



MARINA MATES



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Observations from the Lock Office

Well, after waiting for a number of years the Tall Ships event is finally behind us. From a Marina point of view it was a resounding success. Accolades have been received by the Marina from many participating International and National organisations, congratulating us on how smoothly such a large event had been expedited. This success can be attributed to not only the team work of the lock office management and personnel, but to the courtesy and support given by you, the berth-holders. Your patience and discipline during locking in/out of the marina was exemplary. This of course made our task of controlling the large number of vessels much easier. Without doubt most of the crews of the large ships and indeed including the visiting vessels from all over the country and abroad, have expressed their enjoyment and privilege of having been involved in this event. They are all looking forward to the next Tall Ships event in Hartlepool. This event has without doubt put Hartlepool and its Marina well and truly on the map. We all deserve a good pat on the back.

However our locking in/out procedures for both berth-holders and visitors needs tightening up, the following points are some examples:

Radios:

Quite a considerable number of vessels, large and small are moving about the marina without VHF radios. It is important that whenever you leave your berth you should contact the lock control office and inform them of your intentions. Some vessels are approaching the lock gates without giving the control staff any information as to what their intentions are ie” Do they want fuel? Or do they want to be locked out? Without verbal communication we have to guess. Some vessels do not even radio requesting a lock out or lock in and just dash into the lock when the gates are opened. Should there be any reason that control staff need to contact the vessel within or outside the marina in the case of emergency, they are unable to do so if the vessel has no radio, or if they are not monitoring our frequencies. This can place other lock users in danger. A few days ago, the lockmaster had a situation where a small yacht with a small outboard motor and a defective radio, was running straight into a lock that was in the process of free flowing into the marina. The small yacht

had a number of children on board and if it had entered the lock during this procedure the chances are that it would not have been controllable and life may have been lost.

Although the lockmaster tried to contact the yacht it just kept coming in even though double red lights were displayed outside the gate. This resulted in the emergency shut down of the free flow procedure. Also, some berth-holders are beginning to rely on their mobile phones instead of the appropriate VHF radio designed for the purpose. It is expected that you will monitor your radio from leaving your berth until you exit to sea through the outer piers, even in the training area.

Life Jackets:

Recently George from the RNLI carried out a survey of vessels leaving the Marina without the crews using life jackets. We know that it is not mandatory to have to wear a lifejacket but it 'beggars belief' that people will place their lives and others at risk because they fail to comply with the most basic rule of sailing. It only takes seconds for a vessel to flip over and throw you into the water; it takes about 13 minutes for a lifeboat to be launched but you can drown in much less time. Please give some careful thought to donning a lifejacket as soon as you board your vessel.

Finally:

You will all know that the marina has a small blue brochure giving information about the marina. Inside of this brochure is the laid down procedure for locking in or out of the marina. It's free of charge, so please pick one up and read up on the requirements.

Vessel Names:

Please, Please, Please, put the name of your vessel in a prominent place on your vessel as all are logged on entering and leaving. Shaun can help with this for a small remuneration.

As the sailing season draws to a close, may I wish you many hours of safe sailing and enjoyment.

Ray

THE OLDER GENERATION

We are more valuable than the younger generation!
We have silver in our hair (well those that have hair)
We have gold in our teeth.
We have stones in our kidneys.
We have lead in our feet.
We are loaded with natural gas.

THE WIND THE FREE ENGINE OF GOD!

THREE MEN AND A BOAT! ! !

This is a tale about three men, we'll call them Roy, Trevor and Mal. Roy had recently purchased a catamaran (dinghy type), and he had invited Trevor and Mal to come along for a sail one afternoon. The idea was to launch it from the beach at Seaton. Roy was the only one at that time with any sailing experience, so when they had manhandled the boat and trailer to the water's edge Roy proceeded to give the other two a safety talk. They had no radio or flares, in fact no way of communicating at all, so Roy, as Skipper went through a number of hand and arm signals to communicate by if they got into difficulties. There was going to be two on the boat and one as safetyman on the shore, good planning really!

Anyway Roy and Mal set off from the shore and headed out to sea whilst Trevor kept an eye on them. All went well and they sailed up and down and round and round. Then something went amiss, the rudder broke off and they lost steerage. At this time the tide was going out, taking them with it. Now for the hand signals thought Roy; he wanted Trevor to contact the coast guard and inform them of their predicament. No amount of hand waving or gesticulating got through to Trevor, so they reverted to that well known means of communicating - screaming and hollering at the tops of their voices to Trevor on the beach, that they wanted him to go and get the coastguard. By this time Trevor had realised that something was wrong but couldn't make out what, or what they wanted him to do about it.

As all this was going on they were drifting further out so Trevor decided to strip off and swim out to them to see what was going on. Well he reached the boat after quite a long swim and climbed aboard, to be sworn at and called unmentionable names. Trevor then volunteered to swim back and get help, Mal thought it was a bit far for him but Trevor insisted and Roy said "he'll be alright, it's not that far." Trevor entered the water again and set off for the beach and help. In the mean time the tide had turned and they were getting pushed back towards the shore, eventually catching up and overtaking Trevor, (he was about 50 yards to the side of them at this stage).

