the office, just waiting to burst into life and receive your input. No, his name is not Doug, I am referring to the computer thingy!

## **Change of Watch at the AGM**

The AGM is the occasion when the new Captain and Staff-Captains are officially installed and on 17th January, Captain David Carr installed Captain Ian Stirling as Club Captain for 2002. Captain Geoffrey Lee was installed as Staff-Captain and Captain Alan McDowell as the Sea Staff-Captain. Captain Stirling thanked Captain Carr for his leadership during the past year and for a job well done.

## **The Immortal Memory**

The first social event of the year was held in the Club room on the evening of Friday 25th January, in the shape of a Burns Night Supper. It turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable event and may even be considered for a repeat next year! Those present reported that Captain Robertson gave the address to the Haggis in a way that Rabbin Burns himself would have enjoyed. The Club Captain, Ian Stirling, gave the toast "To the Immortal Memory" and produced some enlightening facts on the love life of the poet. The Staff-Captain, Geoff Lee, presented a plastic pension book cover to Margaret Tinsley, as her pension started from the 26th January, and Lionel Hall's rendering of "My Love is like a red, red rose", followed by Alastair Cant's "Auld Lang Syne" were out of this world, or should have been.



**IAN WILLIAM STIRLING, RD.**

Fellow of the Nautical Institute,  
Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport,  
Member of the Institute of Petroleum,  
Member of the Institute of Management,  
Member of the Academy of Experts.

Your new Captain was born in Bristol of a Scottish family in 1934 and received his (wartime) education at various schools in Gloucestershire, Scotland and Bristol. He attended the School of Navigation at Warsash as a cadet in 1951 and served a cadetship with Clan Line until 1955. He subsequently sailed with United Baltic, NZS and Safmarine, gaining his Masters certificate in 1961. He was RNR from 1956-1984, his involvement there encompassing Sub's courses, Dartmouth Training Squadron, Submarines, HMS Bulwark and NCS. His first job "ashore" was as a Junior Hydrographic Surveyor with the Port of Bristol in 1968. He became a self employed Trinity House IoW Pilot in 1970 and a Trinity House Deep Sea Pilot in 1980. During 1981-82 he worked for 6 months as Master for Gardline Surveys. He continued his Pilotage career in Southampton, through the transition to ABP in 1988, until 1995, and Deep Sea Pilotage until 2000. He has been a self employed marine consultant and expert witness since 1982 and occasional honorary Master of the s.s. Shieldhall since 1994.



Captain Ian Stirling, Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh, Captain David Carr and Mrs. Mary Fagan

### Sea Pie Supper

*"It was the biggest annual gathering of Southampton's shipping industry, a prestigious event attracting hundreds of representatives from the city's vital port and maritime sector.*

*Every year the Southampton Master Mariners' Club Sea-Pie Supper is a sell-out and the 2002 dinner was no exception.*

*Around 650 packed the city's Guildhall for the black-tie occasion, the highlight of the long established club's calendar.*

*Past and present captains of the ships joined captains of industry for the dinner which has a nationwide reputation as one of the foremost events of its kind in the country.*

*Among the honorary members of the club, known as Stow-aways, present were Mrs Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, Rear Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles and Captain Sir Malcolm Edge.*

*During the evening Captain Ian Stirling, a former pilot and one-time choice pilot for Cunard's Queen Elizabeth 2, was installed as the club's new captain by Captain David Carr, who held the position last year.*

*Captain Geoff Lee, staff captain of the club, proposed the toast to the guests and Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, responded.*

*The admiral told the dinner that Britain's tonnage tax system was now breathing new life into the UK shipping industry.*

*'The tonnage tax has been a tremendous success with an ever growing number of vessels flying the Red Ensign and more cadets and apprentices choosing the industry,' said Sir Nigel."*

Well, that was how the local shipping correspondent, (and fellow Cachalot), Keith Hamilton, reported our supper in *The Daily Echo* on Tuesday 12th February and I for one wouldn't presume to try and better a professional.

In his speech, which was themed "Why Navy", Sir Nigel outlined the role of the modern Navy in the post-Cold war era and its need to be able to swing from peace keeping to peace support and peace enforcement. On his own part, he assured us, he will try to ensure that our Navy remains

**"A World Class Navy, Ready to Fight and Win".**

After the speeches it was time for the shanties and we *did* get to sing "Spanish Ladies" this year.

### Bowled Over

A most enjoyable skittles evening was held in the club room of the Southampton (Old) Bowling Green on Friday, 22nd February. Battle commenced at 1920 between the "Stirling Strippers" and the "Kelso Kids".

An early casualty was Alan Gravestock who, in his enthusiasm, fell over, dislocating his shoulder and, it turned out, cracking three ribs. He was ambulated off to the General Hospital, to the consternation of the remaining players. However, we were reassured by Alan's friend Gerry Cartwright, who told us that Alan had paid his subs.

Fortunately all is well now, (*apart from those slowly knitting ribs, ouch!*) and Alan assured us that he could drink just as easily with his other hand anyhow.

