



# TOGLINE

The Quarterly Journal of the Trent Offshore Group  
Formed and constituted, 26<sup>th</sup> September 1991



## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2012

**Yardarm : Horizontal spar mounted in such a way that, seen from the cockpit, the sun is always over it.....**



**First of all** – a Happy new Year to all our readers! 2012 is history and 2013 holds forth it's potential for another excellent year for the Trent Offshore Group. You can see from the summary inside and the reports throughout the year,

thoughtfully and thankfully received, that last year provided a favourable source of satisfaction for a goodly number of our members. Once again, as we start the new year, I look forward as always to receiving whatever reports, slings, arrows or whatever, you choose to toss in my direction. It is only by receiving such feedback, **any** feedback, that we can obtain an idea of the level of satisfaction which your Council – hopefully – provide for you. Without going into a lot of detail here (*see back pages*), the programme for this year seems to be pretty well set up and indeed, booked!

**Once again**, we have John to thank for all his hard work and research which make these expeditions feasible. The award of the Navigator's tankard is more than well-deserved. Navigation does not necessarily imply the nautical expression, although John does do it very well. Hunting around for Charter suppliers and the best rates also deserves the appellation of "navigation". The quality of the Charterers and their boats – with one or two exceptions through no fault of John's – have really repaid the efforts made by John in securing them. Thank you so much.

**TOGLINE this quarter** is always a difficult one to fill. I have tried to keep the interest up by including not necessarily Sailing items, but also trying to show that our members do not spend all their time on the water. Keith Stedman's report is not only interesting, I feel, but also provides a very good supply of ready humour. Some of us are very fit indeed - puts me to shame. 192 miles on foot over inhospitable terrain is not to be sneezed at! I have also brought you up-to-date with the social side and the Annual Dinner/Dance/Awards

report. A disappointing turnout, but nonetheless very enjoyable again. Congratulations to Andy for arranging it all. Congratulations also to all the winners of an award – they are all well-deserved.

**Our treasurer** has had a couple of long-distance trips it would seem. He reported on the Caribbean trip over the previous three issues, It's a pity one doesn't accumulate sea-miles on the watter!! His latest offering from Morocco is inside ad makes pretty good reading. You will find a few more Tailpieces and a summary of the existing sailing programme on the back pages. The take-up of the programme has been absolutely staggering. Well done one and all.

**One item that has really surprised us** is the take-up for the Caribbean trip in January 2013. The "Islands on Guard" will wonder what has hit them when this lot descend upon their sun-washed waters! East of the islands lies the Atlantic Ocean, where heavy swells can come roaring in and to the West – the clear waters, the gentle lap of ripples and golden beaches of the Caribbean Sea. People talk about the North-east trade winds which seemed to blow throughout the year – balmy and gentle – but the can be deceptive! Read a few of Graham's reports on the Caribbean Adventure!

**I seem to have waffled somewhat**, so will take the opportunity of winding-up. As the New Year opens, I look forward to meeting with you and receiving items from as many of you as possible. I always live in hopes when the deadline approaches – what will pop up in my e-mails? I have never been disappointed and am always so grateful. Thank you. Until 30<sup>th</sup> April deadline, take care, keep smiling and I'll see you around.

**Happy Sailing!!**

Ian Calderwood  
19, St. John's Close  
Ryhall  
Stamford  
Lincs. PE9 4HS

Tel: (01780) 763748. e-mail: berician@aol.com

## PRESIDING MASTER'S MUSINGS

by Neil Macfarlane



### ANNUAL DINNER 2013

Welcome to the annual dinner of the Trent Offshore Group in its twenty second year. On your behalf I say thank you to the Greetham Valley

hotel staff for the excellent meal that we have just enjoyed and also thanks to our social secretary Andy McWilliam for organising the dinner and liaising with the hotel. It's always a somewhat fraught period in January as the number of bookings slowly creep up, but here we are again as a lively group keen to enjoy ourselves.

**It's good to see Keith Stedman**, my predecessor as Presiding Master, with us tonight. Last year he was unable to join us due to other diary commitments – no doubt a yet another holiday with or without ornithological interests. This year Keith has successfully juggled the competing requirements of the RSPB, the Morgan Owners' Club and Highclere to join us with Sheila. It's also important that he attended to return the Commodore's Cup of which he was last year's worthy recipient to mark his service to the club. Keith's speeches were also marked by a series of good jokes, often with a nautical theme. In the pub last week I asked him to recommend me a really funny joke for my speech. He agreed, but rather than nautical it's ornithological with links to my own ichthyological scientific interests. Here it is. Two parrots are sitting on a perch; one says to the other, "Can you smell fish?"..... Thank you Keith – clearly it's something to do with the way you tell them.



