

Storrar Marine Newsletter

March 2008

IT'S A **SMALL WORLD**. Last February (after five years in Gran Canaria) Jenny & I decided that it would be nice to move 'Dream On' our Channel 31 'caravan' to pastures new. I say caravan cos we don't seem to do much sailing out there, by the time I have chilled out, read a couple of books, sunk a few beers it's usually time to come back before I even start to think about sailing!

Being short of time during the Marine Stores busy season, late February till early September, we arranged that the couple who look after her in our absence would sail her to Lanzarote sometime during the spring/summer/early autumn of last year. Well almost a year & a half later, what with rescheduled flights, cancelled holidays etc due to the yacht's non arrival, we arrived in Lanzarote on Thursday the 7th of Feb 2008 to find, yes you guessed it, 'Dream On' was still in Gran Canaria. Frustrated but not too down hearted we took a Bintercanaria island flight & finally hit our bunks late that night! Woken at six the next day to be told that today Friday the 8th was the first day in almost a year & a half that we could get the boat through the strong wind acceleration zone which had apparently hindered the boat's progress to Las Palmas at the north end of the island. This in preparation for a relatively easy overnight sail to Lanzarote.

To cut a long story short, early next week we sailed from marina Rubicon at the Southern end of Lanzarote to La Graciosa a small island just to the North of Lanzarote. Graciosa is a bit like Holy Island, the last ferry departs at 5pm with the few days 'day trippers' & the island slips back in time. In the harbour of Caleta del Sabo there are a couple of pontoons for visiting yachts, prices very reasonable, 7 euros for two nights & if you stay for three months you get a 25% discount! Guess our destination this September?

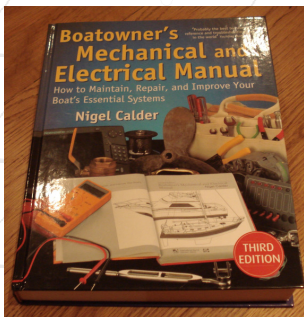
However the facilities are a little Spartan, a ½ mile walk to the toilet & if you like cold showers no problem! The one restaurant that was open in this the off season was fabulous, Pete who helped me sail the boat from Las Palmas to Rubicon ordered on our second night a mixed grill, cost him all of 12 euros, there was enough meat on his platter for at least three hungry sailors!

'Dream On' is now moored at Puerto Calero, Lanzarote, sadly the next time I will set foot on her will be in September, however I am sure that by then Jenny & my daughters will have used the 'caravan' a few times.

In my absence from work business partner Andy managed to let slip in our mid month e mail that I had hit the big 60, **SMALL WORLD** it is when a long time customer congratulates or perhaps commiserates with me after spotting the crew & I sinking beer in Calero! Thanks Andy you are a pal!



Graciosa with the harbour of Caleta del Sabo in the foreground.



CHECK YOUR HOSE CLAMPS

Reading thru my 'bible' Nigel Calder's superb book 'Boatowner's Mechanical & Electrical Manual' (which incidentally has over 800 pages of excellent info at only £45-00), I came across an interesting article on the use of stainless steel in hose clamps. Apparently some stainless steel hose clamps have a screw with an inferior (magnetic) corrosion prone grade stainless. Add to your spring check list, back off your hose clamps to check their condition. If in doubt use a magnet to check the quality of the metal. Remember also it is essential that you double clip any hose/skin fitting that is below waterline. **Rest assured the clamps we sell are of the highest quality!**

MEET OUR STAFF

Keen sailor Philip Hodgkins joined the Marine Store on a part time basis late last year whilst studying for a degree in naval architecture at Newcastle University. He learnt to sail on Lake Bassenthwaite in Cumbria & has sailed GP14s with considerable success. Three times Scottish junior champion & 1ST in the bronze fleet at the world championships. Now the proud part owner of a RS200 he hopes to compete on the RS200 circuit as well as some competitive GP14 Sailing. In his 'spare time' Phil is hard at work building the mould for a 1:10 scale Volvo Ocean racer and hopes to have the 7ft radio controlled yacht sailing by the beginning of August. Watch this space for progress reports!



