

THE FUTURE OF YOUR CLUB.

When we left our clubroom in Royal Mail House we were extremely fortunate to find another large sole-use clubroom in Stella Maris, St. Michaels Square.

Since then, fortunate as we were to enjoy the hospitality of the British & International Sailors' Society, and currently, the Royal British Legion, the club has not enjoyed the advantages of a dedicated clubroom of a size to meet our needs or with the facilities our members expect.

NOW, the club has an opportunity to rent first floor premises – on a virtual sole-user basis – that will enable us ,once again, to display our pictures, books and memorabilia in spacious surroundings and with the “usual services” readily available. Subject to approval, we are determined to fit a stair lift.

Over the years your Officers have exercised due diligence in respect of the club's finances and, as a result, we have a bank balance that will enable us to meet the greatly increased annual costs of this rental for some time to come. However, unless we can increase our annual income and reduce our expenditure, it is a certainty that the club will not be able to continue in its desired format for more than five years. Raising the current subscription rates is an obvious remedy but this would penalise those members who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to enjoy the club's amenities on a regular basis and so, for the present, this option has been ruled “out”.

The “250 Club” was the brainchild of the late Captain “Robbie” Robertson and it has, over the years, made a modest but vital contribution to club funds.

How does it work? Simple.

Each numbered “share” costs £5.00 – the numbers are entered into a monthly draw and the lucky owner of the ticket drawn gets £40.00 (£100 in December).

Currently, the same few members contribute to the “250” Club and help to keep the subscription rates down and the club afloat.

We have a membership in excess of 400. If HALF of that number – say 200 – each bought four tickets for £20.00 that would contribute some £3460 net annually and would ensure our medium term survival. IF, more than half that number – say 300 – each bought six tickets for £30.00 – the future of your club is assured.

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DETACH AND RETURN TO:

- The Southampton Master Mariners' Club, c/o The Royal British Legion,
- Eastgate Street, Southampton SO14 3HB

Please find attached my cheque (payable to “The Cachalots”) for £. to purchase
..... shares in the “250 Club”.

I understand that this will help to meet the long-term increased costs of the new clubroom and facilities.

Name.....Date

NEW BERTH FOR THE CACHALOTS

We will always be grateful to The Royal British Legion for giving us a “home” when we left the B&ISS but the size of the room and the inability to fit a stair-lift dictated that we find alternative accommodation.

We have now entered into a contractual agreement with The Southampton Seafarers’ Centre to rent their entire first floor area and it is probable that we will move to these new premises in June 2006.

These are palatial by comparison with anything we have enjoyed in recent years but –understandably – the annual cost is a great deal more. We will be paying increased rent, rates, gas and water charges.

Fortunately, over the years the Club has prepared for this eventuality and our modest reserves will carry us through the first years of this expensive transformation which, will, we hope, result in increased membership and a commensurately greater income.

Our contract allows for a revision after five years and we will, by that time, know with certainty if we have to revert to a more modest lifestyle!

Economies are essential. Initially, the Club Room will be available on TWO DAYS A WEEK – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ONLY but we may, if demand increases consider an extension of opening days. *HOWEVER, the Southampton Seafarers’ Centre will extend a warm welcome to any Club members, wives and friends wishing to use the comfortable and welcoming lounge and bar facilities on any (other) day of the week.*

Access to the first floor CLUBROOM will be via a doorway from inside the Centre and, subject to the approval of Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service, we intend to fit a stair-lift. The Centre offers an attractive menu and we hope to have a well-stocked bar. Parking is not quite as convenient as hitherto but there ARE ample parking facilities within easy reach. A little reconnaissance work will soon show you where they are.

We hope that this move will allow the Club to regain some of the ambience of former years and that we will, once again, be able to display our unique collection of trophies and books for the greater enjoyment of Club members and their guests.

YOUR SUPPORT is essential; without that the Club will not be able to carry on.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND A PLAN OF THE NEW PREMISES CAN BE INSPECTED IN THE CLUB.