

It must be an age thing, nothing to do with intelligence, but laptops/word processors, TV remotes & yours truly just do not get on. One of our daughters has been trying to buy a business for some six months, e-mails passing between her agent, solicitors, Jenny & I trying to steer her in the right direction, negotiations have reached a critical stage & we are off on hols! Great idea, let's buy a laptop, take it with us, use the marina Wi-Fi & join the 'sad crowd' who check work e-mails every day when on holiday (no I don't want, nor have an I-phone). However the real reason to take the laptop was, of course, to try & help youngest realise her dream, not check up on Andy! Arrive at San Sebastian marina in La Gomera, have a beer or two, sort boat out, or perhaps it should have been boat first, beer second. Walk over to the marina office & told by the charming girl behind the desk, that if we want a Wi-Fi connection we go to the marina mini market & purchase a 'user name & password', so far so good. We buy the minimum (30 days of unlimited use for 15 euros) rush back to Dream On, fire it up (the laptop not the boat) follow Andy's copious notes to the letter, but hang on the laptop does not ask us for a password nor user name. Help, text Andy & then later in desperation ring him no joy! Back to the marina office (only allowed 24 hours to initial log in from handing over the dosh), marina manageress takes pity on me, rings the mini market & I get a reprieve, another 24 hours to log in. Back to the marina office, plead ignorance of all things electronic & ask if there is a resident 'computer geek' in the marina. To cut a long story short, it was all the fault of some guy called Norton who tries to stop you getting a virus, problem gets solved but guess what the vendor's solicitor goes on holiday so no progress & as a 'payment' in kind to the geek, I spent nearly three hours checking out both his masts which, of course, had to be the tallest in the marina!

Anyway we did have a great holiday, took a Brizo out with us (featured in the last issue of our newsletter) & yup it's a twenty min job to get ones bottom nice & clean, keel & rudder also.

As for daughter's dream, progress is still slow & speaking of slow progress; with our delayed flight back to the UK I could at least work on the newsletter in the airport even though it's taking three times as long to put the words down, Andy you were right as always, I should have bought a mouse!



CHINESE TAKEAWAY

No it's not another Burgess; this time the 'new kid on the block' is the Hidea range of Chinese outboards. Some three years we were asked to stock a different budget range of outboards to compliment the superb range of Mercury outboards that we stock in depth. Had a demo motor dispatched to us, it turned up literally in pieces! Oops must have been a rough ride in the wagon let's get another, same thing - poor packing. Anyway after two bad experiences we decided to put this particular range of budget engines low down on our list of priorities. Fast forward three years & we get a call "my company is importing a range of Chinese well engineered outboards at attractive prices, might you be interested?"

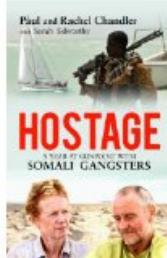
Hidea, have come up with a range of engines that are not only pitched at a competitive price but are well built & most importantly well packaged (don't end up coming to us in bits & we can ship them throughout the UK & Europe without fear of damage. The smallest in the range is a 2.5HP & the largest they build at the moment is the 15HP. They come with a 4 year warranty, tool kit that includes a spare spark plug & impeller. Prices start at £409.95 for the 2.5. Might you be tempted? They're on our website www.marinechandlery.com on display in our chandlery showroom & if you wish to have one shipped abroad the packaging is tough!



NE'ER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

We all know (or do we) about the need to use a barrier between dissimilar metals. When attaching a stainless fitting to an alloy mast we would use either Zinc Chromate paste or Tef-Gel, both available from our chandlery or online. However, with carbon spars making inroads into the cruising market & already used with great success on the race course, readers of this award winning publication (Andy gave me two stars for my grammar, Jenny one for punctuation, less said about the content the better!) should be aware that if their lovely light weight carbon spinnaker pole needs a repair, it should be treated with a little respect! One of our customers recently brought in a carbon spinnaker pole that a friend of his had repaired as a favour, using a piece of alloy tube as the sleeve. No problem if the alloy had been insulated

from the carbon. As it happens, the alloy carbon mix has been literally fizzing away. Simply coating the alloy sleeve with polyester resin and allowing to dry would have acted as a barrier to 'stop the rot'. Should you need any advice of a technical nature when attaching stainless fittings to alloy, maybe a carbon modification or repair is needed, please don't hesitate to give us a call.



