



MARINA MATES



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Attention all berth holders

Your help is required once again for the maritime festival which is 5th and 6th July where there is a plethora of exciting events planned. Berth holders help is required to take part in a parade of sail on Saturday from 1200 to 1245 to formally open the event and again on the Sunday at the same time. Sunday will be for the more traditional boats cobs timber yachts etc. If you want to get involved let us know at the lock office. Thank you in anticipation.

This is another first for Hartlepool Marina:-

Hartlepool gets Olympics boost

TODAY'S (March 3) announcement that Hartlepool has been identified as a possible training camp for the London Olympics 2012 has delighted civic leaders. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) announced this morning that the Hartlepool Marina will be included in the London 2012's Pre-Games Training Camp Guide for sailing.

“Over the coming months we'll be working closely with LOCOG and other key organisations to do everything we can to attract Olympic training teams to use our facilities in Hartlepool.”

BERTH HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

An Annual General Meeting was held in the yacht club on 22nd February. A new committee was voted in for a new term. There is also a web site for the Berth Holders which is www.hmba.org.com for berth holders to log onto. There will be an open committee Meeting on 4th April in the RNLI boat house, please attend if you can. Also a forthcoming Social Evening is being planned by the committee so keep an eye on the notice boards. New members to the Berth Holders Association are very welcome to join, please contact Mike Craddy.

BEATING

Beating is sailing for twice the distance at half the speed and three times the discomfort. What wise words!

BE VIGILANT WITH YOUR LIFEJACKETS

I carried out my Annual checks on my lifejackets the other day, inflating them by mouth and leaving them inflated, checking the firing mechanism and the state of the Co2 cartridge etc. To my horror I found that one of the jackets had two holes in it where the press studs had rubbed through (Crewsaver Manual Gas) nothing to do with the manufacturer just fair wear and tear. I thought that it was worth a mention, the last thing you want is to find out that your lifejacket has holes in it when your life is depending on it! From now on I will be carrying out more regular checks on all my safety equipment. Lesson learned I hope!!!

RACING or CRUISING

Did you know that a yacht **not flying an ensign** is the international sign that a yacht is racing? They don't all have to look like racing snakes either, many a run of the mill cruiser races on the odd weekend.

But as soon as the race is over or she retires, she should hoist her ensign again to let other competitors or other boats around know that she is no longer taking part in a race and therefore not subject to the racing rules.

EPIRB and PLB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon and Personal Locator Beacon)

An EPIRB or PLB should be activated when your life or a crew member's life is in imminent danger. However, firstly you must try normal communications via VHF or using your DSC alert or even a mobile phone. These are all well and good if you are within range, if you aren't – then activate your EPIRB/PLB.

If in the meantime if you do manage to get hold of the rescue services your EPIRB/PLB alert can easily be cancelled. Under no circumstances switch your EPIRB/PLB off until you are told to; even if you accidentally activate it wait until told to do so.

If you do have to abandon ship remember to take it with you, **it is also absolutely essential** that your EPIRB/PLB is registered to you or the boat. This is free of charge and quite simple to do via the EPIRB Registry on 01326 211569 or on their web site www.epirb@mcga.gov.uk – if you are thinking of buying an EPIRB go for the 406MHz unit as opposed to the 121.5MHz system which is being phased out. A great many sailors owe their lives to these devices and it certainly deserves a place on your boat.

MV ELLA

Dave from MV ELLA tells me that he is reintroducing music nights. These will be different from the previous nights; in as far as he is focusing more on individual artists rather than bands, who tended to be too loud. Food will be available, and is usually included in the ticket price (although you will need to check beforehand).

Watch the Marina notice boards for details.

RULES OF THE ROAD FOR SAILING SHIPS (By a Naval Officer)

1. A 'close-hauled' ship you'll **Never** see
Give way to one that's 'running free.'
It's easier running free to steer
And that's the reason she keeps clear.
2. With wind the same side, running free.
One's to **Windward**, ones to **Lee**.
The **Leeward** ship goes straight ahead.
The other alters course instead.
3. Both 'close hauled' or both quite 'free.'
On Different Tacks we all agree.
The ship that has the wind to **PORT**
Must keep well clear, is what we're taught.
4. At other times the altering craft.
Is that which has the wind right aft.

WISE WORDS FROM THE MARINA

If you can stay calm, while all around you is in chaos... then you probably haven't completely understood the situation.

A person who smiles in the face of adversity... probably has a scapegoat.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.

Aim Low, Reach Your Goals, And Avoid Disappointment.

