Andy & yours truly decided to have a quick beer the other night as a reward for moving a customer’s yacht & not falling out over it (no problem with that) got home at ten just in time to watch the news. News finished, watched the weather forecast & then Jenny decided to flick the channels, fatal mistake, cos once again they were showing one of my favourite films; ‘The Bourne Supremacy’ starring Matt Damon, based on the book by Robert Ludlum. Unfortunately, it did not finish till after midnight which, at my advancing age, is way past my bedtime! Speaking of films, we went to see ‘The King’s Speech’ starring Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter & Geoffrey Rush the other night (was recovering from man flu, so trying not to cough was an effort), great film & well worth the effort to get off my sick bed! I did, however, have Jenny alongside to wipe my fevered brow.

We had a great response to our December competition! Congrats to our winners, commiserations & better luck next time to all of you who entered, worked out & sent thru the correct answers, but weren’t pulled out of Andy’s lucky hat, never mind there is always this month’s. Speaking of competition winners, see below a picture of our lucky recipient enjoying his prize – “a bit of a cheesy pose I’m afraid but its too damn cold to pose anywhere outside”

With almost two-thirds of the St Peters winter series sailed it’s once again very tight at the top, lying first overall is the works entry Join The Club with young Andy patrolling the foredeck, closely followed by Thunderbirds and Enigma. (Incidentally, Andy isn’t my son, I’ve just had a hard paper round!!) With 1 race to go in the RNYC winter series, ‘Flush In The Pan’, helmed by either yours truly or young Phil Murray, is leading the series. Currently running second is Running Bear and third is Fagin’s Express.

Finally, if you thought that boating was just like standing under a cold shower whilst tearing up twenty pound notes, please take time out to read the following article. It first appeared in that excellent publication ‘Practical Boat Owner’ some years ago & folks, thanks for allowing me to reproduce it. I have on a number of occasions left the magazine open on the appropriate page when Jenny & I are retiring to our bunk after a satisfying day’s sailing, when her comment usually follows the line:

‘what that old chestnut! Dream On!’ “Don’t believe everything you read in print” (Jenny)

A RITE GOOD READ
New in stock is a cracking little pocket book called ‘Yachting Monthly 200 Skippers Tips’ by Tom Cunliffe.

Amongst the wealth of advice, there are hints on how to judge distance at sea or tell if a tide has turned, how to steer clear of rocks and ensure you come alongside safely and in style.

These are the sort of practical tips learned over many years at sea and don't feature in the syllabus of yachting qualifications.

WATERPROOF NETTIE* PAPER HOLDER
Not sure why, but the other week, we had a rush (or should I say flush) of orders on our online site www.marinechandlery.com for the Oceanair waterproof toilet roll holder. 1 fitted one on Dream On, our Channel 31 project some eight years ago, & it's lived up to expectations. On a boat of this size (probably on bigger boats also) the shower is in the heads compartment & if not marina based & you want to shower there is no need to stow the toilet paper away. The clever design ensures that when you close the 'lid' any surplus paper self stows! Contrary to what it says on the Oceanair website it's only available in an off white & will set you back only £18.95

Features include:
Waterproof when closed
Automatic paper delivery/rewind
Hard wearing moulded ABS
Hygienic & easy to clean
Recessed or surface mounted
Simple installation, all mounting hardware included

* For those folk south of the river Tees, nettie is the Geordie name for a toilet

BOOTED INTO TOUCH
Our vintage Storrar Marine website (launched to celebrate the millennium!) has at long last been updated. Check it out at www.storrarmarine.co.uk

Boating improves your sex life – official
A study by the American Impulse Research Group has revealed that owning a boat can improve both your health and your sex life.

A demographic sample of 1,029 American men and women asked about their leisure pursuits. The results revealed that boaters spend an average of 7.5 hours a week on recreation, as opposed to less than 5.5 hours every week for non-boaters.

Land-lubbers were also more accident-prone, spending 14% more time in hospital than boaters, and were also more overweight. Boaters professed greater satisfaction with their accomplishments, better relationships with their family, and more joy de vivre.

The sense of wellbeing and improved health was attributed directly to the boat, and 7% claimed to have better sex as well, although they didn't specify whether this involved their current partners.

The most common benefit of owning a boat was – not surprisingly – being out on the water, being able to leave pressure and stress behind, and finding tranquility.

Did the earth move for you, dear?

MAD MARCH COMPETITION
With a lot of arm twisting (in fairness didn’t take that much) this month’s competition has, as its 1st prize, £300 worth of the new Crosshaven high performance, thermally insulated, ExtraFit™ gaiter sailing boot from Dubarry. What a start to the sailing season!

2nd prize is 2 X 2.5L of Flag Cruising antifouling plus primer and thinners

3rd prize is 2 X 1L Grotam®82 diesel fuel additive

To enter, simply email your answers to the following 3 questions:
1. How many years of footwear heritage does Dubarry have and who is their marketing director?
2. Which Flag antifouling did Pip Hare use on her round Britain and Ireland double handed race?
3. What has Grotam®82 specifically been developed for?

In the event of a tie, all correct answers will be entered into Andy’s lucky LED cap* and winners will be drawn at random.

Entries close 5pm Saturday 2nd April 2011

* Spend over £50 in our store or online at www.marinechandlery.com during March and receive a free LED cap worth £19.95 (while stocks last)

Contact us at 181 – 183 Coast Road, Cochrane Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7RR
Telephone : 0191 2661037
e-mail : sales@storrarmarine.co.uk Visit : www.storrarmarine.co.uk or www.marinechandlery.com
**PUFF THE MAGIC WIND CHARGER**

By the time you read this we should have the new Rutland 914i windcharger in stock. Why is it so special? Because it delivers more ampere hours per day. It produces up to 30% more energy than Marlec’s highly successful & market leading 913i model. The Rutland 914i uses Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) technology to match the characteristics of the generator to the constantly varying speed of the turbine thereby achieving a highly efficient and reliable power output.

