

In one of my earlier newsletters (last August's ramblings to be precise) I did happen to mention that the weeks were flying by, however on reflection it's not the weeks, it's the ruddy years!

On a personal level it hardly seems like a year since I was leading my youngest daughter Clare down the aisle & she was talking of starting up her own business. Now open in Leeds, 'Grounds for Appeal' is the name of her coffee shop venture. Its situated next door to the Law courts hence the name. If passing by, why not call in for a superb coffee & some delicious food, mention that you heard about the start up in our February newsletter & I'm sure she'll give you an extra cup at a knockdown price & a bigger portion! Elder daughter Kate is now 'at last' engaged, no truth in the rumour that she was known as Waity Katie! Jenny & I are looking forward to the wedding in June, however have been told that my 'father of the groom' speech has to be better than the last one. I blame it on the guests' alcohol consumption, was that why they fell asleep whilst I was speaking?

For Andy & Jill, the birth of their second daughter Sophie & the third birthday of Abi have kept them fairly occupied. Speaking of Abi, she started nursery school three weeks ago and then the weekend of the 15th of January saw the family in church for the christening of both girls, methinks it's a good job that the dates did not clash with the winter series as Andy may have had to do a runner! Despite a hectic domestic life & an extremely busy working week, more often than not in before seven thirty in the morning & not away til long past six (and that's our close season) Andy is still slipping away every second Sunday to go sports boats racing on the river Tyne. As we go to press, the guys on the works entry 'Join the Club' are still leading overall but with another 5 races to go its once again tight at the top! Can they make it three times in a row as champions of the Tyne?

From a work point of view, Autumn saw International Paints 'borrowing' our chandlery for a video shoot (read more about that later). This was closely followed by the RNLI charity evening 'Hostage' which Andy & I organised.

Thanks once again to Paul & Rachel Chandler who gave up their valuable time free of charge to help raise funds. However, just as we thought we would ease off we went for the complete redesign of our e commerce sites home page check it out at www.marinechandlery.com & then it was exhibiting at the 2012 Boat Show. A steep learning curve, last time the company took a stand I was twenty years younger, but that's another story!



LONDON BOATSHOW 2012

It's not very often you stumble across a clever bit of kit, & think, if only I had thought of that. Well, as featured in the December newsletter, the Storm Bag is such a product. So four weeks before the Excel Show opened we rang up the organisers & asked if there was a stand available at a stupidly low price. "Yes", came the reply. Next phone call was to Kate. "Hi oldest daughter, any chance you may have a spare bed for the duration of the show?" So here I am at the end of a hard day at the show (the last hour) my feet are killing me, my back's aching, I've lost my voice & the newsletter deadline is fast looming so out comes the laptop!

Well apart from needing a holiday after the show (by the time you read this I should be in La Gomera) I did find a couple of excellent products, including



some amazing adhesive from Germany, a brilliant UK manufactured mast climber which is great for shorthanded sailors or riggers who turn up to climb a customer's mast & find the winches are not up to the task (have ordered one for our own consumption), some good old fashioned PVC 'oilies' with a clever double glazed upper panel to help cut down on condensation. Worth putting a spare set on

board in case you have a guest or two on your boat.

PS, don't ask me about the drive back from the show. Picture the AI North, outside temp -5 degrees, 150 miles to go its 11pm, our Renault traffic van fully loaded with show material, outside lane of the dual carriage way just below the legal limit & then a blow out, fortunately on a rear tyre!

DID YOU KNOW?

If you bend, kink, knot or splice a rope, its strength will decrease & depending on the type of knot or splice used, it can vary quite considerably. See the table below for a selection of common knots/splices and their effect on the strength.

Should you need help in selecting the correct rope for a particular application, be it for racing, cruising or mooring up your boat, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you want to try your hand at splicing go to www.englishbraids.com or if you don't want to do the work yourself, give us a bell. Naturally we only use the finest quality rope from English Braids. Remember what may seem to be a so called 'internet bargain' may not be all its made out to be!

Here are a few tips on caring for your cordage:

Keep ropes out of direct sunlight when not in use - UV light can, in some cases, degrade the fibres. Nylon is particularly susceptible to this.

