

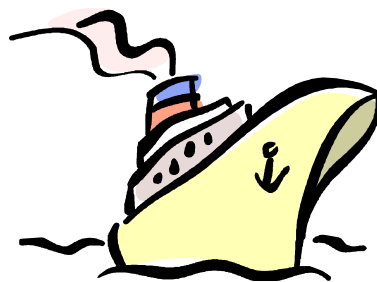


MARINA MATES



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THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II 40 YEARS CELEBRATION CRUISE



The QE2 will be sailing past Hartlepool on **16th September at 14.20 hrs**; she will come in shore to within one mile and slow down. She is on her 40 years celebration cruise and it would be great to get as many boats out there to see her pass and to give her a salute on your fog horns. The lock times are as follows; lock out up to 11.30hrs with low water at 13.30hrs. This will be a great chance to see this magnificent ship at close quarters, so get that date in your diary and if possible inform Alan Henderson that you will be going out to see her.

THE RESCUE OF STEVE ELTON --- YACHT 'JOAN of ARC'

Single handed skipper Steve Elton had a very lucky escape when his yacht 'Joan of Arc' from Hartlepool Marina (Berth C13) ran aground on the rocks below Boulby Cliffs on Sunday 19th August. At approximately 18.30hrs, fifty year old Steve sent a mayday call from the boat saying that he was in danger of running aground. The signal was so weak that it wasn't picked up by the Coast Guard; luckily it was picked up by Staithes lifeboat crew.

The swell was up to 12ft and strong winds made it to dangerous for crews to get close enough to carry out a rescue; one of the lifeboats damaged their props on rocks during one attempt. They remained on the scene while a Sea King helicopter was scrambled from Humberside and Steve now unconscious was winched to safety. The yacht was pounded by the waves and sank within minutes of the rescue. Steve was taken to the James Cook Hospital suffering from broken bones in his hands and shock. We all wish Steve a very speedy recovery from everyone at the marina.

ORKNEY ISLANDS ADVENTURE

My trusty crew member Norman Brown and I, Mike Fellows set out on Saturday 23rd June and headed for the Orkney Islands, Bernie and Dave were tagging along as far as Eyemouth with us in Amazing Grace. The weather wasn't very good all trip, with rain, fog and gale force winds to cope with.

We sailed a total of 667miles in the good ship 'KES' and she never let us down once, (not that I expected her to, of course. But it was some of the worst weather I've ever had her out in). The full account and photo's can be read on www.sailtales.com which is a cracking site, full of stories, tips, quiz's etc. It's a site that is well worth visiting and you'll be able to follow our trip within the comfort of your home.

THE ORKNEY TALE 2007

We left the lock and headed north
First to Amble then the Firth of Forth
But prior to that it's Eyemouth we head
Then onto Stonehaven harbour and Peterhead

'We're stuck here again' was all that was said
When we heard the wail of the foghorn at Peterhead
With the creak of lines and drumming of rain
Has this trip to the Orkney's been all in vain

Two thirds of the way and the goal was in sight
Now there's not enough wind to fly a kite
More rain and more fog is making us sick
But we sail ever northward heading for Wick

Then it's hold on tight for the Pentland Race
My God we crossed that at a hell of a pace
Our course was planned like a well oiled machine
To full fill our trip of the Orkney dream

How long we stay there is anyone's guess
We are hoping for more but will settle for less
Then it's homeward bound on the good ship 'Kes'
It's not her fault that the weathers a mess

We hope the trip home is warmer than out
Then we can sit in the cockpit and cheer and shout
Hartlepool in sight and a sharp turn at the Heugh
Our cruise this summer was more than enough

We tied up securely then tidied up too
It was quite an adventure with Norman as crew
We never argued once and never once got irate
It was a bloody good trip with **Norman my mate!**

Mike Fellows 'Kes' 2007

BLACK DIAMOND IS HOME AGAIN FROM THE TALL SHIPS

Black Diamond (A Bowman 45) is home once again after taking part in the 2007 Tall Ships Race. Calvin did really well and finished a very respectable 5th in the first race, 5th in the second race and 13th in the third race finishing 32nd out of 75 boats, sailing to Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Poland.