**On a sad note**, last year we lost a former council member of long standing: Colin Brockett died last November at the age of eighty-one. Like me, Colin was north London boy. His early life was marked by a near miss from a doodlebug in Tottenham. For National Service he joined the Air Sea Rescue and was

posted to Boston to crew motor torpedo boats. Other boating experiences included rowing on the Thames, a motor cruiser on the Broads, and exploration of the Dutch canals. Through his life he owned six boats, latterly seagoing yachts, of which the last was a Parker 325, which for some reason he had named "Nosey"..... Many TOG members learnt a great deal from sailing with Colin around the Wash, north Norfolk and further afield. He held a RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Ocean ticket and was an RYA examiner. He gave long service on the TOG council as our training master, and we were pleased to welcome Colin and Phil as our guests at last year's annual dinner. **Mark Davis and I attended his funeral in Boston.**

**Colin was succeeded as training master on council** by Mark, who earlier had been bosun. Mark cannot be with us this evening owing to a family event – another one with diary problems! Mark resigned from council last year and we thank him for his enthusiastic support over many years, especially on the training side and the Easter Sailex. He continues to develop his own sailing school *Ashore Sailing* and we look forward to collaborating with him for our mutual benefit for both shore-based and sailing activities.

**Our club exists** to "provide offshore sailing experience to members and train them to relevant RYA standards". For this summary of our sailing activities in the year past and our plans for 2013 and a little beyond I am grateful to our expeditions

master, John Bryant. Last year, John, with the essential support of our skippers, organised a range of potential activities for our delectation and seven received sufficient support from members to take place. In 2011 fifty-three members and friends joined our **sailing events**, and last year seventy-seven berths were taken up. Successful **excursions** were organised to: Solent/south coast (Easter); Channel Isles/France; Skye; south-west Ireland; Ionian Sea (Greece); and Solent/south coast (October). As ever we are very grateful to our skippers who helped organise these events and took responsibility for the yachts and their crews. (*Full reports of each trip listing skippers and crews have appeared in recent TOGlines.*)

**For this year and early 2014** seven events are planned which have already attracted sixty-four advance bookings. These (*detailed in the sailing programme elsewhere in TOGline*) start with a boat-handling course on the Solent, and also offer opportunities on the south coast, Pembrokeshire, Ireland, Scotland and Greece. Even now some of these trips are already fully subscribed. John also proposed to council that we offer a trip to the Caribbean next January. I was highly sceptical about this given the distance and potential expense. However my early misgivings were confounded by the level of interest so I too have come aboard and will soon pay my deposit! We hope that we have been able to offer something that appeals to a wide range of members wanting to sail with TOG this year. We rely on members to give us their preferences so if you would like to see a particular location or charter in future programmes then please mention this to any member of council. Finally, thank you again to John for his work on our sailing programme and to other members of council for their support of the club over the past year.

### ANNUAL DINNER and DANCE Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013

**About 40 members and friends** attended the Annual Dinner/Dance/Prizegiving bash at the Greetham Valley Hotel near Stamford, successfully arranged by our Social Secretary, Andy McWilliam. The smaller room was used as a gesture to the reduced numbers compared with previous years. A slideshow, manfully put together by John Bryant and Neil, projected a "moving" selection on the wall of the room. What choice and eclectic sets appeared....! A raffle, with prizes generously donated by members, raised £140 for the benefit of the RNLI

A very tasty meal was enjoyed followed by the announcing of the prizewinners, only one of which recipients was present. The awards were as follows:

### THE COMMODORE CUP



**This was awarded**, without any hesitation by the Council, to **Mark Davis**, our late Training Master for the unstinting efforts he put into his years as a member of Council. He introduced many new potential sailors and members through his Navigation Night Classes, and enabled many to take their first steps in open-water sailing. He is continuing in TOG as a member and is prepared to continue with his teaching – and even offer a discount to members of TOG!



## MOST PROMISING NEWCOMER/S.

**The Ellis Trophy** was jointly awarded to **Ronney and Ivone Panerai**, for the enthusiasm they have shown in attending, as first-timers, at least two sailexes and their considerate conduct aboard. As an example of joint commitment, Ronnie and Evone are the third couple to have received this prestigious reward. Congratulations to you both,



### THE NAVIGATION TANKARD

This was awarded to **John Bryant** not only for his Navigation at sea, but also for Navigation on land through the minefield of Chartering. and arranging our Sailexes. His undoubted organising capabilities and confidence have really made a tremendous difference to our skippers on their passage-making exercises ashore!



