



# Club Newsletter

October 2012

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**MY Fastflow**, Berth B36, Mayflower Marina, Plymouth.

## FROM THE COMMODORE

### The 2012 Rally

A total of 11 boats, which ranged from 33s to 47s met up in St Peter Port. The weather was kind and our first event on Saturday the 18th of August was a splendid supper at the Guernsey Yacht Club. Everyone soon got to know each other whilst drinking wine kindly provided by David Norman of M&G services, the owner of Marauder.

The following day saw fog clearing before we set off for Fermain Bay for lunch. Some walked and the rest of us took tenders, accompanied by Richard and Pauline Tostevin in their Aquastar 33. After a good lunch at the Beach Cafe Richard took a number of us on a low water cruise around the coast. We were passing between many of the rocks and the mainland! Richard makes his living from harvesting abalones (Guernsey ormers) so we were relieved that he knew these waters very well but it didn't stop us calling him 'Rockhopper' for the rest of the rally! The day finished with us having to push and carry the tenders down to the low water mark. My heavy Avon and 10hp engine did not improve my popularity. We returned to St Peter Port as fog descended.

Monday saw us off early (the troublesome fog had lifted) on the 26NM passage to St Helier. The very helpful marina staff had requested some boats to move so they could fit us all in together so we were especially grateful. That evening we attended a Vin d'Honneur at the Jersey Yacht Club hosted by their Commodore, Colin Taylor before enjoying a splendid supper. We presented an Aquastar burgee to the club and were very pleased to receive one of theirs in return.

After a second night in St Helier we set off for Dixcart Bay on Sark with the intention of anchoring for lunch. Wind over tide on the west coast of Jersey made for a bouncy trip and the promised westerlies were more to the south so the roly anchorage was abandoned in favour of St Peter Port. That evening, David and Jad Jobson, the owners of Gwiazda, invited us aboard their 38 for drinks, your Commodore struggled to remember this event the following day! The pattern was repeated on other boats several times during the rally making the evenings a most sociable (and crowded) affair. One of the most memorable was the party on 'Aqua-Nib' which was actually a Princess 25. Mike and Dave (soon christened 'the odd couple') heard about the rally and got in from Plymouth under the radar!

Thursday saw us at the West Show and the Battle of the Flowers. John and Anne LeMasurier (Kaan) kindly rented a mini bus so we had transport to the show and for the next 2 days. The show lived up to its reputation with superb creations made from flowers as they paraded the show ring. This was a typical old fashioned country fair with farm animals, rabbits, birds etc on display along with wonderful selections of flowers and vegetables. Of course no fair would be complete without a beer tent and you will be relieved to hear that we found it.

On Friday morning we visited the Aquastar works (in our mini bus) where we were shown over the new 42 Panoramic which was being prepared for the Southampton Show. The boat surprised and pleased many with its bang up to date looks and brilliant views from its windows. But underneath it remains the sturdy Aquastar that we know.

We went on for lunch at Le Petit Bistro in the town who served all 25 of us with magnificent food (it's a favourite of ours every time we go to Guernsey). In the afternoon we held our 'prix d'Honneur' which was judged by Geoff Willson.

In the evening we were taken on a tour of Castle Cornet by one of the States' official guides (Dave) who kept us entertained with some of the more gory tales of burnings at the stake and defence tactics. We were then welcomed at a vin d'Honneur by Mike O'Hara the Culture and Leisure Minister for the States of Guernsey along with Captain Peter Gill the Harbourmaster. Mr O'Hara was presented with an Aquastar tie and a burgee.

Finally came the prize giving.

The oldest boat - *Abalone*, Richard and Pauline Tostevin (1980);

The furthest distance travelled - *Gwiazda*, David and Jad Jobson (281NM);

The best overall condition (for age) - *Perroquet*, Ingvar and Anna Svenson (1991 33 Aft Cockpit);

The Rockhopper special award - Richard and Pauline Tostevin.

Engraved tumblers were awarded to each of the boats attending. I was particularly touched (and surprised) to be presented with a copy of Chris Andrews' book on Guernsey which had been signed by the crews of each of the attending boats.

It was blowing a hooley on Saturday but we managed to get a look around the Guernsey life boat with its Coxswain, Buz White. The 1994 Severn class boat has seen distinguished service and is kept in first class condition.

That evening the final party was held aboard our boat, Fastflow with 19 people attending! I'm sure the rally gave us all something to remember, whether it was lunching on fresh lobster from the fish market on board or sailing Richard and Pauline's model yachts on the yacht pond. We had a great group who joined in the event with tremendous enthusiasm and humour. I wonder if we can pull it off again!



