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MY Fastflow, Berth B36, Mayflower Marina, Plymouth.

FROM THE COMMODORE

It's been a busy year on the water, thanks largely to the good summer we've enjoyed. For Helen and me being retired and being boat owners is a perfect combination. Maybe being an owner but not yet retired is almost as good but I can't imagine life without a boat. It's been good to see so many of you this year either in various anchorages and marinas, on the rally or at the Southampton show.

We are lifting Fastflow out for the winter this year. The first time she has been out for any length of time since we bought her 7 years ago. The list of winter jobs keeps growing and whilst we were in Fowey earlier this year I bought a beer mat that gives food for thought. It was inscribed:

'Nothing works on an old boat – Except the Skipper'

Enjoy, or at least make the best of the winter. We are going to be at our winter retreat in Tenerife for much of it but will be back to get the boat organised and sorted out for another year's cruising when I hope to see as many of you as possible.

The 2013 Aquastar Rally



Picture by Alice Crick

I think we can safely describe the rally as a success and this year the weather was generally kind to us. We met up on the Friday and Saturday at Dartmouth where the Harbour Authority staff were excellent and had reserved us space on the pontoons together and gave us discounted mooring rates. We enjoyed a trip up

the river to the pub at Dittisham for lunch followed by an excellent supper as guests of the Dartmouth Yacht Club and their Vice Commodore, Mike Roach (who is a member and owns a 38, Vita).

Salcombe Harbour were equally accommodating and reserved us a pontoon which was the location of our first pontoon party, organised by Ray and Mo Grimwood and their crew. The party went well apart from the wine tasting event during which your Commodore found himself tasting the latest in Cotes de Seawater! The perpetrator will wish to know that I neither forgive nor forget and his comeuppance will follow!

The following morning saw us up river to Kingsbridge to meet members David and Pat Rowden (owners of Prism Legend) at their lovely holiday apartment 'The Moorings' for coffee. Salcombe town was enjoyable and I'm sure we provided plenty of entertainment as we picked our way through the myriad of sailing dinghies on the way in and out.

The 20 mile run to Plymouth was again in good conditions and we were met by the staff at Mayflower Marina who made us very welcome despite the fact that the marina was heaving due to another rally there also. Charles Bush, the MD kindly provided half price berthing for us.

In the afternoon we were taken on a walking tour of the historic Stonehouse area of Plymouth by Ron Smith, a local historian who provided quite an insight into life in previous centuries. Supper in Jolly Jacks restaurant on the marina was followed by a trip out into the sound that evening to watch the British Fireworks Championship whilst sitting at anchor. A packed day followed by some well earned sleep.

The following day some of us went cycling, others shopping and sightseeing. We all met in the evening for a barbecue and again the staff at Mayflower excelled and provided the barbecue, the gas and a nice area with tables and seats for us. A small quantity of wine was quaffed amongst excellent company with serious discussion on the merits of the various Aquastar models which came to no particular conclusions.....

Strong winds on Thursday did not prevent the river trip to Cothele on the tide. However with the winds and currents the holding was not particularly good so after about an hour we set off back down river and onto the River Lynher, scraping the mud and into Dandy Hole which is a tranquil anchorage which everyone seemed to like. We spent the night here and the crew of Patience liked it so much they spent most of the next day there as well. The rest of us set off back down river and anchored off Cawsand Beach where we dinghied ashore in brilliant sunshine to the pub for lunch.



The weather played its hand next and with wind and rain forecast we abandoned the Fowey leg and stuck to Plymouth. People did their own thing on Friday and Ingvar and Anna took to repairing their electronics on board Perroquet. On Saturday the judging for the best kept Aquastar took place. I was fortunate and able to recruit one of the best boat surveyors in Plymouth who made time from his busy schedule at the fish quay to do the judging. Mr Smith arrived with his tools (in a bucket) which included a 5lb lump hammer and a half empty gin bottle along with an assortment of tools. Some of the members thought he was a little harsh with his comments ('you didn't bother to clean it then, a couple of cheap Volvos under here, where's the bog?') but I'm sure they were glad to get such an expert eye looking over their boats and they probably forgave him the holes in his socks and the distinct aroma of fish.