### THE MILLENIUM TROPHY

This is always a difficult choice as all the articles the Editor receives merit an award of their own! After much agonising, the Editor awarded the trophy to **Brian Rowlands**, for his report on the October sailex. It contained wit, humour and was a wonderful sideways look at the trip highlights. Eminently readable (see

*Autumn 2012 TOGLINE – Ed.)*

Following this, the Presiding Master gave his usual address on the doings of the Group over the past year. (see page 2) Once again, humour slid in (unintended or otherwise!), and a



comprehensive coverage resulted. After the formal part of the evening, the disco fired up and energetic dancing then followed. Once again, a very enjoyable time and dare we hope to continue for another year....?



*Extract from the Rothley Post – November 2012*

**JOHN BRYANT**, a 69 year old sailing enthusiast from Rothley has been hailed a Maritime Hero in a new nationwide initiative – The Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Award.

John was nominated by Lowden-based Sailing club, Trent Offshore Group, for his outstanding club service as its Expeditions Manager. He is one of 30 national semifinalists selected from the many entries nationwide.

The new annual awards scheme was launched in June by Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky to reward the outstanding passion, commitment and achievements demonstrated within Britain's maritime communities, at both a local and national level. To launch the scheme, Old Pulteney contacted UK Sailing Clubs asking them to nominate any members they felt deserved recognition within one of the following three categories: Club Service, Bravery or Sailing Achievement.

John was selected by the Old Pulteney judging panel for his tireless work in organising all his club's yacht charters, a vital role, as the Trent Offshore Group relies solely on charters to provide its members with sailing experience. Throughout 2011 not only did John arrange for 53 members to sail in five different events, he also more recently took his role to a new level by investigating trip travel options, advising on packing and yacht provisions and developing an online booking system.

John took up sailing nine years ago following his retirement, taking training courses at Rawlins College. He has now sailed 2300 nautical miles at sea around the UK and Ireland.

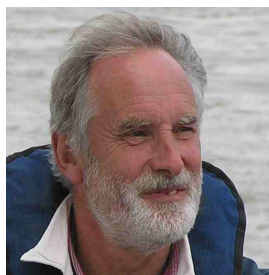
He said: "It was a very pleasant surprise to learn of my nomination for this award for club service and a delight to win the regional final. It is difficult to feel worthy of this as an individual because so many in the group give up their time and energy for the benefit of all including, but not limited to, the skippers, our magazine editor Ian Calderwood, past training master Mark Davis, our Presiding Master Neil Macfarlane, and other council members past and present."

To reward John's enthusiasm and dedication, Old Pulteney has presented him with a Maritime Heroes Awards certificate and bottle of its award-winning 12 Year Old Single Malt. John will now be one of the 30 shortlisted sailing stars going through to the competition finals in December. If successful he will win £2,000 a commemorative trophy and a bottle of Old Pulteney 21 Year Old Single Malt.

## REPORTS

### COIAST TO COAST

*by Keith Stedman*



Well, if you were thinking that this article was all about sailing then I am sorry to disappoint you but the title is about as nautical as it gets. Those of you who know me will realise that I have not been "on the water" for the past year. (I ought to just clarify that

"on the water" means sailing not that I have turned to strong liquor – just didn't want anyone getting the wrong idea.)

As well as several trips abroad chasing birds (of the feathered variety – ornithology being my first hobby) and weekend in



the "Morgan" I managed to fulfil a lifetime's ambition of walking the "Coast to Coast" long distance walk made famous



by Alfred Wainwright in the 1970's.

**The walk runs from St. Bees Head** (on the West coast) across the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North Yorkshire Moors National Park to finish at Robin Hoods Bay on the East Coast of Great Britain, a total distance of 198 miles.

**Now, being a Senior Citizen,** I did not opt to carry all my belongings on my back, but went for the softer option of having a baggage company take the main bags between our daily B & B's. This left Sheila and I to just walk each day with our day sacks. These contained all the essentials (waterproofs, map, compass, lunch, snacks, water, first aid equipment, sat-nav, whistle, hat, gloves etc etc. (you get the picture?). Everything needed for the British Summer.....oh yes.... and the obligatory sun block.

**I am not going to bore you all** by giving a day to day account of our meanderings across the wonderful British countryside, but will endeavour to concentrate on the highlights and memorable bits. ( I need to commit these to paper as at my age I shall forget we ever did it by the end of next year!)

**We set off from St Bees** on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012, a fine day with wonderful sun and warmth, for our first days walking to Ennerdale Bridge approximately 14 miles away. This is great!



Someone up there is looking after us.....but not for long!! Day two, 14.5 miles to Stonethwaite. Who turned the sunshine off and the gale force winds on..... still no rain!! The strength of the wind was pretty fierce, as Sheila found out when we topped out, having climbed up Loft Beck, a steep but reasonably short climb. This was followed by being blown completely off our feet!! My best advice at the time .....we'll look on the bright side it could be worse ....at least its dry!

