

CONTACT US

Tony & Helen Giblett Phone : 01752 222789
74 Durnford Street Mobile: 07793 939954
Plymouth
PL1 3 QW

e-mail: tony@giblett.co.uk

MY Fastflow, Berth B36, Mayflower Marina, Plymouth.

FROM THE COMMODORE

What a miserable winter! Although I have to confess Helen and I have not seen too much of it as we have been hiding away in Tenerife. We got back in late March to cold weather and it has taken a week or two to acclimatise. No wonder you've heard nothing from us until now!

Anyway we have Fastflow lifted out for her spring service, antifoul and polish and she goes back in late April. Before she came out I had a local canvas company make some extensions to the sprayhood to enclose the aft deck. These were very successful and the 3 panels zip out very easily or can be left in place if the weather is bad. I'd show you a picture but I took the boat out in windy conditions the other day having first rolled up the side covers and put them on the back seats. You've guessed it one of them blew off into the river Tamar. I got back to it but just as I got a boat hook on it, down it went. They are making me another side panel as I write this. Helen says I shouldn't be allowed out on my own.

Don't forget the risks from the fuel bug. After having my tanks cleaned at the works in 2011 I have continued to treat my fuel with a biocide. I am using Grotamar 71 which was tested and recommended by Practical boat owner back in 2007 and by David Norman of M&G in Guernsey (club member and owner of Marauder) but this has been superseded by Grotamar 82 which is effective with biodiesel. I know that David can supply both detailed advice and the product.



When we bought Fastflow in 2006 we had the deep sea seals replaced as recommended by the manufacturer. A couple of years ago we had a bilge pump alarm fitted. The reason I'm telling you this is that once we had the alarm we kept hearing it at sea. It turns out that the thrust from the propellers was moving the engines forward a couple of millimeters and the bellows on the seals were not accommodating this. We have now replaced the seals with 'Tidesmarine' seals (the same ones that the yard fits) which run on the shafts and can deal with lateral movement. They have been on for a season now and have proved totally reliable.

The next job on the boat is to install LED lighting as we find our batteries running low when anchored because of the current drawn by the existing halogen lights. Chris Metcalfe at E C Smith has been most helpful and recommended LED bulbs which are a direct replacement for the existing fittings in our boat (part No. 21987) which will cut power consumption to one tenth.

Our plans this year are to attend the Fowey Festival (of words and music) from the 8th of May followed by a channel crossing to Guernsey a week later. We plan to then cross to Honfleur before a passage up the Seine to Paris, returning to Plymouth mid June. Man makes plans and God laughs!

The 2013 Rally – A West Country cruise.

We already have had sufficient interest in the 2013 rally to confirm that it will go ahead between the 10th and 17th of August. We will be meeting in Dartmouth and are planning a cruise to the west taking in Salcombe, Plymouth, Fowey and possibly Falmouth with other places between. So long as the weather is reasonable

this is easy cruising with no overfalls or strong tides to deal with and straightforward entrances to harbours. Mark Fishwick's book, 'Westcountry Cruising' covers everything you need and is the local cruising bible.

Have a look at the attached draft programme and let me have any comments or suggestions. I'm particularly interested if people would prefer to end the rally in Falmouth or Fowey so I can organise somewhere for our final supper.

Many of the boats which joined us last year are planning to return so we are assured of some delightful and amusing company. If you would like to join us please complete the attached attendees list with your details and email it back to me. August is a busy time, particularly in Dartmouth, and I am already pleading with the harbourmaster for spaces. I need to confirm numbers with him as soon as possible so do it now!

News from the Yard

Aquastar Pilot Boat News

The Maltese pilots have been operating an Aquastar 33' pilot boat for 22 years and an Aquastar 38' pilot boat for 17 years, both Aquastar craft are still in good service. A couple of years ago they added an "Interceptor" craft to their fleet. After 2 years evaluation the Interceptor "pilot boat" was found to use an extra £25,000.00 worth of fuel per annum to run, compared to the Aquastar.

Not surprisingly the Maltese pilots have ordered another new Aquastar pilot boat for delivery in 2013. Testimony to the Aquastar design being extra fuel efficient, sound construction and great seaworthiness.

Also the new Aquastar 49' is well underway and will be ready to show at the Southampton Boat Show. We will be showing the New 42' Panoramic at the Jersey Boat Show on the 4 - 6 May.

Membership News

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

Alan & Celia Devine, Ocean Ranger 118, *October Star*.
Simon & Jos Craven-Wilkinson, 38, *Name to be advised*.
Steve & Meg Kelly, Ocean Ranger 33, *Iolaire*.
Colin & Victoria Lister, Searanger 38, *Tringa Three*.

As usual I have attached an up to date membership list. Please check your own entry and let me have any amendments. I'm always happy to include articles from members in the newsletter. If you have anything of interest please do let me have it.

Regalia

If your tired burgee needs replacing I've had some more made. Send me a cheque (payable to the Aquastar Club) for £15 for the small ones and £20 for the larger ones. We can also let you have an Aquastar tie for £5 (you will need one for the rally!).

Yours Aye

Tony

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!).

Data Protection Act

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.