Roy and Mal landed on the beach, and set out to rescue the poor knackered Trevor. This involved Roy and Mal wading in the sea past their waists in order to lift and carry Trevor or as they did just dragged him up the beach. Once they had all got their breath back, they sorted the boat out and got it on the trailer then changed into dry clothes and headed for the pub for a few pints and a debrief as to what went wrong and what to do about it in the future.

Still all's well that ends well and it certainly didn't put any of them off sailing because they each own a boat and a radio now, and enjoy their sailing. And after all, every sail is a learning curve!

Anon

A man came home drunk at four in the morning, and his wife began yelling at him, crying because she thought he had been with another woman. 'No love, I swear, I was at a bar and it was so fancy that even the urinals were made of GOLD'. She said she didn't believe him, so he gave her the number of the pub. 'Hello', she said, 'my husband claims to have been at your pub last night and I have just one question to verify this. Are your urinals covered in gold?' There was a pause, and then she heard the bartender say, 'Hey Charlie I think we've found the bloke who peed in your saxophone.'

What is the similarity between a dolphin and a woman?
They are both said to be intelligent but no one can prove it!

I was talking to our lass the other night and said, 'If I die you'll eventually remarry. So as soon as I'm gone I want you to sell all my things including the boat and everything.' 'Now why would you want me to do that' she replied. 'Well I don't want some other arsehole using it do I'. She replied, 'What makes you think that I'd marry ANOTHER arsehole.'

SCOTTISH JOKES

A pregnant teenage girl phones her dad at midnight and says; 'Can you come and get me? I think ma water has broken.' 'Okay,' says her dad. 'Where are you ringing from? 'Fae my knickers tae ma feet.'

After announcing he's getting married, a boy tells his pal that he'll be wearing a kilt. 'And what's the tartan?' asks his pal. 'Oh, she'll be wearing a white dress.'

Ten cows in a field. Which one is closest to Iraq? Coo eight.

Mahatma Ghandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little making him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him ----- **A super – calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.**

SOME NOT SO WELL KNOWN FACTS!

No one is listening until you pass wind.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he'll sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

Never test the depth of water with both feet.

Don't worry; it only seems kinky the first time.

There are two excellent theories for arguing with women. Neither one works.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

WHICH FLARE AND WHEN?

Flare type	When to use it
Handheld Red	1 minute of bright light Within sight of potential rescue vessel or aircraft. Close to land (say within 3 miles) where you can see houses or a town. When requested by rescuers to pinpoint your position.
Handheld Orange	1 minute of orange smoke (daylight use only) Within sight of potential rescue, vessel or aircraft. Close to land (say within 3 miles) where you can see houses or a town.
Parachute Red	40 seconds of bright light falling from 300 metres As above, but at greater distances; ship hull down; land only on horizon. When Mayday brings no response and the need is urgent. Fire a second parachute 30 seconds after the first to reinforce sighting. Beware of low cloud base cover; (a handheld held as high as possible might be more effective).

BECAUSE WE SHARE OUR SAILING GROUND WITH SHIPPING, HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND

1. Don't go between the bow of a ship and the harbour pilot boat, if you have any doubts about the movement of a ship, avoid it altogether.
2. Don't assume the pilot skipper can see you. If you can't see the bridge, he can't see you.
3. Vessels over 150m will display a black cylinder by day and three all round lights in a vertical line by night.
4. Invest in a radar reflector as required by law (Solas V)
5. Know the harbour bylaws and learn the typical turning movements of the ships. The harbour master will be able to advise you and there may be a leaflet on this.
6. Listen to your VHF for safety broadcasts and shipping movements.
7. Never assume a ship that appears stationary is anchored. It could be a tanker moving very slowly.
8. Keep looking behind you as well as ahead.

QUESTION – Answer on back page

There was once a recluse who never left his home.. the only time anyone visited was when his food and supplies were delivered but they never went inside. One stormy winter's night when a gale was howling outside he had a nervous breakdown. He ran upstairs and turned all the lights off. Next morning it transpired that he had caused the deaths of hundreds of people. How?

THE THREE WIVES

Three men married wives from different countries. The first man married a woman from China. He told her that she was to do their dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to see a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a woman from Italy. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, the dishes and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it looked a lot better. By the third day he saw his house immaculate, the dishes were done and there was a huge meal on the table when he got in.

The third man married a girl from Hartlepool. He ordered her to keep the house clean, the dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and ironed and hot food on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, and his arm was healed enough so that he could fix himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher.....

Tim was at school today and the teacher asked all the kids what their dads did for a job. Kids yelled |Fireman, chippy, plumber etc... but Tim kept his mouth shut, so the teacher asked him, 'Tim what does your father do for a job?' 'My dad dances in a gay club and takes off his clothes for the men. If they pay enough, he'll go out with a man, rent a room and sleep with them.' The teacher sent the other kids out to lunch and took Tim to one side to ask him if that was true. 'No', said Tim 'he plays football for England, but I was too embarrassed to say.'