**Day three, a short one.** The wind has abated a little.....someone is looking after us..... Get up, open the

curtains.....oh, perhaps they're not.....it is absolutely sheeting it down with rain. Well, at least we don't have to carry the waterproofs and it is a short day - only 9.0 miles. Oh my goodness, what a day! I have never experienced rain like it. All the mountain streams that we have to cross (usually a step over), are all in spate and have turned into raging torrents. People are having to help each other across. Who's idea was this? .....bu\*\*er it was mine! Still, despite the rain, we made it and managed to get most of our kit dry for the following day, thanks to a wonderful B & B landlady.

**The next "high point" of the trip** was the climb over Kidsty Pike ( the highest point on the walk at 784 metres (2572ft). From this vantage point, you have wonderful views over the surrounding Lake District before descending to the shores of Haweswater.....except we didn't. Having had sun, winds and rain on previous days, it was only to be expected that we would have low cloud today. Visibility was down to a few yards and it was the good old map and compass work to find the path down. On the way, someone found the peat bog very attractive and fell head-first, to give a very good imitation of Cruella Deville, much to the amusement of other walkers. Just as well the dogs weren't dalmations!!



**Leaving the Lake District behind** us, we seemed to have left the worst of the weather. The following days were a mixture of sunny spells, rain showers and a little wind (mostly from the enormous, full English breakfasts that successive B & B's gave us each morning!)

**After Kirkby Stephen** you head out to Keld (the half way



point), entering the Yorkshire Dales National Park, crossing the Pennines and the main watershed between the East and West coast en route. Downhill from here on then!!! You also visit on the way, a series of very large stone cairns, all of different

shapes, known as the Nine Standards. The cairns are certainly very old, since they appear on 18<sup>th</sup> Century maps and there are many theories about their origin. One such theory is that they were built to deter the marauding Scots, by giving the impression that the English army was encamped here! Whilst here, we met a fellow walker (Wilf) who seemed to be doing the Coast to Coast with the aid of an old sat-nav (which just seemed to give position only) and no maps. Hence, he knew where he was but had no idea where to head for next. We sorted him out,



put him on the right path and he went on his way. Never saw him again anywhere en route! Oops!

**We are now walking** between Osmotherley and Clay Bank Top. Once again, we took the soft option and divided the 21 miles to



Blakey Ridge into two – giving us a reasonable 12 mile walk today .....or so we thought. It just so happens that the 12 miles also encompasses no less than five climbs on the way.....great views but totally knacker!

**The following day** was a very short walk to Blakey Ridge and a stay at the famous Lion Inn. Not much to look at, but inside, with the dark wooden beams and open fires, you get the feel of the circa 1553 inn that it claims to be. Although short, the walk is wonderful. Warm and sunny and just the two of us as far as the eye could see across the North York Moors – wonderful.

**The following two days** took us over the remainder of the moors and gave us our first view of the North Sea. On the way, you pass the stumpy white landmark called Fat Betty, where tradition requires you to both take and leave a snack or sweet. A strange tradition, but we complied, not wishing to upset the Gods at this late stage of the walk. (I was going to insert here a picture of Fat Betty and leave the reader to decide which was

which. Not having a death wish, I decided against it). Oh to hell with it.....

Well that's me well and truly in the dog house!!

**This part of the trip** also saw the one and only time that we actually took a wrong turning (or to be correct saw us (no me) miss a turning). We were directed by the route to take a left hand turn down the aptly named Great Fryup Dale (see reference to B & B's earlier). Well, the photo opportunity could not be missed so, giving the camera to Sheila, I duly posed under the Great Fryup Sign, patting my extended tummy for good effect. A great photo, camera back in the rucksack, off we went striding it out with our goal almost achieved .....but, hang on a moment.....one of those flashes of inspiration one gets about a mile further on.....We didn't actually make the turn - we carried straight on. Blame the map reader .....oh that's no good, it was me!! Nothing for it but to turn around, go back to the sign and then turn right (yes right not left, as above, because we were now facing the other direction.)

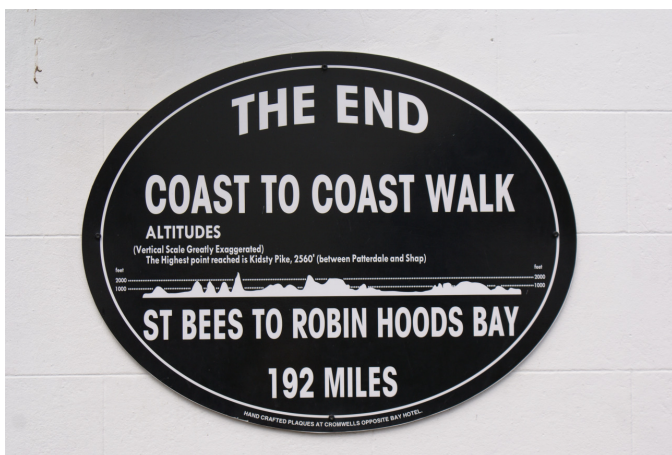
**Onward, through the renowned village** of Grosmont (at least to the railway enthusiast) and on towards our last night's stay at Littlebeck, before the run in (well a slow walk actually), to Robin Hoods Bay. Grosmont is where the North York Railway has its headquarters. After making the slog up the 33% (that is 1 in 3 isn't it – in proper terminology) hill out of the village, I was photographed wearing a tee-shirt with a tall ship depicted on it and the words "registered wreck"!! Very apt.