HOSTAGE

The official reason this newsletter was late hitting the stand was that we were trying to obtain a suitable venue for a charity function (nothing to do with my inability to use the laptop)

It's been three years since our last autumn charity evening in aid of the RNLI. 2 new additions to the Burgess family, a bereavement, developing our e-commerce site etc meant that charity

fund raising was put on the back burner, however whilst on holiday the other week, catching up on reading, I read that Paul & Rachel Chandler, UK based sailors who had been held hostage for over a year by Somali gangsters, were restoring their yacht 'Lynn Rival' with a view to setting sail again. Once back in the UK I e-mailed the boatyard where the yacht was currently undergoing a rebuild, any chance of letting me have the e-mail of the Chandlers. Got the e-mail, sent my request & the next day from the couple, "Yes, we would be delighted to come North & speak of our experiences & help raise money for the Tynemouth RNLI."

Wednesday the 23rd of November is the date, the venue is The Scotswood conference room at 'The Centre for Life' in Newcastle. As it holds just under 400 I suggest you get your ticket orders in fast. There is a bar & discounted car parking close by. To keep costs down tickets are only available through Storrar Marine. Please e-mail us on hostage@storrarmarine.co.uk or phone 0191-2661037 if you prefer.

Tickets will be £10.00 for adults, £6.00 for students & OAP's. As well as raising money through ticket sales for the RNLI* there will be, as usual, a raffle, tombola & other devious ways of getting you to part with your money for this good cause.

*Our target is £9000.00. Yes it's ambitious but that's the cost of replacing all the station's lifejackets with new 'world-beating jackets'. Incidentally, on the night Paul & Rachel will be signing copies of their book Hostage. Would make a great Christmas present? For each copy sold on the night, we will make a donation of £1.00 to the RNLI.

KICKING OFF

No, it's not the rugby world cup, The St Peters winter series kicks off Sunday the 9th Oct at 1-30pm. Hot favourites must be the boys (including our own Andy) on the works entry 'Join the Club', the winner of this hotly contested event for the last two years. This year's result could be close if the 15ers on 'Thunderbirds' manage to steer clear of underwater obstacles, the guys on 'Sophie' keep their mast away from the starboard hand navigation pole, & the legal eagles on 'Enigma', manage to coordinate their team work. Dark horse of the event must be the 'geriatrics' on 'Buddy', combined age of the helm, tactician, foredeck guy & one grinder nearly 300 years young!



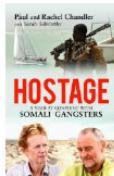
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CONGRATULATIONS & COMMISERATIONS

Congratulations to Charles Swift who won the Baltic floatation suit, Martin Brannan who as runner up was the recipient of 2 x Dyneema cruising halyards courtesy of English Braids. Incidentally the Boarding ring glasses won by Dave Morgan were 'road tested' by Rob's wife Jenny on the twisting, turning mountain roads of la Gomera the other week, her verdict a big thumbs up. "Definitely helped me endure my husband's driving, now cannot wait to try them out on the water."



For this month's free to enter competition we have as:

1st prize – A Garmin VHF100i submersible DSC VHF

2nd prize – A Rule AquaCharge™ cordless submersible pump

3rd prize – A signed copy of Hostage, the story of the Chandlers' year at gunpoint with Somali gangsters.

To be in with a chance of winning one of these fabulous prizes, simply answer the following 6 questions:

1. What size is the extra large display on the VHF100i?
2. How many Watts is the hailer function on the VHF100i?
3. What length is the hose on the AquaCharge™?
4. How many gallons can it pump on a single charge?
5. For how many days were Paul & Rachel Chandler held captive?
6. What was the date they were finally released?

Email your answers to competition@storramarine.co.uk before 6pm on 30th November when all correct answers will be put into Andy's lucky hat and the 3 winners drawn at random.

LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE (OR DOES IT)

Martin Brennan is the lucky guy who has again won a prize in our monthly competition & yes once again he was the runner up! His prize this time should have been a couple of English Braids cruising Dyneema halyards and no the competition was not rigged (no pun intended). However there is a twist to the tale, Martin e mailed us back & very kindly declined the prize & asked that the runners up prize should be drawn again, thanks Martin.

Perhaps the guys at Storramarine should ask Martin if he would join our Lottery syndicate cos the staff, Andy & I have, over the last ten or so years, only won about £10-00 per year!