When the going gets tough, the tough take a long coffee break.

The philosophy of the rich versus the poor is this- The rich invest their money and spend what's left, the poor spend their money and invest what's left.' I know where I've been going wrong now!

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

During my delivery trip of the yacht 'Christybelle' from Hartlepool to Gibraltar last year; as we crossed The Bay of Biscay on Saturday 15th September 2007, I threw a bottle over the side during my night watch with a message in it. It stated, my name, address and telephone number, the position of where I threw it in (which was about half way across) together with the boats name, what we were doing, where we had come from and where we were going to.

I received a telephone call on the 9th February from a guy in Carmarthen south Wales. He was out with his daughter walking on the beach when they came across my bottle washed up on the shore. He rang me up telling me of his find and his first ever message in a bottle, (they usually check bottles that have been washed up for a bit of fun) and we had a good chat about our voyage and I thanked him for calling. So it just goes to show how far rubbish can travel! **Mike Fellows**

"Over and Out!" or What's the Alternative?.

Caol ila's log, 7th May. 0930hrs. Engine at 2000 revs boat speed 4 knots a pure blue day with wind SW force 1. The Crew are dressed in sun hats, shorts and shades. Our sailing yacht is now a motor boat with the mast secured on deck. On passage East - West from Grange mouth to Bowling along the Forth Clyde Canal under escort by British Waterways Canal Staff.

Narrative.

The escort is with us because British Waterways are concerned about the safety of yachts and crews on passage through the built-up region of central Scotland, particularly Maryhill in Glasgow. We used the VHF channel 74 to keep in touch. The canal is a brilliant experience and not to be missed if opportunity presents. It was closed in 1962 and by 1980 there was a campaign underway to reopen the canal. By 2000, European money gave us the spectacular Falkirk Wheel and by 2001 the canal which follows the ditch that the Romans had dug nearly 2000 years before as the Antonine Wall, was exploited by ingenious Victorian navigators to create a canal. Where else could you find the only sail-through fish and chippy in the UK. Needless to say Francis and Colin queued at the window for haddock and chips – "Five times please!" and shared chips, gossip and Tennent's lager with the locals.

The weather began to change, rising wind and clouds building in the west, so that by late afternoon rain began to fall. We moored up in the middle of nowhere near the Stockingfield Junction between Balmuildy Bridge and Maryhill. By now it was pouring down, not the night for a run ashore or the place for a long walk to the pub.

What do you do when you are at anchor or tied up alongside and it's raining hard? The nearest pub is several miles away along the lane, on the other side

of the island or down the towpath. On board “Caol ila” we cabin-up, drink whisky (single malt), eat treats (smoked salmon and stilton) and play games (with words, as not enough room for anything else.) So in the Forth Clyde Canal, Francis challenged us to develop an alternative “phonetic” alphabet which he began – “A for orses, B for Mutton, C for ships”.

We entered into the spirit of the game and the result is set out below. E, H, P, W, and Z are a little thin as they use the phonic pronunciation of the child’s alphabet, but we were very pleased. Quite creased up in fact and still chuckling even in the cold light of day beating towards the Kyles of Bute in a force 6. Any suggestions for improvements would be welcome.

A for orses
B for the mast
C for ships
D for Kate
E for ready
F for vescent
G for ce
H for lump
I for the engine
J for cake
L for leather
M for cema
N for tune ate
O for the wings of a dove
P for mince
Q for anything (especially during the war)
R for pint
S for rantzen
T for two
U for mism
V – for la France
W - for smoke
X for liate
Y for unts
Z for Zodiac

On this basis Caol ila ceases to be “Charlie, Alpha, Oscar, Lima, India, Lima, Alpha.” And becomes “ships, orses, wings of a dove, leather, the engine, leather, orses”. Even more incomprehensible than the NATO alphabet if you are not familiar with it! Try it on your own boat’s name and see, or should I say hear, how it sounds. But don’t try it on the coastguard. By the way, it’s only in WW2 movies that the hero says “Over and out!” Real radio operators say simply “Out!” or “Listening – Out!” **John Harris, Caol ila.**

Footnote - The NATO phonetic alphabet, more formally the International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet, is the most widely used spelling alphabet. It assigns code words to the letters of the English Alphabet so that critical combinations of letters (and numbers) can be pronounced and understood by those who transmit and receive voice messages by radio or telephone, regardless of their native language.

POLITENESS PAYS!

I recently read a marina brochure that said; 'We don't teach people to be nice and polite. We simply employ nice and polite people.' Wow what a clever short cut!