**Our evening at Littlebeck** was memorable. We met a New Zealander (Brendon) and duly introduced ourselves. On hearing my surname he became quite agitated and asked me if I was the uncle of Henry Stedman as he had heard from two girls that Henry's Uncle was doing the Coast to Coast walk. Henry Stedman is the author of the C2C walkers guide book in the "Trailblazer" series. I coloured up with embarrassment. Way back in Kirkby Steven we shared a B & B with two girls who were also using the Trailblazer guide. In the evening, as a joke, I said that Henry was my nephew.....We didn't see the couple at breakfast where I meant to tell them it was a joke.....I put Brendon right and explained what had happened. He told me that a good few walkers were out there looking for Henry's relative!. We had a good laugh and he then insisted that I sign the front of his guide book. We still keep in contact with Brendon.

**From that point on** it was an easy walk to the finish along the cliff tops, with sunshine all the way until the moment we entered Robin Hood's Bay..... then it started to rain!





The sharp eyed amongst you will have noticed the above sign reads 192 miles and I started this article by saying it was 198 miles. Even adding the two additional miles for the wrong turning, it doesn't compute. The reason .....well it's one of three things either deflation, or the world getting smaller every day.....or just an error on my part!!

We loved our experience, met some great people, saw our countryside at it's best, enjoyed the walking and made some new friends. Would we do it again .....a definite YES ....but next time with better weather!!

We enjoyed it so much that we are off to do the West Highland way this year. Only 98 miles and Scottish midges!!!



**A Moroccan Diversion - For those venturing to North Africa. By Graham Wassall**

Arcturus - Arcona 430 - Peter Lambert, Skipper - Graham Wassall & Clive Crankshaw, Crew - 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012



On a trip from Lagos, Portugal to La Gomera, we had planned to sail to Madeira and then on to La Gomera ( 800 nm) However the usual North Easterlies were replaced by South Westerlies due to Hurricane Raphael refusing to budge from the centre of the Atlantic. We had 2 options. 35 knots on the nose or divert to the African coast – the latter was more preferable over a long passage.

Checking online, our first port of call needed to be Mohammedia - 15 miles North East of Casablanca. Casablanca was out as the Marina is unfinished & no anchoring is allowed . 190nm from Lagos.

Mohammedia is shown as the best Marina in Morocco - 2 pontoons & 5 visitors berths !! On arrival it is important to be able to speak French or Arabic – How inconsiderate of them !! Sign language is easily misunderstood when asking for a berth for 2 nights.

With no spare visitors berths, we eventually rafted up against a 25 foot cruiser – not ideal when our Arcona was 43 feet – but no one seemed to be too bothered.



**Local Fishermen selling their catch**

We couldn't leave the boat until the Police & Customs had come onboard to check us out. After completing all the paperwork, they retained our Passports & Ships papers until we left – you certainly can't leave without paying!! The Police official was also the local electrician – perhaps I'll have a word with our new Commissioner.

We hadn't any Dirhams which was no problem as Euros were accepted, but watch out , get a price before buying anything as the local restaurant charged us €90 for dinner for 3 when it should have been €30 – our mistake !!

On leaving Mohammedia, you'll notice that your sparkling white boat is now grey. Mohammedia is Morocco's main oil refinery – the dust gets on the hull, ropes, sails, everywhere. Fortunately the next storm on the way to Essaouira washed most of it off. 200nm to Essaouira

Essaouira is a lovely fortified town 160 miles South of Casablanca. However beware as there is only 1 visitors berth in the fishing harbour. We were again fortunate to moor alongside an old Beneteau. On arrival, squabbles were breaking out on the quayside as locals were deciding who was going to be our Agent. Definition of 'Agent' : Someone who can rip you off for Euros or Alcohol when taking control of your every move.



**The only visitor's berth**

**It was an interesting overnight stay** – no fuel in the harbour so our Agent's brother ( local Taxi ) drove us with cans to the nearest petrol station to get Diesel - 90 litres & 3 people in a Taxi has to be seen to be believed !!

**However the beautiful town** is one that I would recommend visiting - the night market was buzzing with life



**Chicken doesn't come much fresher !!**

**On leaving Essaouria**, the 290 miles to La Gomera was plain sailing with a dash & splash into Puerto Calero on Lanzarote to re-fill the fridge.

