

## Gone Aloft



**Brian Michael O'Connor**

*12<sup>th</sup> April 1927 - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017*

Brian O'Connor, who was the Club's Senior Past Captain, was born in South Africa and, in 1943, at the age of 16, commenced his seafaring Cadetship with Mitchell Cotts, serving with them until 1950 when he joined Standard-Vacuum Tankers. He soon tired of "tanker life" and, in 1951 joined Union-Castle as a Fourth Officer and remained with them throughout his seagoing career and beyond.

In 1964, having attained the rank of Chief Officer, Brian was appointed Assistant Cargo Superintendent, Southampton, and within a few years was promoted to Cargo Manager, a post he held until the demise of the Union-Castle mail service in 1977. Thereafter, he served as Marine Superintendent for the London based Newgate Shipping Co. And finally as a Shipping Advisor to the Government of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

He became a Cachalot in 1964 and after service on various committees - the meetings invariably "enlivened" by Brian's contributions - he was appointed Staff Captain in 1972 and Club Captain a year later.

Brian "Went Aloft" in his 91<sup>st</sup> year but, as Abraham Lincoln said, "At the end, it is not the YEARS in the life that count, but the LIFE in the year" - and on that score, Brian did rather well.

*It was standing room only in the West Chapel at Southampton Crematorium for the funeral Service held on the 29th June, which was led by Rev'd Bill McCrea. Remembrances continued back at the Club room, which was also packed.*