I thought that we had had strong winds and big seas, but Cal had really strong winds and enormous seas, winds of 64kts were recorded and they were sailing under bare poles doing 7.5kts. I've sailed a lot of miles with Cal as a 1st mate and crew member and he is a really confident and very accomplished skipper, and still only 25yrs old! So if you fancy a day or weekend trip contact Cal and get aboard a proper yacht for some sea miles and sailing experience. (He's also a good cook).

DID YOU HERE THE ONE ABOUT . . . ?

Preparing for an offshore passage, the skipper of a yacht went into the aft cabin to extract the eight-man life raft to secure it on the deck. Seconds later there was a loud bang, followed by a very loud hiss and a scream of "Bloody hell! Help!" Somehow the ripcord had got caught, accidentally inflating the life raft in the small cabin. As the black monster hissed and expanded, furniture split away from the cabin sides and the skipper was pinned against the hull unable to breathe with the pressure, which incidentally broke his ribs. In this case the life raft actually killed him.

In another version, an incident that was very similar, was when a fellow crewmember stabbed the life raft with his marlin spike and saved the skipper in a "whoosh" of expelled air.

ONE WOMANS VIEW OF SAILING!

Some women get a headache when it's time to go to bed
For me the thought of sailing brings on the pain instead
If the sea is calm, then that's ok, I'm quite happy to sail around the bay
But if it's rough, Then I've had enough please take me back I say
The Captain says you're very safe just leave it all to me
That may be true when on the land, but not when out at sea
I'll persevere, I'll carry on, he says, 'it's up to you'
So when I get really frightened, I'll just go and hide in the LOO!
Joyce Lee (Rampart)

The life raft I purchased last week
Is so handsome and yellow and sleek
I could never deploy such a wonderful toy
Though the crew might well bellow and shriek
Bernie (Amazing Grace)

THE SENSITIVE MAN

A woman meets a man in a bar. They talk; they connect and end up leaving together. They get back to his place, and he shows her around his apartment, she notices that one wall of his bedroom is completely filled with soft, sweet, cuddly teddy bears. There are three shelves in the bedroom with hundreds of cute cuddly teddy bears placed in rows and covering the entire wall! It was obvious that he had taken quite some time to lovingly arrange them and she was touched by the amount of thought he had put into organising the display. There were small bears all along the bottom shelf, medium sized along the middle shelf and huge enormous ones all the way along the top shelf. She found it strange for an obviously masculine guy to have such a large collection of teddy bears, but doesn't mention this to him, and actually is quite impressed by his sensitive side.

They share a bottle of wine and continue talking and after a while she finds herself thinking, 'Oh my God this guy could be the one! Maybe he could be the future father of my children?' She turns to him and kisses him lightly on the lips. He responds warmly. They continue to kiss, the passion builds, and he romantically lifts her in his arms and carries her to his bedroom where they rip each others clothes off and make hot, steamy love. She is overwhelmed that she responds with more passion than she has ever known, and even did a few things she had never done with any other man. After an intense, explosive night of raw passion with the sensitive guy, they are lying there together and she rolls over, gently strokes his chest and asks coyly, 'Well, how was it?' The guy smiles at her, strokes her cheek, looks deeply into her eyes, and says 'Help yourself to any prize from the middle shelf!'

WELL I NEVER!

I recently went to the doctors for the well man clinic, and after exhaustive tests etc he said that I was doing well for my age. A little concerned, I couldn't resist asking him, 'Do you think I'll live to be eighty?' he asked, 'do you smoke or drink alcohol in large amounts?' 'No', I replied 'I don't do drugs either.' Then he asked, 'Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?' I said, 'no, my other doctor said that all red meat is unhealthy!' 'Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, fishing or relaxing on the beach?' 'No I don't,' I said. He asked, 'Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?' 'No,' I said. 'I don't do any of them things.' Then he looked at me and asked, 'Then why do you give a shit?'

Last night, Rose and I were sat in the lounge and I said to her, 'I never want to live in a vegative state, dependant on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that happens just pull the plug.' She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out my beer. She's so literal is Rose!

