

Northampton Off-Shore Cruising Association



NEWSLETTER

July 2021

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For your Diary

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| July 6 | Sailing and BBQ at Northampton SC, Pitsford |
| Sept 7 | 'Long time no Sea', an early laying up supper |

Vice-Commodore's Column

Mary is on her walking holiday so you're going to have to put up with the VC's rant instead of the Commodore's Column. I understand Mary's 'walk' is something between the Great Trek of the Afrikaners in 1836 and the Long March of Mao's Red Army in the 1930s so we await her return, unsure as to whether she'll be speaking Mandarin or Afrikaans.

The good/bad news is that we've sold Stroller so no more jokes about SWAGS, SLAGS or any other crew members. I imagine that everyone who has sold their boat has had similar emotions to those that we're experiencing. Sadness to be leaving a lot of happy memories behind, possibly never to be repeated, but for those of you who have had

the pleasure of rubbing down old antifoul with wet and dry emery cloth, particularly under a bilge keeler where lying on your back is the only way to get to the large part of the hull that's between the keels but is just out of reach. Being doused in that slurry of watery, old antifoul is just so wonderful for the soul.

The other good news is that, by the time you are reading this, the 'South Coast Rally' (I'm not allowed to call it the 'May Rally') will have taken place. We have 4 yachts in the fleet – two charter boats plus Bernie's 'Fullmarks of Hamble' from Haslar and Hilary Martin's 'Lesa' from the IoW.

The tides are not ideal, unless we are prepared to get moving at the crack of dawn, so our daily passage plans are such that more time may be spent in the watering holes than on the water. This is not such a bad thing since the weather forecast isn't great – cloudy with some rain and not much wind. Doug has seen the light and ditched Kon Tiki for something more modern so he and I are now in matched Jeanneau yachts. Consequently, the racing in light winds will sort the men from the boys – as long as Bernie and/or Hilary don't disgrace us by winning.

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