It also said, 'One good berthholder well taken care of could be more valuable than £30,000 worth of advertising.' How very true.

A Berthholder

OH DEAR!

One day, in line at the works canteen, Joe says to Mike behind him, 'My elbow hurts like hell, I think I'll have to see the doctor.' 'Listen, you don't have to wait that long,' Mike says. 'There's a diagnostic computer down at the supermarket. Just give it a urine sample and the computer will tell you what's wrong and what to do about it only takes about ten seconds and only costs a couple of quid, quicker than waiting for the doctor.'

So Joe deposits a urine sample in a jar and heads for the supermarket. He put his couple of quid in the slot and the computer lights up and asks for the urine sample. Joe pours the sample into the slot and waits. Ten seconds later the computer ejects a printout: '**You have tennis elbow. Soak your arm in warm water and avoid any heavy activity. It will improve in two weeks. Thank you for shopping at our store.**'

That evening while thinking how amazing this new technology was, Joe began wondering if the computer could be fooled. He mixed some tap water, a stool sample from his dog, urine samples from his wife and daughter, and a sperm sample for good measure. Joe hurried back to the supermarket, eager to check the results. He put his couple of quid in again and then pours in his concoction and awaits the results. The computer prints out the following:

- 1. Your tap water is too hard. Get a water softener. (Aisle 9)**
- 2. Your dog has ringworm. Bathe him with anti-fungal shampoo. (Aisle7)**
- 3. Your daughter has a cocaine habit. Get her into rehab.**
- 4. Your wife is pregnant with twins. They aren't yours. Get a lawyer.**
- 5. If you don't stop playing with yourself, your elbow will never get better.**

Thank you for shopping at our store.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WRITING ABOUT THE SEA

A dolphin breathes through an arsehole in the top of its head.

This is a picture of an octopus it has eight testicles.

If you are surrounded by sea you're an island if you don't you are incontinent.

Oyster's balls are called pearls.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HARTLEPUDLIAN IF

- 1 You take your dog for a walk and both use the same tree.**
- 2 You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it**
- 3 The Salvation Army declines your mattress.**
- 4 You come back from the tip with more than you took.**
- 5 You wonder how the public toilets are so clean.**

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

The other night I was invited for a night out in the 'Smallies' with 'the girls' I told my husband that I would be home by midnight, 'I promise.' Well the hours passed and the drinks went down way to easy. Around 03.00hrs a bit legless, I headed home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed three times. Quickly realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another nine times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick witted solution, in order to escape a possible conflict with him. Even when totally smashed..3 cuckoos plus 9 cuckoos totals 12 cuckoos = midnight.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in, and I told him 'Midnight'. He didn't seem pissed off at all. Whew! Got away with that one! Then he said, 'We need a new cuckoo clock.' When I asked him why? He said. 'Well last night our clock cuckooed three times, then said 'Oh shit' cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another 3 times giggled, cuckooed twice more tripped over the coffee table and farted'.

KIDS!!

A nursery pupil told his teacher that he'd found a cat, but it was dead. 'How did you know that it was dead?' she asked him. 'Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move,' answered the child innocently. 'You did **WHAT!!**' the teacher exclaimed in surprise. 'You know', explains the boy, 'I leaned over and went Psssst! And it didn't move.'

A WEE BIT UNPOLITICALLY CORRECT, BUT FUNNY!

What's the ideal weight for a mother-in-law? About 2 to 3 pounds including the urn.

I parked in a disabled space today and a traffic warden shouted to me, 'Oi, what's your disability?' I said, 'Tourettes! Now f**k off you tosser.'

I was so depressed last night that I rang the Samaritans. Got through eventually to a call centre in Afghanistan and told them I was suicidal. They got all excited and asked if I could fly a plane.....

Did you here about the look alike competition in China? Everybody won.

A bride on her wedding night says to her husband, 'I must confess darling, I was a hooker!' He says, 'That's alright dear, your past is your past, but I must admit that I find it quite erotic. Tell me about it'. She replies, 'Well my name was Nigel, and I played for Wigan!'

A man says to his wife, 'Tell me something that will make me happy and sad at the same time.' His wife replies, 'You've got a bigger todger than your brother.'

STORRAR MARINE Easter Opening

Good Friday

10am – 4pm

(browsing from 9.30)

Easter Saturday

8.30am – 5pm

Easter Sunday

Closed

Easter Monday

10am – 4pm

(browsing from 9.30)

FREE easter eggs for all!

While stocks last