



**Easter Cruise to St
Katharine's Yacht
Haven**



***Easter Cruise
to St Katherine's Yacht Haven
Friday 10th April to Monday 13th April***
Friday 10th – LW Sheerness 08.03; HW London Bridge 15.26
Monday 13th – HW London Bridge 04.44; LW Sheerness 09.48

Tides out are ideal for the outward trip.

The Harbour Master at St Katharine's has agreed to work out an early lock-out for us on the return journey as the lock is not scheduled to open before 06.00.

Some boats will be going up on Thursday.

We have reserved 10 berths but are hoping to have to increase that number substantially!

Club meal to be arranged for the Saturday evening.

This cruise will be led by Marilyn Campbell.

Please contact her for any further information and to book a place

Tel: 01634 735489 / 07713 612959

Email: manywish@sky.com

From the Front

Cliff Howell By now you will all have received, I hope, your Yearbook for 2009 with the smart new cover. Our thanks go to Sylvia Adshead and her son, who printed it, for this good looking edition. If you're not in it, it's because you paid late! Inside you will have found the '2009 Programme of Events' so no excuses for not knowing what's on. However, just to remind you that the cruise to St Katherine's Dock is soon to take place and if you intend going let Marilyn Campbell know your intentions so your place is secure. I see from the notice board that several members have already booked their place. Also note that the 'Fitting Out Supper' is likely to be well attended and will be limited in numbers so be sure to book your place early.

Thank you to Catherine Jones for her Round the World story. The Medway must seem very tame by comparison but there are more things to hit I think. It's a shame Paul Smith could not be at the Confessional evening as I suspect he may have something to say and it was his idea! Thanks Paul. Thanks also to Ian Tredwen for handing round the Stones (you will know what I mean if you were there).

Thanks to Fiona and Julian for an excellent quiz night with questions which seemed out of the ordinary. Probably why I managed to answer so few!

Of course, I must also thank Jackie and Paul for organising the Friday night events not forgetting the New Members evening buffet. Paul Davies recently ran a CEVNI certificate evening at the Club where about 9 or so members showed sufficient competence to pass the test. Thanks to Paul for this valuable service to the Club.

As I write we are nearly ready to launch and look forward to what I hope will be a better year. I wish you all a good season and hope to see many of you at the Fitting Out Supper and on cruises.

Mooring Master's email address

Please note Ken and Christine Smith's new email address is:-

Galatea27@btinternet.com

Bubbles!

J-P

Both my main steering compass and my favourite hand-bearing compass had acquired annoying bubbles and I decided this winter was the time to do something about it.

The first thing I did was to ask as many people as possible if they have had the same problem and what they did about it, but apart from the usual anecdotes about people topping them up with gin I didn't get much information. The main steering compass didn't even have a refilling hole and it was making ominous clonking noises when tilted so really needed professional attention.

The next step was to look on the web where I found dire warnings about tinkering about with old compasses because of the amount of radium used on the dials. I wasn't even sure how old mine are but as the company that made one ceased trading in the 1960s, I decided not to take any chances and sent some pictures of the two to a likely looking company on the internet.

I got a very prompt reply saying that the two could be refilled and the large compass repaired for a total of £48.

I was amazed, as the cost to get anyone to look at a piece of electronic equipment is more than that, let alone getting it repaired. So I packed them up in lots of bubble wrap and posted them off. Within a few days they were returned with the counterbalance weight on the steering compass having been re-secured and new bearings fitted to the gimbals (they even sent back the crumbling remains of the old bearings for me to inspect). Both compasses are beautifully bubble free and I am absolutely delighted.

The company that did the work is B.P.S.C. Marine, Unit 4, Park Business Centre, Park Road, Southampton, SO15 3US.

Telephone (023) 8023 0045.

Fax (023) 8063 5216

info@bpsc-marine.co.uk

Fitting Out Supper



Saturday 25th April

It seems like only yesterday it was the Laying-Up Supper – now we're all ready – fitted out – can't wait to get sailing!

To book YOUR place at the Fitting-Out Supper contact Jackie and Paul at 01634 711971 or paulupnorsmith@btinternet.com

(Please note this is the correct email address for Paul and Jackie – the address in the Members Handbook is incorrect)

More Funnies!

Ian Tredwen

These cartoons were penned by Allen Knight. He was a past member of USC and accompanied Robin Pharaoh and myself on a trip to Dunquerque with 'Soloist' in 1994. It was quite a lively and arduous voyage as could be imagined with us 'likely lads'.



The caption reads, '**As a wise skipper, Ian knew a few simple modifications would encourage Robin to spend more time on deck.**'



This caption reads, '**Are you ready to order dessert now, Monsieur?**'

(Apologies for the quality of the pictures – it was the best I could do on the scanner! – Editor)

And finally.....

Q How do you define optimism?

A. A banker who irons five shirts on a Sunday.

Latest news: The Isle of Dogs bank has collapsed. They've called in the retrievers.

As always, copy for the next issue to Sue Lucas (Editor) by 12th April 01986 798000

suejucas@btinternet.com