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, 'how do you determine whether or not an elderly person should be put in an old folks home?' 'Well', he said, we fill up a bath tub then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bath tub. 'Oh, I understand,' I said. 'A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon and teacup.' 'No.' he said. 'A normal person would pull the plug out. Do you want a bed near the window?'

MY NEW SHORT LIVED PART TIME JOB AT SAINSBURYS

After landing a new part time job as a Sainsbury's greeter, (a good find for many retirees) I lasted less than a day. About two hours into my first day on the job, a very loud and very unattractive woman marched into the store dragging her two kids, yelling obscenities at them all the way through the entrance.

As I had been instructed, I said pleasantly, 'Good morning and welcome to Sainsbury's. Nice children you have there. Are they twins?' the ugly woman stopped yelling long enough to say, 'Of course they ain't f***ing twins! The oldest one's nine and the other one's seven. Why the hell would you think they're twin's knob 'ead? Are you blind, or just f***ing stupid?' So I replied, 'I'm neither blind nor stupid, Madam. I just couldn't believe someone actually shagged you twice. Have a good day and thank you for shopping at Sainsbury's!'

Dave drowned when he fell off the pier at Hartlepool. So at the funeral we got him a wreath in the shape of a lifebelt. Well, it's what he would have wanted

I've just been on a once in a lifetime holiday. I'll tell you what, never again!

Good judgement comes from bad experience ... and most of that comes from bad judgement.

And finally If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

An Irishman was walking home late one night and sees a woman lurking in the shadows. 'Twenty pounds,' she whispers. Paddy had never had a hooker before, but decides – what the hell, it's only twenty quid. So they hide in the bushes. They'd been going at it for a couple of minutes when suddenly a light flashes on them and it was a police officer.

'What's going on here?' asks the officer. 'I'm making love to me wife,' Paddy answers, sounding annoyed. 'Oh, I'm so sorry,' says the cop, 'I didn't know.' 'Well needer did I ,' says Paddy, 'till ya shoined dat light in her face.'

PRICELESS

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar backwards. The man, who was a priest said, 'I am a Father.' The little boy replied, 'my daddy doesn't wear his collar like that.' The priest looked up from his book and answered, 'I am the Father of many.' The boy said, 'my dad has 4 boys,4 girls and 3 grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way!' the priest, getting impatient, said. 'I am the father of hundreds,' and went back to reading his book. The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, 'maybe you should wear a condom, and put your pants on backwards instead of your collar.

Gary and Colin are out hunting rabbits when Colin suddenly collapses and stops breathing. Desperately Gary searches for a pulse but can't find one, he whips out his mobile phone and dials 999 and blurts out, 'my friend has just dropped down dead! What should I do?' a soothing voice at the other end of the phone says, 'OK, OK just calm down and relax, let's make sure that he's really dead first.' After a brief silence the operator hears a gun shot ring out. Then Gary comes back on the phone, 'OK.' He says nervously. 'What do I do next?'

LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR – After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin itch and you'll need a pee.

LAW OF PROBABILITY – The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act

NOTE FROM EDITOR

In order to produce the Marina Mates I need articles to keep coming in regularly from berth holders etc. Due to lack of articles at the present time, and my own commitments, I have decided that the Marina Mates will now be published on a quarterly basis rather than bi/monthly as at present. Please keep your articles, experiences, sailing tips etc coming in if you wish for this publication to continue. The next issue will be published in December 2010

Send your articles to the Marina Office marked for my attention, or catch me (Mike off Belinda) when I am down the Marina (too often as my wife will tell you). If you wish to make any comments or suggestions for improvements, please contact me.

Hartlepool Berth Holders Association.

The Association is run under the auspices of the RYA to represent your interests. Many berth holders have joined but more members are needed and welcomed, the more members we have, the more representation we can claim, therefore the more credible we become in the eyes of those who make the decisions. We are here to help with any issues which you have within the marina. Our intention has always been to work with marina management to ensure standards are met and if possible, improved.

If you would like to join the association, the annual fee is only £10.00, forms and addressed envelopes can be obtained from the marina office or by contacting us on line at www.hmba.org.uk Please support us so that we can support you. If you fancy joining up now, you will be entitled to 50% discount on the fee.

Via our website you can access information such as tide tables, forthcoming HMBA events, our meeting minutes, or just to contact us. Also our site has links to other marina's in the North east and boating services.

HMBA members can also benefit from a 10% discount on insurance from Topsail and a 50% discount on a visit to Springs health Club. Full details on our website. We will be holding our AGM in January (Date to be announced) hopefully, at the Tees & Hartlepool Yacht Club a buffet will be available afterwards. We are also looking at arranging a special "Start of the season" event in March 2011 look out for details.

Please enjoy safely what is left of the "season" and let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Mike Craddy

HMBA Chairman.

Answer to question.

He was a lighthouse keeper.