**With difficult weather** and sea conditions, it's not a journey that I would want to repeat.

### **SAILS FOR TANZANIA**

*(I received this e-mail from Andrew Palmer a little while ago. I felt it would make a good inclusion in TOGLINE for general circulation. You never know – someone out there may be able to help.... ?Ed).*

**Hi Ian**

**I hope you are well.** I was just reading the Autumn TOGLINE and thought of writing to you.

I have been working on a shift basis in Tanzania since mid last year, basically working for a month and then having a month off. I was walking on the beach last year and saw some fishermen making sails by sewing together plastic bags!

**Anyway**, I had quite a few old sails in the loft and my sail maker found some old torn ones; so on the last couple of trips I have taken out a suitcase of sails and given them to the fishermen in Dar es Salaam. I wondered if you could perhaps put an article in Togline asking if any members had any old sails they could contribute? Condition is unimportant. As you can imagine, if you can make a sail out of plastic bags you can do something

with any old piece of sailcloth! I could also take any old life jackets or ropes. Let me know if you can arrange something. If someone could gather some gear together, I could collect it or people could drop me an email and arrange to leave them at my house.

Regards

Andrew Palmer

0771 2077 599



### **SAILS to GO**

*( I replied to Andrew suggesting he may also like to contact Rutland Sailing Club. This was his reply Ed)*

Hi Ian

Yes, it would be terrific if you could use the email and photo in the newsletter. Dinghy sails are absolutely fine, some of the boats are very small and I have also seen them sew two small sails together ending up with a "window" at the top of the mast.

I have seen this on boats coming out of the fishing village near Dar es Salaam Yacht club, where most fishermen seem to have been given a sail over time. I go to a village on the other side of town where they do not have such affluent neighbours! I will drop a note to Rutland sailing club.

Regards

Andrew

*(Over to you? – Ed.)*

### **TREASURER**

**GRAHAM WASSALL (01664454478)**



### **ARTHUR WOOD - DEPUTY PRESIDING MASTER**





Colin.....

**A weekend sailing** on the Wash with the late Colin Brockett aboard his yacht NOSEY, a Parker 325, is one of my best memories .

**Brenda and I** joined Colin at his home moorings at Fosdyke Bridge on the River Welland one late summer Friday evening. Once on board, I was reminded why most TOG sailers take place on what are called "bareboat" charters. Like most well-used private yachts, NOSEY was packed full of useful bits and pieces. Tools and spares, books and charts, ropes and fishing lines and a plentiful supply of non-perishable food.

**We made an early start** the next morning before the sun was up and with little wind, motored down river and out into the Wash. By now the sun was shining, the sky was blue and we anchored in a sandy bay for a leisurely breakfast in the cockpit watched by curious gulls and seals. During this time, huge sandbanks began to rise out of the surrounding sea and a gentle breeze set in.

**We hoisted the sails** and continued along Boston Deep between



Long Sand and Wainfleet Firing Practice Area . Past Inner Dogs Head, we altered course to starboard to pass Lynn Knock and Woolpack. Leaving Gore Middle to starboard, we were able to enter Brancaster Bay. By this time it was late afternoon and fairly low water, so we handed the sails, raised NOSEY's lifting keel and motored into a shallow sandy creek just south of Scolt Head. where we anchored in a few inches of water. By the time dinner was finished, NOSEY was safely on the sand and we were able to watch the sun set while sitting in the cockpit with G&Ts.

**Sunday morning** brought a fresh southerly wind which meant that, before long, we were beating rapidly against the full force



Nosey on a visitors mooring Wells next the Sea

of the ebb. We soon realised that the new wind turbines astern of us were getting closer. We spent over an hour sailing fast, but losing ground until, eventually, the tide eased and we began to make progress. Soon the tide turned in our favour and we had a fine, fast sail back to finish a splendid weekend

*Following on from this report, Mark Davis was moved to send his own musings about life with such a character as*

**I was introduced** to Colin on his boat 'Nosey' by Toni Burgoin, one of Sqn Ldr Norman's students. Tony had told me Colin was always happy to have new crew onboard, but I was also warned that he didn't suffer fools gladly. Despite this I soon hit it off with Colin and that was the first of many happy sailing trips I had with him on the East Coast.

**On one of my trips** to Boston it involved me going to the top of Nosey's Mast (whilst on her mooring) to fit a new weather vane. All was going well until Colin decided to demonstrate to another crew member the correct method of lowering me down. Unfortunately I was unaware of the deck instruction being given until the halyard attached to my harness slackened and I dropped about 3". I can tell you that was a heart pounding three inches! Colin was interested to hear about TOG and applied to become a member. His knowledge and experience was soon noticed by others and it wasn't long before he joined the TOG Council as Training Master, organising sailing and training opportunities both in the classroom and on his own boat.