The prizegiving was held at a dinner in Jolly Jacks that evening. There had been a lot of effort put into fishing at various places so an award was made. The crew of Gallant Lady were successful in landing a variety of specimens but since most of these would have got us into trouble with the Fisheries Protection Agency the prize went to Alice Crick (for drive and determination!). The best kept Aquastar award went to Patience of Chichester and whilst this award was being made Mr Smith joined us from the bar. It was then that everyone realised that they had been spoofed as 'Mr Smith' was in fact a yachtsman pal of mine who had really enjoyed playing the part! Everyone attending received an engraved whisky tumbler (to go with last year's) and the group very kindly presented me with some beautiful framed photographs (taken by Alice during the rally) to remind me to do better next year!

Talking of next year we need to think of what to do (if anything). There was talk of a London rally but I wonder if there would be enough takers. The Channel Islands and northern Brittany is another option along

with Ireland or even the Westcountry again. Someone mentioned the Solent and having recently had a very warm welcome in Yarmouth harbour (watch the spring tides here!) I could be persuaded. Those of us in the west could meet up in Weymouth, another favourite of mine.

I need to know firstly if you would like us to hold a rally next August and if you are likely to attend. Secondly I need you to let me have your views on where we should go. If there is demand I will organise something around where the majority of you would like to go. So get back to me soon and let me know.

News from the Yard

The Maltese pilot Authority have spent a couple of days at the works looking over their new boat which really looks the business. They were very pleased with the way the boat has turned out and will be taking delivery in the next few weeks.

The new 55 is now under construction. This is the fourth Aquastar this customer has bought and we were pleased to welcome him to show where further details and preferences were discussed and incorporated. The 42 is now well underway and again the detail for this has been refined so the boat will be exactly as the owner wants. This really is what ordering a new Aquastar is about, having exactly the boat you want.

If anyone is interested there is a 38' in St Lucia, aft cockpit and flybridge going for offers, could make for interesting holidays!

The Southampton Boat Show

Geoff, Helen, Alice Crick, Will Jones and I spent the show showing visitors over the new 49 along with the 42 which had its debut last year. On our arrival at Southampton with the 2 boats we met up with Jack Haines from Motor Boat and Yachting who took the 49 for a test. You can see his video report at <https://www.mby.com/galleries/videos/535349/aquastar-49>. To say he was impressed would be understatement. He described the boat as 'solid, soft riding and feels like it will go through anything'.

Overall at the show both boats were very well received and interest was very high with quite a number of people making arrangements to sea trial the boats after the show. In addition there was a great deal of



interest in brokerage boats (particularly 38s) with many viewings actually arranged during the show.

It was good to see so many friends and members throughout the show and hear from them how their season had been going. I gained particular pleasure from meeting our newer members and perhaps giving them an insight into the way the club operates. I can only apologise for how little time sometimes we could spend with members but you would have noted just how busy the boats were with interested visitors. The reception for Club Members on the Saturday was really enjoyable. Special thanks to Alice and Will who worked so hard for the full 10 days of the show.

Membership News

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

Ian and Jo Taylor, Ocean Ranger 33, Sansu d'Or
Bob & Jackie Stevenson, 38 Aft Cabin, Arabesque

As usual I have attached an up to date membership list. Please check your own entry and let me have any amendments or corrections.

Regalia

If your tired burgee needs replacing send me a cheque (payable to the Aquastar Club) for £15 for the small ones and £20 for the larger ones.

Your Say

Several of you whom I have spoken to recently have told me of interesting trips or interesting work or changes to your boats. I've also heard from some who are intending buying a second hand Aquastar. The trouble is we fail to pass on our experiences so here is your chance. Have a think about issues you've solved, places you've been, scrapes you've got into (it can't just be me) and let me have something for the newsletter. I would love to hear from you.

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 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.