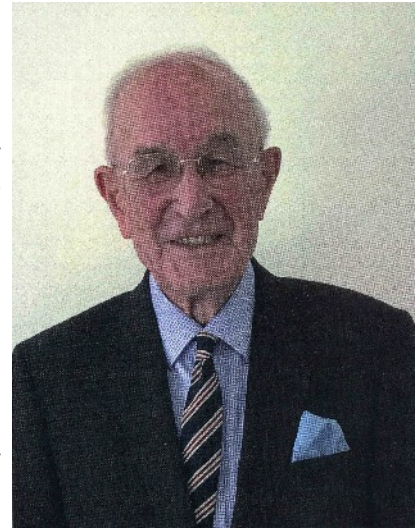


## Gone Aloft

### **Captain Richard Olden 1928-2021**

Richard received his pre-sea training at The Nautical College, Pangbourne prior to joining the Clan Line in 1946. He obtained his Second Mates in 1949 and in 1950, tired of long voyages, he joined Union-Castle. In 1955, after studying at Warsash, Richard became a Master Mariner and was appointed Second Officer of "Capetown Castle". A year later Union-Castle and Clan Line amalgamated and became British & Commonwealth Shipping Company ("B&C"). His first Union-Castle mailship appointment was "Capetown Castle" and it was there that he met, and subsequently married, Jane Woolley who was the Children's Hostess. Jane bore him four lovely daughters but, sadly two pre-deceased him. Richard moved quickly through the Watchkeeping ranks from cargo vessel to passenger mailship but in mid 1965 he was appointed Chief Officer of the cargo mailship "Good Hope Castle" under construction at Swan Hunter's yard on Wallsend. He sailed out as Chief Officer and a year later returned to the Passenger mailship as Staff Commander "Windsor Castle" where he served for some two years before being promoted to Master in December 1969. He served in "Rustenburg Castle" and "Elizabeth Bowater" before returning to a series of Clan line vessels. Early 1975 saw an appointment as Assistant Marine Superintendent in Southampton but in November 1977 he returned to seafaring commands in Clan vessels.



Richard's next B&C appointment was in Tanzania to investigate (on behalf of five UK based companies) why ships were delayed for so long in Dar-Es-Salaam. The job was expected to last some four months but actually ran for some four and a half YEARS ! Now, B&C was diminishing by the month, ships were being sold and redundancies commonplace so it came as little surprise to Richard to be "offered" redundancy. It was then that he applied to be a "Name" at Lloyd's and after two interviews he was accepted. In 1983 he agreed to relieve a friend as Master of a small cattle-carrying vessel on the East Coast of Africa. Later that year he joined Murray Fenton and Associates as a Surveyor

Richard was, inter alia, a Younger Brother of Trinity House, a member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a Nautical Assessor in the Admiralty High Court.

Jane pre-deceased Richard - to the day - by three years. Earlier this year he was diagnosed with dementia and despite loving and extremely professional care in a Care Home he died on 23.9.21.....three days short of his 93rd. Birthday. To Sara, Nicola and their family members we send our love and deepest sympathy.

An Officer and a Gentleman - he will be missed by very many.

CRK 25.9.21

*Richard wrote several articles for The Cachalot, including: Shark-fishing in East Africa, MV Bonsella & My First Ship*  
*He also wrote his own memoirs "From Cadet to Marine Consultant - A Past Era in Shipping" some copies of which may become available in the Club.*