The picture below shows Colin in the foreground as TOG Commodore during the 2005 Easter Sailex.



The Commodore TOG Easter Sailex 2005

#### **STEWART COOK - ADMINISTRATOR**



#### **PAUL RATCLIFFE - MEMBERSHIP**

**(01778 341475)**





## NAVIGATION

**CLIVE CRANKSHAW** (01664 454403)



## SOCIAL

**ANDY McWILLIAM** (01509 413978)



## JOHN BRYANT - EXPEDITIONS MASTER



*NON Members of TOG are welcome to join any of the following sailing programmes(see back page) and will be invited to join the group as a temporary member for the year at an additional cost of £20*

*We hope that all sailing members will find something of interest in this programme. Some events will not suit those with children in school but hopefully may appeal to others. If you have an idea for a future event – please get in touch with me with some detail and I will investigate for a future programme. This may be a repeat of something we have done in the past or a thoroughly new idea*

## MARK DAVIS - TRAINING

(07711 170451)

**The following courses are available:**

**Shorebased :-**

**RYA Day Skipper** (Intensive). Starts Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February & runs for two & half weekends

**RYA First Aid** one day course. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**RYA VHF/DSC** one day marine radio course. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Practical Courses:-**

**RYA Day Skipper** 5 day **PRACTICAL** sail & train course. 28<sup>TH</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April inclusive

**RYA Coastal Skipper** 5 day **PRACTICAL** sail & train course. 28<sup>TH</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April inclusive

**Special offers** Past and present **Ashore Sailing Students** and **Trent Offshore Group** full members qualify for a 10% discount off all shorebased courses

For more information visit:-

<http://www.trent-offshore-group.co.uk/courses.html>

and keep up-to-date with forthcoming events

or

contact- **Mark Davis**

✉ [mark@ashoresailing.co.uk](mailto:mark@ashoresailing.co.uk)

☎ 0771 1170 451

*Our Sailing programme for next year is currently in the throes of assembly. The details should be finalised at the next Council Meeting at the end of the month. As soon as we are able, we will send it to everyone and, hopefully, have it on the Website as well.....!*

## WEBSITE

[www.trent-offshore-group.co.uk](http://www.trent-offshore-group.co.uk)

The TOG website has a new page: Keep up-to-date with what's on at:-

<http://www.trent-offshore-group.co.uk/Current-News.html>

Visit this page now to see some of the latest pictures and comments sent in by members. If you have any sailing news and pictures you would like uploading then please forward to Mark: You can text to 0771 1170 451 or ✉

[mark@ashoresailing.co.uk](mailto:mark@ashoresailing.co.uk)

## TAILPIECES

### DAFFY DEFINITIONS

#### ADULT:

**A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.**

#### CHICKENS:

**The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.**

#### COMMITTEE:

**A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.**

#### DUST:

**Mud with the juice squeezed out.**

#### EGOTIST:

**Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.**

#### RAISIN:

**A grape with a sunburn.**

#### SECRET:

**Something you tell to one person at a time.**

#### SKELETON:

**A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.**

#### TOOTHACHE:

**The pain that drives you to extraction.**

#### TOMORROW:

**One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.**



## **YAWN:**

**An honest opinion openly expressed.**

**And MY Personal Favourite!**

## **WRINKLES:**

**Something other people have,**

**Similar to my character lines.**

## **YOUR DUCK IS DEAD..... ????**

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet..

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a Labrador Retriever.

As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat.

The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman..

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan....."

## **Things my mother taught me...**

### **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE .**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside.. I just finished cleaning."

### **2. RELIGION.**

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

### **3. TIME TRAVEL.**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

### **4. LOGIC.**

" Because I said so, that's why."

### **5. MORE LOGIC .**

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

### **6. FORESIGHT.**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

### **7. IRONY.**

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

### **8. OSMOSIS .**

"Shut your mouth and eat your tea."

### **9. CONTORTIONISM.**

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

### **10. STAMINA .**

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

### **11. WEATHER.**

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

### **12. HYPOCRISY.**

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

### **13. CIRCLE OF LIFE.**

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out of it.."

Merry Christmas (*perhaps a little late.....*)

All employees planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.





## Trent Offshore Group

TOG Members and Friends,  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013



### 2013 Sailing Programme

The Trent Offshore Group sailing programme for 2013 is now fully open for member bookings. Those members who pre-registered interest in an event have been able to confirm their place by completing the TOG 2013 Sailex Booking Form. Some events are now fully subscribed; with a waiting list. Sailex booking availability is shown below.

Booking 2013 events can be carried out now:-

Press "Ctrl + click" to follow link:- [TOG 2013 Sailex Booking Form](#)

Alternatively please log onto the TOG web site – select "Sailing Programme" and follow the link to the booking form.