Features:
- Uses the same latest technology & features Marlec’s innovative new MPPT system
- Same compact size yet almost three times more powerful.
- The first 910mm diameter Rutland turbine produced 50W @ 10m/s (19knots) and on the 914i it produces a power rating of 140W @ 11m/s. Amazing! Aerodynamically styled. Extremely quiet and smooth in operation.
- Rutland have over 30 years world wide sailing experience & have been used on sailing yachts because they give their owners total peace of mind & complete confidence.

For a chance to win a pair of these superb new boots, don’t forget to enter our ‘Mad March Competition’ – see 1st page.

**FLYING THE FLAG (not the royal wedding!)**

If sending the happy couple a wedding present leaves your sailing budget a bit tight, why not consider applying Flag Antifouling this season. At only £29.95 for a 2.5L tin, Flag’s Cruising Antifoul is a budget priced self-eroding antifouling suitable for craft up to 8 knots in low fouling areas, fresh water or even bilge-keelers on drying moorings. It’s even free of booster biocide for less environmental impact!

**Z-UPERB Z-ERVICE!**

We ordered a replacement gooseneck for a Beneteau First 25 from Z-Spars. Unfortunately, when it turned up, it was not quite what was required. Customer’s e-mailed image had failed to show up the locating lugs on this long ago discontinued assembly. Phoned Alan (Z-Spars’ production manager) & posed the question, could they help or is it a new boom, boom end casting etc? No problem we will fabricate a custom fitting at no extra cost & you’ll have it before the weekend. Sure enough Friday was on my first day with the toilet in pieces, reassembled it & still no joy. Must be a blockage in the pipe me thinks, so close the seacock & off with the discharge pipe, internal diameter usually 38mm now almost completely blocked. Twenty minutes later after "tapping" it with a big hammer, a large pile of smelly calcium on the dockside. The experts say at least 7 strokes (we’ve always gone for twenty to really clear the system) The calcium had built up over six years however in future, as well as loads of pumping, I will be using LeeScale to help alleviate the calcium build up. It’s a bio-degradable, fast, safe marine de-scaler. Environment safe, non hazardous, non toxic & won’t harm gaskets or valves. It removes limescale, rustscale, calcium, toilet scale & a whole lot more! Available in store at only £19.95 or buy online @ www.flagfinishes.co.uk

**NOT MY FAVOURITE HOLIDAY PASTIME!**

The phone call went something like this 'Dad we’ve had a great holiday, left the boat immaculate BUT there is a slight problem’. What’s that I innocently asked, ’well it’s the toilet. Started to grumble & by the end of the week if we were not in a marina berth it was a case of bucket & chuckit’. ‘No problem beloved daughter as long as you had a great time I’m sure I can sort it out when I next go’. So there I was on my first day with the toilet in pieces, reassembled it & still no joy. Must be a blockage in the pipe me thinks, so close the seacock & off with the discharge pipe, internal diameter usually 38mm now almost completely blocked. Twenty minutes later after “tapping” it with a big hammer, a large pile of smelly calcium on the dockside. The experts say at least 7 strokes (we’ve always gone for twenty to really clear the system) The calcium had built up over six years however in future, as well as loads of pumping, I will be using LeeScale to help alleviate the calcium build up. It’s a bio-degradable, fast, safe marine de-scaler. Environment safe, non hazardous, non toxic & won’t harm gaskets or valves. It removes limescale, rustscale, calcium, toilet scale & a whole lot more! Available in store at only £19.95 or buy online @ www.flagfinishes.co.uk

**BEAT THE BUG (and I am not talking flu!)**

For some years we have been selling Grotamar71 to powerboaters, yachtmen and trade customers (mainly the guys in the haulage industry) as a method of protecting your diesel fuel from the dreaded ‘bug’. So why has it been replaced?
- Modern low sulphur diesels may contain biodiesel which encourage microbial growth or ‘diesel bug’ and can degrade in storage within a few months leaving deposits in the fuel system.
- So, what’s different and better about Grotamar®82?
  - Specifically developed for modern diesel fuels, including biodiesel and low sulphur fuels
  - New protective formula to prevent premature fuel degradation caused by ageing
  - Fast and highly effective against bacteria, yeasts and moulds
  - Excellent long-term protection for fuel tanks, pipes and engines
  - Rapid and complete dispersion in all fuels – no mixing required
  - No corrosive combustion products
  - Corrosion protection for steel, aluminium, copper and other non-ferrous metals
  - Easier dosing
  - Preventive dose: 200ml per 400lt of fuel; shock dose: 1ltr per 400lt of fuel.
- Available in store for only £34.95 or buy online @ www.marinechandlery.com

**Aunty Foulin’s problem corner**

**Dear Aunty Foulin,**

With the recent bad weather I’ve been feeding the meter in my local marina more than normal to run my little tube heater and dehumidifier. The good news is ‘The Pride Of Pelaw’ has lost itsusty smell, the bad news is my bank balance has shrunk alarmingly. I just get the feeling that the meter isn’t reading correctly or maybe someone has been ‘borrowing’ my socket.

**Dear Suzy Spark,**

What you need is one of those new portable Meter Maids. It’s a great way of keeping an accurate check on your electricity consumption.

Chandlery (including mail order from www.marinechandlery.com), Sailmaking, Rigging, Boat Repairs in GRP, Engine Servicing, Electrical Installation