



OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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If you're visiting, do let us know.

COMMODORE'S JOTTINGS

Hi Everybody,

Hopefully you've all come through the winter as well as can be expected and are now, like us, addressing interesting topics like the underside of your boat! We must admit that getting it ready for the season does stir the enthusiasm again for thinking about where to go and when. Of course THE major event will be our rally to Guernsey, but what to do after then, well the choice is almost too big. Last year we did some more of the D-Day area instead of original plans for getting further west in France than Cherbourg. Maybe we should do a bit more of this country while we can still get the red diesel to afford it! Whatever your plans, if you do end up in Weymouth do give us a call – we would love to meet some more of our members.

Even though it's a bit early – happy cruising!

FACTORY NEWS

As reported last time, the factory is fairly full at present with 2 48's, one 65' and one 74' in build. A part built boat has just been completed – yesterday as I type! – for finishing in the UK. The first 34' Sports Cruiser has been finished in Holland, so if you see it around do believe your eyes.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Club:

Howard and Pauline Bond	Gryphon II
Jim and Anne Watson	Brave Face
David and Jad Jobson	Troutbridge

Rally to Guernsey June 2005

By now you know of our intention to arrange a rally in Guernsey commencing on the weekend of **11th/12th June 2005**. You will be delighted to know that it is definitely going ahead, although we are not yet up to the 10 boats which we hoped to have.

What we had not realised until recently is that our weekend coincides with the **Floral Festival** on Guernsey which should be a sight worth seeing. The main event for us will be the **Floral Guernsey Show from 9th-11th June** at Saumarez Park which is easily accessible by bus.

For anybody who either has never been to Guernsey or for whom the last visit was a while ago, Nichola will be providing up to date information about how to get about, and good, free or inexpensive things to do to get a flavour of the island. The bus service is excellent – you can go all the way around the island for about a pound! The best value is to buy a multiple journey card – one card is enough providing you are travelling together, you don't need one per person – and if you get off the bus then back on within an hour after your ticket was issued, you continue on that ticket. Isn't that amazing?

Although we and the Marina staff do appreciate any rally is weather dependent, we really do need to get the list together for who is intending to come, so please can you confirm your interest. Once we have a better idea of numbers we can continue with planning the social events, although we will carry on the Aqua-Star custom of leaving you as much time as possible to 'do your own thing'.

Please would EVERYBODY who wishes to be included on the rally let us know your name, boat name and total number expected in your crew (including yourself), by **31/03/05, so we can cater for you accordingly. Our contact details are as above.**

The Red Diesel Saga – the next instalment.

Just after we issued the last newsletter, Ron happened to be working outside our garage when a person came up to him, introduced himself as Ed Matts, and asked him if he had any matters of concern. Well, it turned out this was the prospective South Dorset Conservative candidate, and to give him his due he didn't flinch when Ron launched forth while wielding a saw!

Ron asked him quite vaguely about red diesel and rather than just explain the problem, he gave Ed the opportunity to find out for himself. We were quite impressed when the phone rang the following day and every article we then suggested to him Ed had read, from RYA and yachting magazine articles to government paperwork. He had hoisted the problem on board but was unable to find out why the date of July this year is being bandied about. We agreed to meet with him, our local chairman of the Harbour Users Association and a reporter from our local paper.

To cut what appeared to be a long time standing on a very cold harbourside short, an article duly appeared in the paper complete with photo, raising the points we put in the last newsletter, and adding comments from the Harbour Users and the managing director of Luhrs Marine who are based here. What Ed had picked up was this must not be allowed to be another case like that of the shell fish quotas. The Government failed to pick up on the date by which representations had to be made regarding allocations of shellfish quotas resulting in the UK's being minimal compared to France and Spain. Succinctly they must not be allowed the excuse of 'missing the boat'.

We all have access to our local MPs, so please help by challenging and lobbying them whatever party they represent. Even if we fail and derogation is not continued, we do not want to regret we should have done something – if we all do our best beforehand at least will be able to say we tried.

ARE WE ADDRESSING YOU CORRECTLY?

Thank you to those members who have pointed out various errors in the Membership Network; hopefully we have incorporated all changes in the enclosed sheet. Please let us know if any of your details change or require correction.

Aqua-Data and you

As mentioned last newsletter, we are continuing to investigate providing you with a better product by making more use of the Internet, therefore enabling us to upload larger articles and enhance these and the newsletter by the use of colour. There are two parts to computer communication and although you may not be on e-mail you may have, and be happy to use the Internet, for example at your local library, cyber café or at a friend's house. It is our intention to progress use of the Aqua-Star site when we visit Guernsey in June, so we really would like to know how many people will still be relying on a postal copy of the newsletter after June.

DON'T FORGET THE DISCOUNTS!!

Benefits to members are available from:

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Offer</u>
Aqua-Star	Geoff	Spares & construction parts at cost + 10% to Club members
GJW Direct	Jo Griffiths 0151 236 6848	10% additional discount from boat insurance
Euronav	Mark Day 01705 373855	20% off chart systems
Reed's Bookshop	Roger Hunter 0181 941 7878	Discuss direct
Marine Electronic	Nicholas Heyes 01179 830770	Various
Marlin Marine	Alan Soper 01703 231306 27.	5% off Iveco engine sales
Toomer & Hayter	Vivien West 01202 515789	Discounts on upholstery
Vetus Southern	Richard Yates 01703 672277	10% off Vetus equipment
Halyard	James Grazebrook 01722 710922	7.5% off exhausts etc.
Greenham Marine	Andy Haynes 01590 671144	Call for prices on autopilots etc.
CJR	Mark Russell 01703 639366	Call for special prices on props/sterngear
Liquid Engineering	Gerry Yeatman 01794 884963	15% off diesel bug treatment
Galleyslave	Birgit Morris 01527 592089	10% off unbreakable glasses and dinnerware