Back at the Skittles, there was a meal break at about 2030 and it was then back to the hotly fought contest. The "Stirling Strippers" won by a narrow margin and Club Captain, Ian Stirling, presented prizes to the top-scorers, Jill Stead and Reg Kelso. The bottom-scoring prize was "won" by Meryl Clark.

The Bowling Club claims to be the oldest in the world, dating back to 1299, and we met some of the "Knights of the Green". They, and the other Bowling Club members present, made us feel very welcome and we enjoyed the good food and made good use of the inexpensive bar prices.

### Diamond Wedding

Many congratulations to Nora Powell for putting up with Club member Peter Powell for the last 60 years. We wish them many more Happy Anniversaries. The first sixty years are the worst!

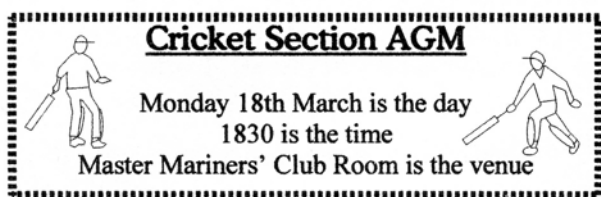
# COMING EVENTS

## Some Programme Changes

It has been found necessary to make some slight amendments to this year's programme.

The Club Supper and wine tasting provisionally booked for 29 March has been cancelled, as this has turned out to be Good Friday. Instead there will now be a Club Buffet Supper on Friday, 22 March, at which the speaker will be Club member Alan Mechen, who will talk about the restoration of ship's figureheads. Alan has a reputation for being humorous as well as making a chosen subject very interesting.

The Curry Lunch, programmed for 1200 on Saturday, 27 April, has now been amended to a wine tasting, followed by a buffet lunch.



## Tidworth Jubilee Concert

Due to the response the Entertainments Chairman has booked a larger coach and at the time of going to press there are just two seats left for this event on 16th April.

For those of you who have already booked and not yet paid now is the time to get your cheques to us. £17.50 per head please, and made payable to "The Cachalots".

We also need to know your choice of pick-up points.

## Jubilee Dinner

The Club Dinner at the Royal Air Force Yacht Club, Hamble, is arranged for Saturday 1st June. Numbers will be limited so keep an eye on the notice board for the list when it goes up. It will be a Black-tie occasion and the price is expected to be in the £20-£25 range.

## Cowes Fireworks Cruise

An evening cruise on board the s.s. Shieldhall to watch the fireworks at Cowes will depart from Southampton at 1800 on Friday, 9 August, and return at midnight. The price is £25.50 and includes Supper and a Jazz Band. This is not an exclusive Master Mariners' event but 40 places have been booked and 15 of those have already been taken. If you are interested in attending this event please hand your name to Judith, together with a cheque made payable to "The Cachalots"

## Other Outings

The date for the proposed outing on the Watercress Line is set for 26th June. Further details will be posted on the notice board when they become available.

It is also proposed that we have a Club Weekend outing early in October. The Norfolk Broads or Cherbourg are the contenders that your committee is investigating. Again details will be posted as available, or watch this space.

## S.M.M.C. Technical Seminar

**"THE SEA, THE SAILOR  
and the  
SHIPOWNER**

**-THE BULK CARRIER DILEMMA"**

The seminar will be held on  
**WEDNESDAY, 17th. APRIL 2002 at 1900**  
and the venue is

**SOUTHAMPTON MASTER MARINERS' CLUB**

**Mr. Simon Milne, Bsc(Eng) Ceng MRINA,  
Principal Surveyor (Maritime & Coastguard  
Agency) will give the initial presentation and he  
will be supported by additional panel members  
whose names will be circulated, when known.**

**The presentations will be followed by comment and  
questions from the floor.**

The seminar is open to the general public and everyone  
with an interest in the topic is invited to attend. For  
more details please contact:

Captain Reg Kelso Tel: 02380 402001  
Email: charles.kelso@which.net

Comment: High court judge Mr Justice Colman has recently been critical of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) in relation to some aspects of bulk carrier construction and Mr Robin Bradley, IACS permanent secretary has responded positively to these. The loss of the bulk carrier *CHRISTOPHER* with all hands in December 2001 refocused many minds on the loss of *DERBYSHIRE* in 1980 and there is real concern that there are many bulk carriers afloat with wholly inadequate strength in (forward) hatch covers. Additional concerns have been expressed structural damage incurred during loading and discharge, the practice of building bulk carriers WITHOUT a raised fore-castle and, more recently, side frame failure causing shell plating detachment. These and other issues will be discussed during the Seminar.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND TO  
MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS  
DISCUSSION ON AN ISSUE OF VITAL  
MARITIME IMPORTANCE.**

## **Kabin Notes**

(Some vital info from the nerve centre)

### **FOR SALE**

Club ties.... A good supply still available @ £8.00 each.  
Club bow ties (self tie style, what else??). These will soon be available @ £10.00 each. If you have pre-ordered, please call in at the Club or send your cheque payable to "The Cachalots". There will be plenty for those of you who have not already ordered but I think the supply could soon be taken up so don't delay.