Wash ropes with warm water to rid of salt and dirt deposits. Do not use chemicals as this may affect the lubricant that is used on the base yarn. Whip, Splice or Heat Shrink the ends to prevent fraying.

Correctly coil rope when not in use to prevent Kinks from forming.

Always check rope for wear and tear, alter the contact points regularly to prevent chafing at one point and replace as necessary.

Knot or splice	% reduction
Eye splice on thimble	10
Short or long splice	15
Anchor bend	25
Timber Hitch	30
Round turn	30
Two half hitches	30
Bowline	40
Clove hitch	40
Sheet bend	40
Square knot	55

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!

When International Paints wanted to produce a promotional DVD showing how a tin of paint is designed, tested, produced, sold & then applied, they naturally looked for the smartest, best stocked chandlery in the UK to do some of their filming (or so we like to think!) However, maybe it was just the nearest chandlery to their Felling on Tyne manufacturing base, Andy & I obviously think it's the former! Sadly my commitments to other projects meant



that I could not star in the film (actually I was away on holiday again) so they brought in professionals to play both the purchaser & the salesman standing behind the counter. Strange that the boatyard where the antifouling was being applied turned out to be more than 300 miles away, but that's another story!

Apparently the promotional film will be shown throughout the world at the various boat shows, fame at last?

If you can't wait til the next boat show, call in and borrow our copy!!

PUPPET ON A DYNEEMA STRING (& carbon blocks!)

There is a guy who regularly called in to our Newcastle chandlery to pick up Seasure blocks & small diameter Dyneema cord for what purpose I did not know, however I'm afraid curiosity was going to kill this cat so I just had to ask! Keith Causton knew as a seven year old



what he wanted to do for a living & fifty years later he is one of the few puppet makers left in the UK. Each of the puppets he makes takes between seven & ten days & costs over £275.00 One of his latest creations is the 'Grumpy Old Man.' who can be found starring on the Freddie Starr show. Rumour has it Andy has asked Keith to make a twin to keep your editor happy, or is that grumpy? See www.kallinipuppets.co.uk



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

DESPERATE DAN IS NOT SO DESPERATE NOW!



Last year in issue 43 we told you about the 'Boarding Ring Glasses' & how they helped Jenny overcome car sickness in the hills of La Gomera. When I was speaking to the importer, Guy Cotten, at London about the glasses he told me of the desperate boater (incidentally not called Dan) who had tried everything to help him overcome seasickness. We have copied his e mail in its entirety below. If you suffer from sea sickness give

them a try & like desperate Dan you may find that after a season's use you don't need to wear them! Still priced at only £49.95 every boat owner should consider carrying a pair in their first aid kit.

Hi Guy* (and Paul on Copy)

I own an arvor boat and am mad keen on fishing. Paul you have kindly printed a few pictures of my kids in Sea Angler magazine. Sea sickness has been the blight of my life- and I am emailing to let you know that the anti motion sickness glasses have cured it seemingly for good.

I noticed an immediate improvement and now I have no sea sickness at all. I can tie knots, look at the GPS, enter data etc without that awful lurching vomity feeling. My brain has adjusted to motion at sea and I can remove the glasses now for periods too.

Guy- if you are interested in publicising these glasses (paul they work like a spirit level with a bubble which orientates the visual messages to the brain and aligns with the balance in the ears) – they were in the April SA mag I think. I would be happy to write an article for you. On my experience with the glasses. By the way I have removed the plastic lenses and just look straight through the frames- I look pretty mad- but who cares – I'm fishing and not puking.*

Paul do you think this should be in the boat section of the mag- It could help an awful lot of people and also help business for charter boats. I am not connected to guy or his business- I am just a customer ...

All the best

B D

(*Guy is Guy Cotten, the importer)

SHIPSHAPE & BRISTOL FASHION

Melvyn Wallhead, the proprietor of the local RYA sailing school www.northumbrianseaschool.co.uk wanted to give 'Lian', his trusty Halberg Rassey, a makeover this January in preparation for a full season of teaching. To get the Rassey once again looking smart, he decided to give her a good compounding followed by a protective coat of polish. Melvin purchased from the chandlery a Shurhold orbital polisher which, in the interests of safety, comes wired up with an RCD cut out should you happen to have an 'issue'. To prepare the hull for polishing he first of all washed Lian down using boat wash followed by 3M'S restorer & wax. He then finished off with (and I speak from personal experience) easy to apply & buff Maquires Premium Marine Wax. At the chandlery we stock a large range of tried & tested products for helping keep your craft in tip top condition. Cleaners, polishes, fabric restorers, wood bleaches & treatments



to name but a few.