#### Close Quarter Boat Handling and Sail Trim practical weekend

START Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

END Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

WHERE – Southampton

COST £175 per member

A maximum of 8 members can join this practical long weekend. Meet up at Southampton Friday afternoon and sail to Cowes, Saturday practical boat handling and sail trim. Sunday morning will be a repeat of Saturday, followed by a return to Southampton mid Sunday afternoon. Cost includes berth, instructor, all mooring fees and all food eaten aboard.

**SAILEX FULLY BOOKED**

#### EAS13 Easter on the South Coast

START Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

END Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

WHERE – Port Hamble – the South Coast

COST £275.00 per member

This regular event has proved popular over the years and gives all a chance to get out on the water and find your sea legs to start the year in grand style. If you would like to join the Easter Sailex please complete the booking form now by following the above link.

**SAILEX OPEN FOR BOOKING**

#### PEM13 Pembrokeshire

START Saturday May or 11<sup>th</sup> May

END Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

WHERE – Neyland, Pembrokeshire

COST £240 to £275

Sail the Pembrokeshire coast, the south and west coast of Wales, visit Lundy, Skomer Island, or visit The Bitches off Ramsey. The Pembrokeshire sailex offers some not so familiar seas, coastal scenery, and magnificent wild life at this time of year. An option has been taken on two modern Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 37's. If you would like to join the Pembrokeshire Sailex please complete the booking form now by following the above link.

**SAILEX OPEN FOR BOOKING**

#### SI13 Southern Ireland – Baltimore

START Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June

END Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June

WHERE – Baltimore, County Cork

COST £275 + flights

Our visit to County Cork last year sailing from Baltimore to the Fastnet Rock, Adrigole, Lawrence Cove, Bantry, and Schull was greatly enjoyed by the crew of two large yachts Inishleigh and Inishceim operated by the very hospitable Mary and Con Minihane. We have taken a provisional booking for the same yachts in 2013 to allow more members (and maybe some of those who sailed in 2012) to see the delights of South West Ireland. See Skippers report of the 2012 sailex published in the autumn edition of TOGline. If you would like to join the South West Ireland Sailex please complete the booking form now by following the above link.

**ONE**

**BOAT FULLY BOOKED – 5 PLACES AVAILABLE**

#### SCO13 Scotland – the west coast

START Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

END Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July

WHERE – Largs / Kip Marina

COST £400

Demand for good quality charter boats in Scotland remains high so planning for this sailex started in September and was opened for bookings in October. The event grows more popular each year and 4 boats have been chartered for the 2013 Sailex. Bookings to have been very strong and we are now fully booked. Should another TOG Skipper wish join the event (and skipper) we could consider adding another boat.

**SAILEX FULLY BOOKED**

#### GRE13 Greece – Athens

START Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

END Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September

WHERE Greece – Athens (Alamos and Lavrion)

COST £385 + flights

Following a very successful, although somewhat crowded, Ionian Sailex in 2012 we have arranged a similar event from Alamos/Lavrion sailing the Argolic Gulf and the Saronic Gulf. Flights are available from Gatwick with Easyjet, and from Heathrow with BA (better choice 4 flights a day). We have reserved a Beneteau 40 and a Dufour 385.

**SAILEX FULLY BOOKED**

### **EOS13 The October – End of Season**

START Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

END Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October

WHERE - Port Hamble – the South Coast

COST £235

A great way for us to finish the 2013 season. Weather may be unpredictable but the water temperature is good and the company great. This regular event attracts people to one of the most popular sailing areas in the UK with many options for passage planning and good restaurants. If you would like to join the End of Season Sailex please complete the booking form by following the above link. **SAILEX OPEN FOR BOOKING**

### **CAR14 – The Caribbean – The Windward Islands**

START Tuesday 7th January 2014 END Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014

WHERE – The Grenadines

COST £estimated £1100 for 16 days plus flights.

A 2013 Oceanis 48 Super Premium and a 2013 Sun Odyssey 509 Super have been chartered for a one way sailex from St Lucia through the Grenadines to end at Grenada, taking advantage of the prevailing NE trade winds. The 16 day charter will allow time to explore many of the islands including St Lucia, S Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, the Tobago Cays, Union Island, Carriacou and Grenada. Flights with Virgin Atlantic operate on a direct service from London Gatwick and may be group booked, or members can make their own travel arrangements.

**SAILEX FULLY BOOKED**

We hope that all sailing members will find something of interest in this programme. If you have an idea for a future event – please get in touch with me with some detail and I will investigate for a future programme. This may be a repeat of something we have done in the past or a thoroughly new idea.

John Bryant, Expeditions Master, Trent Offshore Group, 0116 2376197 07971 281213 jke.bryant@gmail.com

**The next time we complain about the price of fish, think on about these conditions.....**

