



PAUL RICHARD DAVIES

Paul Davies, who passed away peacefully on 13th February at the age of 68, served his apprenticeship with Shell Tankers, during which time he joined the Royal Naval Reserve. On gaining his Second Mate's certificate he moved to the RFA, and, in 1966 joined the world's first Maritime Studies Degree at Plymouth School of Maritime Studies (now part of the University) graduating in 1971 and majoring in Navigation and Hydrographic Surveying. In 1973 he left the RFA as a Senior Second Officer and came ashore, joining Vickers on various nautical projects, before, in 1978 setting up his own consulting company, Lumburn Consultants Ltd, which remained active until January this year.

In parallel with his commercial career, Paul was an active and enthusiastic member of the Royal Naval Reserve. During his early years he served on a number of ships, particularly the survey ships, where he achieved high RN qualifications in hydrographic surveying. This was to serve him well when he came ashore in his consulting role to the submarine pipelines and cable industries. However, he remained active, rising in rank to Commander and from 1987 to 1998 served as Senior Naval Officer on merchant vessels chartered for the various naval exercises in the Atlantic and the amphibious exercises off Norway. He transferred to the Retired List in 1998.

Both for business and pleasure, Paul became proficient in computers, and was involved with CData Services, who host the Club's website and e-mail services and which is owned by Cachalot Clive Robinson, an old University friend. Despite living in Stratford upon Avon, Paul had joined the Cachalots. When the Club moved to its present premises and wanted to set up its own website, CData offered to host the website and Paul was the main designer. He was an keen attendee at Sea Pie Suppers, and despite his distance from Southampton was always willing to assist in any way he could, particularly with website advice.

Paul was an enthusiastic supporter of the Stratford branch of the Sea Cadets and until he became too ill could be found driving their RIB on the Avon. He used the Club as a contact several years ago to get our Stowaway, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, to take the salute at their annual parade. (*See Cachalot 26*)

Paul's other great passion was sailing. He owned a number of boats during his life and during his last years was often to be found on the Solent with friends and family in his Fisher 34 "Lutra".

In 2003 he was diagnosed with leukaemia and given seven years to live, and in the last year was very pleased to have got past the prediction. He leaves behind two daughters, four grandsons, and many very good friends who will deeply miss him.

Barry Peck and Clive Robinson