IT'S SUMMER (OR SO WE ARE LED TO BELIEVE)

This is the time to do all your checks after the winter, oil, water, rigging, alcohol supplies etc. In readiness for the scorching Indian summer that we are going to have! So get some passages planned, long or short and get out there and enjoy yourself. Then send me an article on your experiences to include in the next issue.

YOU CAN COUNT ON THIS!

One item that have been sailing with for a lot of years and found invaluable is the run of the mill kitchen timer. This fantastic and cheap item counts down ideally from 23 hours and magnetically sticks to any suitable surface or just free standing. You can set it for high tide, for weather forecasts, for 10 minutes shut eye on a long watch, for a snooze when you arrive, for an alarm clock, for a navigation check and chart marking, for change of watch etc. It makes a loud noise that can't be ignored and costs less than a tenner. I don't know how I ever got by without it.

B. Shipman.

BE MORE EXPLICIT!

A VHF conversation overheard between Humber Coastguard and a ship. They went to a working channel and the coastguard was obviously having trouble understanding the foreign caller who was struggling with his English.

Ship: 'Humber Coastguard this is xxx I am a tanker, a tanker off Flamborough Head'

Coast Guard: 'Are you a tanker at anchor, or a tanker, a tanker?'

Ship: 'No, I am at anchor, a tanker.'

Coast Guard: 'You are at anchor. At anchor?'

Ship: 'No – I am a tanker at anchor. A tanker at anchor.'

Was he a tanker or actually a tanker at anchor?

THEN THERE WAS . . .

A novice sailor that set off in his brand new boat and while hard on the wind he noticed that the rigging on the leeward side was slack. He tightens it. On the opposite tack he notices the leeward rigging is again slack. He curses the builder and tightens it ~ this goes on for as long as it took until the mast was pushed through the bottom of the boat and it sinks!

Su Wong marries Lee Wong. The next year the Wong's have a new baby, the nurse brings over a lovely, healthy, bouncy but definitely Caucasian, white baby boy. 'Congratulations,' says the nurse to the new parents. 'Well, Mr. Wong, what will you and Mrs Wong name the baby?' The puzzled father looks at his new baby boy and says, 'well, two Wong's don't make a white, so I think we will name him ... Sum Ting Wong.'

SOME QUITE RELIABLE WEATHER PROVERBS & SAILING TIPS

Old weather proverbs and sayings have their beginning in the atmospheric conditions. Properly interpreted these conditions can give pretty accurate forecasts as to what may happen in the next few hours. For instance a red sky can mean it will either rain or be dry according to the time of day it occurs. This is based on certain optics and conditions of the atmosphere. Another example is when smoke lies low to the ground which indicates heavy moisture in the air. When it goes straight up there is less likelihood of rain.

- * A ring around the sun or moon means rain or snow coming soon.
- * When clouds appear like rocks and towers, the earth's refreshed with frequent showers.
- * The moon and the weather may change together, but a change of the moon, will not change the weather.
- * When grass is dry at morning light look for rain before the night.
- * Dew on the grass rain won't come to pass.
- * Rain before seven, fine before eleven.
- * Evening red and morning grey, two sure signs of one fine day.
- * The sudden storm lasts not three hours. The sharper the blast the sooner 'tis past.
- * The higher the clouds the better the weather.
- * Cold is the night when the stars shine bright.
- * Sound travelling far and wide, a stormy day betides.
- * A rainbow in the morning is the shepherds warning.
- * A rainbow in the afternoon. Good weather coming soon.
- * A rainbow at night is the shepherds delight.
- * When the night goes to bed with a fever, it will awake with a wet head.
- * Catchy drawer and sticky door. Coming rain will pour and pour.
- * When the wind blows from the west, fish bite best.
- * When the wind blows from the east, fish bite least.

.....
1. When handling halyards, make sure that –

- * Both ends of the halyard are in your hands.
- * One end is securely attached and the other is in your hand.
- * Both ends are securely attached to something.

Reason. So one end of the halyard doesn't fly to the top of the mast causing the skipper to ask you to do the same and bring it back down!

2. When working with a winch handle, make sure that –

- * The handle is firmly in your hand.
- * The handle is firmly in the winch.
- * The handle is stowed in the correct place.

Reason. A winch handle left unattended in a winch or on deck can suddenly be lost overboard. The skipper will not be well pleased at this as they aren't a cheap item.