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Andy L, the guy who looks after our e-commerce site & incidentally, before it went live, spent almost a full year loading all the products, took an order the other week for charts from the guys at Team Sanya (the Chinese entry in the 2011-2012 Volvo Round the World race). He has also supplied electronic charts to a number of billionaires' super yachts &, on a topical subject, recently supplied over twenty charts to a UK managed & manned 'private navy' whose mission is to guard cruise & cargo ships transiting the dangerous waters off Somalia. More recently, we had an order to be shipped to Hinckley Boats in Rhode Island, USA. These were charts for the South Coast of England for a new yacht which was being sailed across the pond. Presumably they must have arrived safely because 7 weeks later we had another order for the same boat but to be shipped to Gosport!

If you're planning a world cruise, perhaps a trip North or a circumnavigation of Ireland, drop Andy Laurence a line at sales@marinechandlery.com or give him a call.

Andy has spent an awfully long time setting out his electronic & paper chart stall. He is justifiably very proud of it as it's now much easier to navigate.



SPOTLESS STAINLESS SPARKLES

A great product to hit the shelves of our Coast Road chandlery as well as the e-commerce site the other week was Spotless Stainless. This rust remover which contains citrus acid is so easy to use, brush on, keep active (don't allow to dry out) & wait for it to work. The higher the temperature the faster it works. I tested it out

in Gomera the other week. The stainless on my Channel 31 does suffer from contamination & therefore you do get a coating of light rust on some of the stainless surfaces.

Methinks it is the windborne Sahara Desert sand that is the culprit. Anyway I brushed some on, kept the surface wetted out and twenty minutes later washed it off, result six sparkling rigging screws.



SEAL N GLIDE

Every year our sail loft sends a large quantity of sails away to Tip Top sail laundry in Portsmouth, incidentally this year celebrating 25 years in business. As well as 'simply' cleaning sails they also wash & proof canopies, covers & all things fabric. In the last couple of years their SEAL N GLIDE process (using Holmenkol nano technology) has been getting extremely favourable reviews. In a nutshell, this coating offers drier, lighter sails, tighter furling (a bonus for in mast furling mainsails), faster setting sails, increased cloth stability, easier sail hoists & it does offer greater protection against mildew & green algae. To learn more about both Seal N Glide & the Tip Top Sail Laundry visit www.tiptopsails.com The big running spinnaker on our company Sports boat 'Join The Club' has just had the 'treatment' & I must confess it sheds water better than a new one!

Don't forget our sail loft manufactures new sails in a variety of fabrics for both cruising & racing yachts, will bend & fit stainless steel bars for your new canopy, spray hood or bimini then make up in the fabric of your choice. Wheel, winch, hatch covers can be made to your pattern & should you require new upholstery for your boat, give us a call. Check out www.microcare.nl/ to see colour swatches of the upholstery fabric we have used with great success.

Ps as always don't leave it till after Christmas to call, production & valeting space is filling up rapidly.

CHAMPERS, STRAWBERRIES (& JUST A LITTLE CREAM)



Last month saw us celebrate Norma's 21 years of service with our company so it was champagne & strawberries on 18th of August. Norma, our number one machinist in the sail loft, is the girl who turns out superb canopies, covers, sails & all sorts of other things in a variety of fabrics.

All those years ago the advert we placed in the local paper did state 'must have a sense of humour'. Norma said the other day "Yes & it should have also stated requires the patience of a saint!" This month's work load includes a cockpit cover for a 35 footer, covers for a rib, another winter cover, this time for a Naiad 37 & by the way a bit of technical sewing, 200 airbag covers for Lotus!

NO HANDS TO THE PUMP

New to the market from Rule is the ingenious AquaCharge™, a cordless, submersible pump for use in numerous applications both on board and ashore.



The pump kit includes a portable pump, a charging station which can be powered by both 12V and 240V, a NiMh battery for dependable charging and 2.45m of hose. The powerful AquaCharge™ is capable of pumping 190 litres in less than 10 minutes and can pump up to 750 litres on a single charge.

The pump incorporates a user removable filter, allowing quick & efficient cleaning.

Priced at only £64.95, no boat or home should be without one!

Dear Aunty Foulin,

It's a little embarrassing to have to write to you but I seem to have an unpleasant growth in my tubes. I used to get a steady flow but now it just dribbles out. Please can you offer some pearls of wisdom cos my block is overheating & suffering from hot flushes!

Dear Bunged Up Brenda,

Yes sadly it's a sign of old age. A calcium build up in your cooling pipes, however what I suggest is a dose of Rydlyme Marine, the safe biodegradable marine descaler available from those nice guys at Storramarine and won't break the bank.



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