Should you require any help with maintaining the good looks of your boat please do not hesitate to get in touch, either by phone on

0191 2661037 and speak to Rob or either of the Andys or e mail

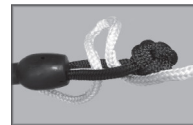
maintenance@storrarmarine.co.uk

Short of time? We can do it!

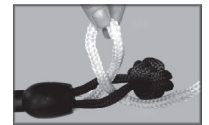
Kingflex (the innovative mooring compensator)

Kingflex is a new mooring compensator suitable for all types and dimensions of mooring and anchor lines and provides a unique flexibility as it does not require any free end of the line. It can even be fitted to a spliced line or a fixed rope, as long as you can obtain some slack on the line. Use it on the mooring lines, on the anchor line, on buoy lines - anywhere you require some compensation for the load on the rope.

Made of high quality ozone resistant rubber with integrally moulded polyester rope knots, the Kingflex is extremely durable in all weather conditions and has an outstanding resistance against mechanical stress. Our price, only £34.95 each.



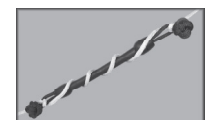
Make a loop on your line & slip it through the eyelet between the two short ropes.



Turn the loop half a turn,



and lock it over the knot.



Wrap the line max 3 times round and repeat at other end

ITS' NOT TOO LATE!

If like me you were so busy with work & family commitments in the run up to Christmas, you probably forgot to remove your furling genoa and mainsail.

This past weekend, down to the marina & disaster; green staining on the 'hidden edge' of the genoa, likewise the mainsail in the base area.

Well, the good news is it's not too late to send or drop your sails in for that pre season wash & check over. The cost is based on the weight of a sail so if you want a quote first, weigh the sail & ring or e-mail me.

After the sails have been returned from Tip Top sail laundry (check them out on www.tiptopsails.com) we suggest a inspection by our highly experienced staff (our senior machinist has been with us for over twenty years now). Minor stitching will be attended to. However, if the issue is more than meets the eye we will ring & talk you thru what we suggest needs to be done.



SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

As can be read in the article 'Puppet on a dyneema string' on the first page, our cordage, blocks & wire work can be found all over the world in projects large & small.

Rene Faber, who owns & runs the Kilifi boatyard in Kenya, (see image alongside) is a regular purchaser of our stainless steel & galvanised wire assemblies. We have also exported to the boatyard 2 pallet loads of finest English Braids rope.

Richie, our rigger in residence, apart from being responsible for manufacturing all the boatyard's stainless steel work has, in the last twelve months, been heavily involved in turning out hundreds of stainless steel balustrading wires destined for the Olympic village. Another London project that our company has been involved in is the former HMRC office, Somerset House, now converted to a major arts and cultural centre. The 25th of January saw Ritchie up on the roof of the RVI Hospital Newcastle manufacturing and fitting a series of handrail wires.



Dear Aunty Fouling,

There I was just a few metres from the pier end & the engine cut out. Fortunately, those nice guys in the RNLI (including that hunky butcher Doug from Whitley Bay) were on exercise so when I made my emergency call, before you could say 'four slices of black pudding, some smoked bacon & four pork & sage sausages', the guys were alongside. The cause of my engine failure? The dreaded diesel bug!

Dear Greta Maria,

Sorry to learn of the problem of your pier end 'bar' problems. Once you have cleaned out the tanks, lines & changed the filters, you should treat yourself to a bottle of Grotamar 82 which has been reformulated to cope with modern diesel fuels including low sulphur diesels & fuels containing biodiesel.

It's fast & highly effective against bacteria, yeasts & moulds & it helps protect steel, aluminium, copper & other non-ferrous metals against corrosion. Call in to see those nice guys at Storrar Marine, its available at only £24.95 a litre for a limited period only.



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