**Lunch at Le Petit Bistro**



**Some of the fleet in Jersey**

## The 2013 Rally

Having canvassed opinion amongst the attendees at this year's rally we thought we might hold a West Country cruise next year. One or two of you have also suggested an Irish cruise which I would like (having enjoyed my lifeboat deliveries to a number of RNLi stations in Ireland). I think it would be a good destination for another year (2014?).

First thoughts for next year are as follows:

Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

Meet in Dartmouth on or before 10<sup>th</sup> August. This means that those travelling from Guernsey have a 65 NM crossing and those coming from the Solent area will have the 45NM crossing of Lyme Bay behind them. I know its 200NM+ for the Irish members but we would make you very welcome and we are considering going in your direction the following year.

A couple of days in Dartmouth could include a trip on the Dart Valley steam railway, trips up the river to Dittisham, Stoke Gabriel and Totnes.

Cruise around Start Point to Salcombe (15NM) and pick up a buoy or alongside a moored pontoon. Those of you who do not know Salcombe will like this attractive harbour and town with good pubs and restaurants.

From Salcombe we could make our way to Plymouth Mayflower Marina (about 20NM). The British Fireworks Championships are held in Plymouth every August and next year they will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August. This is the major British firework event where the best of a series of regional finalists compete over two evenings for the championship. Huge crowds on Plymouth Hoe watch the displays. However the best place to watch is anchored in the sound along with an armada of local boats.

We can also introduce some of you to some of the secluded anchorages in the Tamar and its tributaries. There are many shoreside activities including visits to the historical parts of Plymouth.

Next stop could be Fowey (20NM), with perhaps a lunch stop at Polperro on the way. Fowey is a great favourite in the Westcountry and is a delightful port, steeped in history. Excellent food and pleasant harbour staff makes this one of our favourites. The Gallants Sailing club offer a warm welcome to visitors and there are nice trips up river to be had along with coastal walks.

For those extending their cruise beyond the 17<sup>th</sup> the Fowey Regatta runs from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> August and the Dartmouth Royal Regatta is from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. Both events feature all manner of activities, music and shows (including the Red Arrows) and are well worth staying around for.

What I now need are expressions of interest in attending and comments or suggestions on the draft programme. Please use the table at the end of the newsletter to register your interest.

## The Southampton Boat Show

Roo Redwood (AS 33, *Water Bear*) and I travelled to Guernsey in Fastflow to pick up the Yard's beautiful new creation, the Panoramic 42. The boat had only just been launched a few days earlier and was handed over to me the night before we set off for Southampton. I learned to work the new Garmin plotter on the way!

The following day there was a brisk northerly wind with tides running north through the Little Russell channel creating a very steep short sea. We decided against the Alderney Race and set off

to the west for the Casquettes in the company of Lady Azure the 48 demonstrator. The seas continued to be rough with up to 4M waves. The new 42 hull with its wider beam and spray rails coped exceptionally and the boat is much drier than my 38. As we crossed to the north of Alderney sea conditions became easier and we were able to take some photographs of the 2 boats under way.



When we got into the Solent we were met by David Marsh of Motor Boats and Yachting who immediately took the boat for test. His very positive report is to be found in the November edition which is now out.

It was good to see so many of you at the show and hear your reaction to the boats on display. Opinion in general was very positive about the new 42 Panoramic with its large windows and modern looks and the boat drew enormous interest. We all worked very hard at the show but were only able to do so thanks to the efforts by the workforce at Aquastar to get the boat completed so beautifully and on time.

After some strong winds after the show we got the boats back to Guernsey the following Saturday and as I write this Geoff is arranging sea trials with interested parties that we met at the show.

Yours Aye

Tony

### **Membership News**

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

Neal & Erica Crookall, 48 Azure, *Erika-Jo III*.  
David & Kim Griffiths, 48S, *Aquila of Ipswich*.  
James & Jackie Parker, Ocean Ranger 33, *Roaming Star*.

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

### **Regalia**

If your tired burgee needs replacing send me a cheque (payable to the Aquastar Club). Costs are £15 for the small ones and £20 for the larger ones. We can also let you have a tie for £5.

### **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. Finally 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!).

**Aquastar Rally August 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

We are interested in joining the Aquastar Westcountry Rally

<b>Names</b>	<b>Boat Name</b>	<b>LOA (M)</b>	<b>Draft (M)</b>	<b>Number on board</b>
Tony & Helen Giblett	Fastflow	12	1.1	2
Gavin & Caroline Crick	Patience	15	1.2	4
Roo & Kath Redwood	Water Bear	10	1	2

**Any suggestions for the Rally****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 will not be disclosed to parties outside the club except with the express permission of members affected.