



Grafham Water Sailability

Making Waves for Disabled Sailors

Summer 2010

A Visit by an Old Friend

Recently an old friend of GWS – Mark Ellicott – visited us. He first joined GWS in the days of tea/coffee from the back of Judi's estate car. A paraplegic, he was soon winning races and regattas. He won the Challenger English Nationals one year. He fitted various measuring devices to his Challenger and was nicknamed "Gadget".

He also went to the United States to learn to fly. He won a Douglas Bader Scholarship (which is organised by the R.A.F.). He mastered the flying and married his flying instructor, Keri. They set up home in the U.K. Keri had the problem of finding a flying here and that took them from Cambridgeshire to Scotland where Keri worked as a pilot for Logan Air. What a wonderful job – flying from Glasgow to the Highlands and Islands! Now Keri pilots for Easyjet, flying all over Europe and to Africa.

Mark did not turn his back on sailing. They own a yacht. They keep it at a marina on the Firth of Clyde and sail the west coast of Scotland.

They spend their winters skiing from their chalet in Chaminox in the French Alps. They also travel widely.

It was great to get a visit from Mark after such a long absence.

Racing Rules of Sailing

Has anyone come across a situation whilst racing that they felt was not covered during last winter's sessions on the Racing Rules. If so you can send your query to Roy Beard.

Marcia Carpenter's voyage

Marcia is an enthusiast of tall ship sailing. She is currently sailing on the Jubilee Trust tall ship Tenacious from Athens to Antwerp. All voyagers on the Jubilee Trust's two ships, Tenacious and Lord Nelson, become part of the ship's crew. This is a summary of her first report.

My buddy and I left Manchester on a 3 am flight to Athens. We arrived on board Tenacious with 20 minutes to spare. A cup of tea then on with the work, paperwork, unpacking, loading stores.

Next day our departure at 1.00 pm as part of the Parade Of Sail was delayed for a number of reasons. A crewmember had to wait for some missing luggage. Five weeks wearing one set of clothes is a bit much! A meat delivery had not arrived. Then the ships on either side of us on the quay both had engine problems. The Parade Of Sail never happened – a great shame for the locals and us. We set sail 2 hours late. It is going to be a tough voyage. Instead of the usual 40-voyage crew we had only

24 on board. That means a 3-watch system instead of 4 watches. Not much free time!

I had the job of helming us out of port under captain's orders. That is easy as he tells you how many degrees port or starboard to steer, and when to come to midships. It is easier than keeping to a course in rough seas!

It is very hot. Everyone is being told to keep drinking water and squash. We are being given extra breaks to have a drink and avoid dehydration.

We are heading for Malta, where a berth is booked in the Grand Harbour at Valletta. Then we head for Gibraltar. Unfortunately the wind is not being kind to us and we have a head wind for most of the first 3 days. A few sails have been hoisted for a very short time and then taken down. They were backing and acting as a brake. The forecast is for it to swing to the SE, which would help us, but Med weather can be very unpredictable.

I had my first mess duty. Washing dishes, laying places, washing dishes, peeling spuds and washing dishes. A small crew uses an unbelievable number of cups, plates, spoons etc.

I am about to start "happy hour". Unfortunately that is not cheap drinks in the bar. It is scrubbing decks, cleaning heads (toilets) and generally keeping the ship ship-shape.

Strictly speaking Tenacious is not a ship but a barque as only 2 of her 3 masts carry square sails. I don't know why they are called square as they are oblong. I suppose that an oblong rigger

ship does not have the same rig as a square-rigged ship!

Well that's all for now. I will try to send a further dispatch from Gibraltar.

Marcia

Well-done Marica. We look forward to hearing about the rest of your adventure.

Ian

Your News

If you have anything you want to tell us about, your sailing, any sailing, about Grafham Water Sailability, your holiday adventure or anything else then it might be included in the Newsletter.

I would be happy to hear from you.

Thanks.

Ian Barrowman
ian.barrowman@hotmail.co.uk

Cabin Mobile Number

If you require help from the car park do ring the cabin mobile and someone will come and assist you

07754 915360

Beds & Camps Regatta

GWS sailors took the first three places in this annual regatta for members of clubs in the counties of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. About twenty boats took part in the one-day event in some lively conditions – force 5 to 6.

Kirsten Pollock won the event with Judi Figgures, who founded GWS, in second place and David Campbell, an octogenarian and who assisted Judi in creating GWS, in third place.

This must be a new club record.