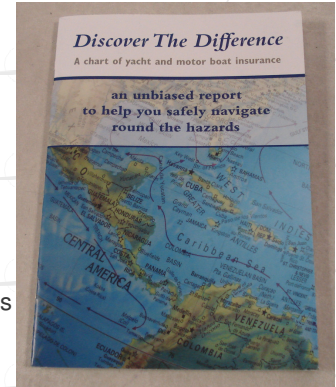
See page 2 Aunty Foulins' problem corner.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Discover the difference is the title of an excellent booklet produced by Pantaenius UK yacht insurance, copies are available from the Marine Store or direct from Pantaenius, discdif@pantaenius.co.uk. There is a general misconception that all insurance policies are the same – they are not! It would be a fantasy to believe that any one insurer or policy will give you absolutely everything you could wish for, so just how can you navigate through the plethora of small print?

Here are some things to consider when comparing policies:

- If an accident happens because a worn part fails, is the part excluded or is the claim rejected?
- If there is a No Claims Bonus, is it protected at its maximum? If you have a claim, what is the effort on NCB in the following year?
- Do the insurers need a condition survey? If not, and your boat is more than, say, 10 years old, why not?
- Is the policy an Agreed Fixed Value policy?
- If a "New for Old" deduction can be applied, does it apply to parts and materials only, or to all costs including labour costs?
- What parts and/or equipment can be subject to deductions due to their age or condition when replaced following a claim?
- Can "average" be applied to claims, and if so, to what items?
- Can "betterment" be applied, and if so, to what items?
- Are any claims settled on the basis of "market value at a time of loss"? If so, which?
- Can the insurers elect to replace parts – or the boat itself – with those of a similar age and condition?
- Do the insurers have the final say on where the repairs are carried out?
- Whose Personal Effects will be insured?
- Is use of the vessel restricted to any way that may affect you – single handed sailing, night sailing, specified winter lay-up period, club racing etc..?
- Does the policy excess apply to all claims? If not, when does it apply?
- Is liability covered under the same policy as damage to your own boat? Does the policy excess apply?
- Will I be dealing with an insurance company directly or with an intermediary? How knowledgeable are the employees who will handle my policy?



LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

From the 1st of March we move up a gear & our opening hours change in anticipation of what we hope will be a busy season, please remember that on Tuesday's (up till the end of August) we stay open till 8pm & on weekdays we are rarin to serve from 7-30am. 8-30am on Saturdays. In the evenings we close at 6pm on Mon, Thurs & Fri, Wed & Sat is a prompt 5pm close.

CANOPY WINDOWS

Are your spray hood or canopy windows letting you down? As Sailmakers we have tried a variety of products that are supposed to remove scratches, rejuvenate & polish flexible window material. At the Marine Store chandlery we have a selected range of products that with a little bit of time & effort dramatically improve the clarity of your windows. My personal favourite is the Meguiars range; Plastic cleaner, detailer & polish from £10.95 per item. Another to consider is the 'BoatSheen' vinyl window restorer kit.

Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty F,

The problem I have is that my skipper is incapable of steering our boat close enough to the pontoon to enable me to jump off & secure a mooring line. I am at my wits end & if I hear any more bad language I fear I will jump ship.

Dear Frantic from Fenham,

Suggest you get him to buy you a Moor fast, the complete mooring system; it's a clever simple device that often makes mooring a safe & easy process when otherwise it may not be. Snip at £39.95

Do you have a boating related problem?

E-mail me, Aunty Foulin and I'll do my best to solve it:

auntyfoulin@storrarmarine.co.uk



STAFF WANTED

Clare our chandlery clothing manageress is taking maternity leave in early May, so we are looking for an enthusiastic sales person to help run our busy chandlery.

Applicants should be enthusiastic, capable of working under pressure with the minimum of supervision & have some experience in water sport(s) an interest in marine clothing would be useful but not essential as full training would be given. Initially we are looking for maternity cover but for the right person it could lead to long term employment.



Good Friday open 10am till 4pm
(browse from 9-30am)

Easter Saturday
8-30 till 5

**Easter Bank Holiday
Opening Hours**
Don't forget our free
Easter Eggs
(while stocks last)

Easter Sunday closed (gone sailin)

Easter Monday open 10am till 4pm
(browse from 9-30)

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