



Club Newsletter

April 2015

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FROM THE COMMODORE

Helen and I have just returned from our apartment in Tenerife and, apart from going back in July for a fishing competition we are back for the summer. I'm at a loose end really as Sunday mornings usually consist of going to the Marina and 'working' on Fastflow. What actually happened was that a few of us would be drinking coffee and talking until it was time for lunch.

There has been a deafening silence from you all over my replacement. I do hope one of you will offer your services. It really is easy.

The 2015 Rally

Sad to say that the rally will not be going ahead this year as we can't get enough numbers together. One or two of you have indicated that you will be passing through Plymouth over the summer and I'll be happy to help you find some of the more interesting anchorages.

The Cripple Cruisers and Hopalong Holidaymakers.

Four weeks in, the good ship NIBBY is afloat unscathed and has made some wonderful passages in gorgeous weather and sea conditions. Tonight, June 20th, we arrived in Concarneau after what I reckon was one of the best trips I've ever had on a boat.

70 NM from Brest under cloudless skies and a really quite benevolent Raz du Sein with a quartering sea and the inevitable Aquastar roly poly was slightly marred by light mist which made photography difficult. The 260s purred away and all the troubles we had with water in the port tank were forgotten.

This all happened on the trip from Portrieux to Lezardrieux leaving with a forecast of Force 2nw we ran into a storm with winds gusting seven to eight which came up from the west in fifteen minutes. The sea became very rough and we were shipping big green ones right over the flybridge where I sat soaked for two hours not able to get down as we were bucking around. Nibby was having a great time!

As we eventually got into the lea of the land port engine died and what we think happened was the seas running down the deck on the port side found their way in through the tank breather.

Dave took out 60 litres of contaminated fuel and drained the filters. The mixture is still not 100 per cent so we stop every hour and drain primary but Hedda the port engine, named after my Westie alas no more, has run as sweet as a nut. Abby, named after my Scottie, on starboard is fine.

We left Plymouth and spent two days in Alderney and then down the Alderney race to Guernsey and tanked at 68.5pence a litre. But any gain was wiped out by the chart plotter packing up. So a new one was fitted. Expensive three days!

A great trip to St Malo followed as we dodged the Condor ferries. Whilst the town is fascinating the marina is just not up to it. We tried to contact Customs or border control but they were shut for the weekend so arrived at their HQ 15 mins before early closing on Monday and reported our presence in our best Franglais only to be stared at vacantly by three officials who really could not have cared a jot as to whether we were there or what we were doing. Forget quarantine flags.

A pleasant run to the big marina at Portrieux, beautifully appointed but beware the Spa shop in the town. A most unpleasant experience.

We stayed for a week at Lezardrieux with the fuel problem and no weather window. We got to know the locals well but the toilets were of the old hole in the ground and to me reminiscent of the Dam Busters run ins at the Moehne dam!

It's a beautiful river and the early morning runout was terrific and littered with terrifying rocks with some quite vicious currents. Down to Roscoff just behind the Brittany ferry from Plymouth Again a great marina but the town is a good 20 mins walk.

Left for Brest through the narrow channel off the Isle de Batz and straight down the Chenal du Four and then the long haul into Brest. We both liked it there and in spite of it being a naval port it is scenic well kept and they have four sailing schools for the school kids all of which is part of the curriculum. Canoes, lasers ,hoby cats by the score and it was great fun watching the flotillas. The Marina is well kept and there are some good restaurants by the pontoons.

The French have been very friendly and provided you smile and try to converse in their language the Gallic shrugs disappear. Nibby is very much admired especially by the French yachties which is quite strange.

Having spent the last year shopping at Lidl we find the supermarkets quite expensive and all the sea food I was going to gorge is not apparent and what there is, looks un peu tired.

We have decided to accelerate our programme and have booked November to February in Portimao S. Portugal where we will give Nibby a winter overhaul.

We are simply having a terrific time thanks to our Aquadarling! And to think I once said I would never wanted to own one. Silly man!

Mike Godwin

Membership News

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the club:

Jane Moss and family – 33 Aft Cabin – Water Bear

As usual I have attached an up to date membership list. Please check your own entry and let me have any amendments or corrections, particularly if you can update me on the year you joined.

Regalia



We have some very good quality club ties and these are available by post. Design is shown and the logo is woven into a dark blue tie and is very smart. Price is £15.

Burgees are still available at £15 for the small ones and £20 for the larger ones. These are also well made, sewn and come with the toggle and braid for attachment to your boat.

PAYMENTS TO THE CLUB

Payments made electronically are convenient, much appreciated and keep our costs down. Please add a note to any payment confirming what it relates to (e.g. burgee, tie, subscription etc.).

Name of Account: The Aquastar Club;
Sort Code: 20-68-10;
Account Number: 43945057.

ARE WE ADDRESSING YOU CORRECTLY?

Email is our preferred means of contacting you, it significantly reduces our costs and minimises the work required of your lazy Commodore to put the newsletter together and to provide attachments and it saves trees! So if you've received this newsletter through the post it means that **we don't have your up to date email address**. If that is the case we would be grateful if you would kindly let us have it (send it by email!).

Yours Aye

Tony

Data Protection Act 1998

We hold information on our members in electronic form in compliance with the Data Protection Act for the purpose of running the club. To help us comply please check your details and let us know of any errors or changes required (including if you wish to be deleted from the register of members). Information we hold is shared with other members of the club but will not be disclosed to parties outside the club except with the express permission of members affected.