

**Rosalyn Mortimer**, who went aloft just before Christmas 2017, was Crew Manager at BT (Marine) for five years as well as managing agency crew for Global Marine, P&O Ferries, Portsmouth, and BP Coastal Tanker Fleet. She had a total of 22 years working with marine staff when she became a Cachalot in 2011.

Paul Moodie writes:

Ros first appeared on our horizons when she joined BT Marine in the personnel department and was selected for the Deck side. As was the case in those days, there was a considerable swapping of experience and expertise, particularly on the "change over days", where crews for all the ships generally went on, and returned from, leave on the same day. This was a more complicated task than "bodies in slots", since specialist skills needed to be sent to specific ships. This was a task that Ros excelled in, using her inimitable skills of blackmail, bribery and coercion; flattery, good humour and returned favours were also in her not inconsiderable armoury. Her skills, and compassion led to Ros being selected as the Cadet Dedicated Personnel Officer. It is difficult to quantify or understate Ros' ability in this post. Her proteges held her in great affection, demonstrated by the number of "her" boys who maintained life-long contact with Ros, even after moving on from BT. She was a de-facto mother, confidant and in one or two cases, marriage counsellor to them. After re-construction at BT, Ros moved to Sealife, a Southampton crewing agent, where coincidentally she became (amongst other things) responsible for supplying deck crew to the BT ships, a task that she revelled in, often using her friendships from BT to her advantage.

Ros was a passionate supporter of Southampton Football club, attending Home and Away fixtures. She served at both the Dell and the St Mary's stadia as a Steward assisting the disabled supporters. Such were her abilities in this role that she was actively involved in the club with designing the disabled facilities in the new St Mary's grounds.

With her love of the sea she became a Cachalot of the SMM and regularly attended the Sea Pie Supper. She loved cruising round the Med with her family whenever funds and health permitted. Sadly, it was on her last voyage that Ros fell ill and never recovered. Her last year was not pleasant as her health failed and she spent more and more time in hospital. Ros died shortly before Christmas 2017. She has left an indelible memory of humour, compassion and friendship.