Silver whales: a few are still available at the 1998 price of £15.50. When we re-order, the cost will inevitably be higher.

Cummerbunds: the initial supply has sold out but more will shortly be ordered. Cost is £20.00.

Salvers: a few remain at the (very) old price of £4.00.

Jumpers, jackets, T shirts & polo shirts: details of these were sent with the last Newsletter and are posted on the noticeboard in the Club-Room. There are many items of clothing available for order with the Club badge, other than those just mentioned, and a catalogue is available in the Club office. Requests may be left with me, Judith, and the Functions Officer, Gerry Cartwright, is able to obtain quotes for items other than those on the flier. In addition, if you have a favourite item of clothing, it is possible to have the Club badge embroidered thereon for approximately £5. If you are considering an order it is better to place it in the winter months when the makers are less busy. Orders placed in the summer season take much longer.

Please ensure you send an SAE if you wish items to be posted to you and remember that orders should be accompanied by payment, cheques payable to "The Cachalots", as ever.

### **250 Club**

Thanks to all those of you who have renewed your shares for this year and a "subtle" reminder to those who have not yet got round to doing so.... no pay, no prize.

Last year a large number of members joined in this fundraising bit of fun.

The idea is to raise money for the Club to avoid raising the annual subscription. This has been successful for quite some time.

You can join in by purchasing one or more shares at £5 per share. Each share is allocated a number which is entered in a monthly draw for a prize of £40 but in December this rises to £100 for the Christmas draw. I am not a good enough mathematician to calculate the odds but it is certainly better than the National Lottery or "Ernie". Recently, the editor of this Newsletter renewed his shareholding and won the next draw!! (No fix!! Ed.)

This is the only thing for the Club which I am allowed to run myself, so please don't let me down. Renew your shareholding or join in for the first time. Cheque to "The Cachalots" for £5 per share and I will ensure that you are entered in the next draw. I'd love to be sending you your prize money very soon!

N.B. If enough of you buy shares this year, I am pressing the Storekeeper to raise the monthly prize to £50.

### **Sea Pie Supper: The Aftermath!**

It was good to know that so many of you enjoyed the event this year and our thanks to you for telling the Club Officers of your stories of the evening.

While we are finally paying the last bills and recovering in the office, we have already begun preparations for next year. The Guildhall is booked and deposit paid. Never a dull moment in the portakabin. Tickets for 7th February 2003, go on sale on **Tuesday, 19th November**, (not 20th November as previously shown, Ed.), which, (oh, dear!) is only just over 8 months time!

If you find that you cannot after all use the tickets that you have bought, may we ask you PLEASE to return them to the office for re-issue and NOT to pass them to other members directly. I realise that you do this as it seems simpler but, in reality, it confuses our accounting system and makes seating planning a bit more of a problem than ever. In addition, it is a sad fact of the times that we have to know just who has which tickets for security reasons.

I'm sorry if I do sound like the "Headmistress" that I have been called (by the Boatsteerer!. Others have called me by other titles!)

Judith Peck

Don't forget; your Club is routinely open four days a week at lunch time. It serves sandwiches, snacks, salads or cooked meals. There is a cooked special each day and the price has recently only been £2.75. Don't forget that, when dining, a bottle of house wine can be bought for only £5 - a far cry from the usual hotel or restaurant prices. If you are in town at lunch time, Tuesday to Friday, Liz will be only too happy to serve you a drink and take your food orders.

Suggestions for events, for improvements, offers of help, articles and anecdotes for inclusion in this pamphlet will all be received with pleasure. We are even prepared to receive complaints if they are constructive.

The Club's address is:

The Southampton Master Mariners' Club,  
The Southampton Seafarers' Centre,  
2/3 Orchard Place,  
SOUTHAMPTON, SO14 3BR  
Tel/Fax: 023 8022 6155

E.mail: [cachalots@smmclub.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:cachalots@smmclub.fsnet.co.uk)

### **Dates for your Diary**

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|-----|--------|--|
| Mon | MAR 18 | Cricket Section AGM  |
| Fri | MAR 22 | Club Supper. Alan Mechen,<br>Restoration of ship's figureheads |
| Tue | APR 16 | Tidworth Musical Medley  |
| Sat | APR 27 | Wine tasting, buffet lunch                                     |
| Fri | MAY 17 | Curry Supper. General Knowledge<br>Quiz                        |
| Sat | JUN 1  | Club Supper at RAF Yacht Club                                  |
| Thu | JUN 20 | Shipping Festival, Winchester<br>Cathedral                     |
| Wed | JUN 26 | Watercress Line outing   |
| Fri | AUG 9  | Cowes Fireworks cruise, "Shieldhall"                           |
| Sat | SEP 21 | Curry Lunch  |
| Sat | OCT 26 | Autumn Ball.   |
| Tue | NOV 5  | Tidworth Last Night of the Proms                               |
| Sat | NOV 23 | Curry Lunch  |
| Wed | DEC 4  | Christmas Lunch  |
| Fri | DEC 13 | Christmas Dinner   |