3. When sailing on a beautiful day make sure that –

- * You don't try to sail where the birds are standing.
- * You don't try to sail where the birds are standing.
- * You don't try to sail where the birds are standing.

Reason. Guess!

NIGHT SAILING – LOVE IT OR FEAR IT?

Personally I love it! The feeling of total remoteness; you could be anywhere on the planet it's so different to day sailing (obviously because it's pitch black) nothing but the stars and the sound of the water on the hull. However, others fear it and hate it. Here are a few pointers which may help.

If you are crew and the skipper goes off watch, he is relying on you for him to get a reasonably good sleep. He would want you to call on him if a ship is approaching, a change in wind direction or force, the approach of a waypoint (probably discussed earlier) in fact anything that you are in any doubt about give him or her a shout. Hopefully the skipper will not whinge about being disturbed as this may make the crew member think twice before calling him the next time.

Always, always wear a harness and lifejacket after dark and clip on. There are not very often second chances! Carry a good torch it can be extremely useful during a watch. Spotting ship movements at night is easier than during the day, also their direction and intentions are easier to determine (most of the time at least) use a good pair of binoculars for spotting and tracking ships movements. Ensure that you have the correct lights on and that your ensign is not hanging over your stern light turning it red and into a port light!

Use the tricolour when sailing (to conserve battery power). These are ok especially in rough conditions and can be seen from greater distances but are pretty difficult to determine how far away the vessel is, lower lights are easier to see in calm conditions but draw more power.

The one thing that I try not to do (especially when I'm single handed) is to enter an unknown harbour in the dark. I try to work my passage to reach a marina or harbour at dawn. I have entered strange harbours in the dark but only out of necessity due to weather conditions but I'm certainly not keen on it. With a crew it's quite different because you have at least one extra pair of eyes and sometimes more, (all crew are up and hopefully alert when entering a strange port for the first time, but that's only my rules) spotting for leading lights and buoyage against the background clutter can prove pretty difficult at times.

Love it or fear it, every one should try it, even if it's just out in the bay but you'd get a better feel for it just beyond the horizon and out of the way of the shore light clutter. Drop me a line about your experience of night sailing and any tips that you may be able to pass on to others.

Editor

Bored? Here's a way the over fifties can pass a good half hour.

1. Place your car keys in your right hand.
2. With your left hand phone a friend to confirm a time to meet in the pub.
3. Finish your call and hang up.
4. Now look for your car keys.

I'M GOING TO HELL!!!!

An old lady dies and goes to heaven. She's chatting with St Peter at the Pearly Gates when all of a sudden she hears the most awful blood curdling screams. 'Don't worry about that', says St Peter, 'it's only someone having holes put into her shoulder blades for wings.' The old lady looks a little uncomfortable but carries on with the conversation. Ten minutes later, there are more blood curdling screams. 'Oh my God.' says the old lady, 'now what's happening?' 'Not to worry,' says St Peter, 'she's just having her head drilled to fit the halo.' 'I can't do this,' says the old lady, 'I'm going to hell.' 'You can't go there,' says St Peter. 'You'll be raped and sodomised.' 'Maybe so,' says the old lady, 'but at least I've already got the holes for that!'

ANOTHER FINE MESS!

I asked our lass what she'd like for her birthday (to earn a few brownie points). 'I'd love to be ten again,' she replied. So on the day I got up early made her a bowl of Coco Pops and then took her out for the day to Flamingo Land. I took her on every ride from the gentle to the hair raising, five hours later we left, she was staggering a bit and she said her head was reeling also her stomach was upside down. But never mind, we headed for Mc Donald's where I treat her to a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate milk shake. Then it was off to the pictures too see the latest Star Wars epic plus all the Coke and popcorn that she could eat and drink, followed by a lolly and a packet of M&M's.

We got home; I noticed that she was wobbling a bit, went in and she collapsed, exhausted on the settee. I leant over her and whispered romantically in her ear, 'Well, what was it like being ten again?' Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. 'I meant my dress size, you twit!' The moral of this tale, even when a man *is* listening, he's still going to get it wrong.

Editor



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Contact Tim on 07802 350138