

November the 23rd saw Paul & Rachel Chandler of 'Hostage' fame down tools, take a few days off from refitting Lynn Rival, fly North & give a superb talk backed up with images of the 13 months they had spent in captivity, followed by a question & answer session at the charity evening Andy & I had organised in aid of the local RNLI Tynemouth branch. The target we had been set for the night by the lifeboat area fund raiser was £9000-00. As we go to press we are over half way with an additional large cheque promised for early December. Will we make it? You never know, however, in these hard times, if anyone has a few spare thousands? Thanks to all of you who attended, bought raffle & tombola tickets, to the companies & individuals who generously donated money & prizes in these hard times, you have all been great. Incidentally we still have a number of signed copies of Hostage available at £9-99. For each copy sold £1 is donated to the RNLI. Last but not least thanks to Paul & Rachel. Without you giving up your precious time, this event would never have happened!

The day after the talk, following a 'Craster kipper breakfast' cooked by my good lady Jenny, Paul, Rachel & yours truly, as their designated driver for the day popped down to the Tynemouth RNLI for what I thought was a look round the station. Yes we looked round but the icing on the cake was a surprise trip out on the relief Tynemouth boat (only 2000hp of grunt, soon to be replaced with a boat with 3000hp on tap). V-impressed with its stability when Paul, who was driving it at 25 knots in a good force six, put the helm hard over, glad we were all hanging on & yes I did manage to hang on to my breakfast! Rachel not to be outdone when helming, decided to give us a trim tab demonstration, flaps down & we go thru the waves not over, apparently in heavier weather it makes for a more comfortable ride but rather wet!



November sees METS the annual Marine European Trade Show which is held at the huge RAI centre in Amsterdam each year, all the movers & shakers from the industry are there, new products are shown for the first time, deals are struck & there is the chance to source some of the more unusual products that don't normally make it into the UK trade catalogues. Last couple of years it's been Andy who has flown the company flag and attended the show, steered clear of Amsterdam's red light district & its smoky coffee shops. Not wanting to lose out this year, your editor decided to come along for some of the action & yes we did see some eye-openers but only at the show. As for the night life, must be an age thing but I was so tired from walking round the show (probably six times the size of the London Boat Show) that by 9-30 each night we were ready for some shut eye. Yes we did have a different kind of excitement but that's another story!

November saw Jenny & I come back from ANOTHER slice of R & R in La Gomera, this 'holiday' was, I can assure you, hard work as I spent most of the time doing those little jobs that I should have done on our boat years ago. Plus, & it's a big plus, compounding & then polishing the topsides with temperatures usually above the mid 20's then it's not a holiday however the plus side is that it doesn't half give you a thirst! Both my daughters made flying visits to the island & both declared that they were blown away by the island or perhaps it was copious helpings of sizzling garlic prawns that helped them get blown away! November saw Andy & his fellow sailors get into their stride in the St Peters Marina winter series with strong performances in some testing conditions (well that's what he says) As we go to press Join the Club, our works entry, is currently lying 1st overall with a 2, 1, 2, 2 score. Andy is missing the next race as he will be enjoying a well earned rest. It'll be interesting to see if they missed his foredeck skills. All will be revealed in issue 46.

STORM BAG



One thing we found at METS was a superb piece of kit called "Storm-Bag". It's a storm sail which is taken forward in a bag, fastened round the furling genoa, the head attached to the spare halyard & the tack fastened to the bow fitting. Sheets, which are supplied as part of the kit, are then lead aft & thru the jib fairleads & back to the winch. The sail is hoisted & you then simply sheet in. Great for adding a storm



sail package to a yacht that does not already have an inner forestay & the appropriate anchorage. [Watch the video](#) to see how simple it is to rig up and use. Prices start from under £700 for a 4m² Storm-Bag which is suitable for yachts up to approx 8m (27'). Incidentally, the week before METS I'd priced up fitting an inner forestay, deck strengthening, supplying a storm jib etc on a 38' yacht & the total quote came to over £2000!

NEW DECKVEST LIGHT

If only it was ready for Xmas it would have made a great stocking filler! The new Pylon™ lifejacket light from Spinlock is a smashing bit of kit. Simple but well thought out, it cuts out the 'blind spot' when the victims head is between the light & the rescuer. At only £39.99 it makes a great update to your current lifejacket, regardless of make. The new Pylon™ light operates at a height of 23cm above the top of head to give uninterrupted, all-round visibility. Tests confirm that the Pylon™ is more easily visible from any distance than conventional lifejacket lights, in all sea and visibility conditions.



Pylon™ is the only emergency light that gives early warning of battery discharge. The Pylon's simple test switch will confirm that the light will continue to flash for the required 10 hours. Available as a Spinlock Deckware accessory, Pylon™ is designed to be fitted easily to any make of 170N or 275N Lifejacket for enhanced visibility in an emergency.

NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

Some months ago we had in the chandlery what I thought at the time was a spy, or maybe just a 'mystery shopper'. A guy wandering round the chandlery wearing a Musto snug with the name of a well known outboard manufacturer embroidered on the collar & checking out our Mercury outboard display whilst discreetly running his finger over the horizontal surface of the engines to see if there was dust on them. "Can I help you?" I enquired in my poshest voice.



"No thanks," was the reply, "just browsing." Fast forward three months & we are proud to announce that we are now the North East sales & service centre for Yamaha outboard motors & should (if all goes to plan) have a range of their outboard motors in stock before Christmas. Naturally our workshop will be carrying the correct electronic diagnostic equipment & of course a range of Yamaha consumables such as oils, filters etc.

To see the full range of Yamaha outboards visit

www.yamaha-motor.eu/uk/products/marine-engines/index.aspx

NEW DECKVEST LITE!!

No it's not a duplicated or a misspelt heading, Spinlock have also introduced a new lifejacket into their Deckvest range. Built for speed, Spinlock's new Deckvest LITE is the only expert-quality lifejacket especially made for fast power craft and inshore sailing.



The LITE is a vibrantly fresh, ultra-light new solution for fast power and day-sailing, where lightness and agility really matter, and where costly

features like a built-in harness, emergency light and spray hood are optional or never required.

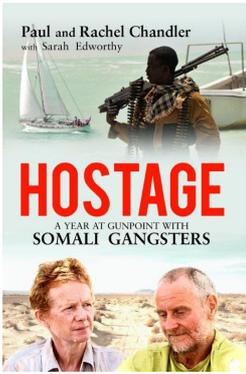
The Deckvest LITE lifejacket has the same superb fit, fast adjustment and distinctive lean profile as Spinlock's Deckvest lifejacket harness. Its striking colours, unique tapering shape and anti-sag detailing create a clean and excitingly different look. Priced at only £129.99, but unfortunately again not available until the New Year.



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CONGRATULATIONS & COMMISERATIONS

Congratulations to John Clements who, as the winner of our Issue 44 competition, has won himself the Garmin VHF100i.

Peter Thwaites, as runner up, receives a Rule Aqua-charge cordless submersible pump, & last but by no means least, Phil Winch has won a signed copy of Hostage, the story of the Chandlers' year at gunpoint with Somali gangsters.

For our December competition we have decided that, in the spirit of fairness at Christmas, all three winners will receive the same prize. A signed copy of Hostage with a personal message from Paul & Rachel awaits.

To be in with a chance of winning one of these excellent books with the authors' signature & a personal message, simply answer the following four questions:

1. What length is the Chandlers yacht Lynn Rival?
2. When was the date of the first anniversary of their release?
3. Which major task are Paul & Rachel currently working on?
4. Why did the Chandlers come North on Wednesday the 23rd of November?

Email your answers and your message to competition@storrarmarine.co.uk before 6pm on the 31st of January 2012 when all the correct answers will be put into Andy's lucky hat & the three winners drawn at random.

THE DOWNFALL OF MONIKA BRASS!

Practise what Rob preaches (see our newsletter December 2010 Aunty Foulin's agony column). Come March this year, a very dejected Monika trailed into our chandlery with a fresh water pressure pump that had given up the ghost & an Aqua Filta that had split. Her downfall? She had drained her fresh water tanks BUT had not run Freeze Ban non toxic antifreeze thru the system to protect the installation from traces of water that might freeze causing costly damage.

While we are on the subject of frost damage it would also be sensible, if you're not using your boat thru the winter months, to close the engine inlet stop cock, take the cap off the raw water filter, start the engine & pour sufficient antifreeze into the filter until it starts to come out of the exhaust. At that point stop the engine.

Not only does it protect the engine but it helps to prevent corrosion in the cylinder head etc.

Another good idea is to place a small tube heater in the engine bay and another in the cabin to stop frost and help reduce condensation, damp, mould and mildew.



Freezeban costs just £15.95 but for a limited period we have a special offer of just £13.95 for 5L.

Volvo Coolant @ £33.95 for 5L has great anti-freeze properties. Contains additives that protect aluminium and aluminium alloys. Diluting 50% with clean fresh water will give protection down to approx -40°C.

Tube heaters start from just £26.95 for the 45 Watt version up to £39.95 for the 180 W.

OFFICER, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

There we were at 6pm on Wed the 16th November struggling to find the correct change to purchase tickets to get the train from the unmanned RAI exhibition centre station in Amsterdam to Schipol airport & then catch the 10pm KLM flight to Newcastle & yes it had been a hard day & yes we must have walked miles. With Andy being the book keeper & me being the brains it seemed logical that he should go looking for change whilst I speak to our staff back in the UK. Unfortunately we think some lowlife thought that Andy's bag (which he thought he had left in my safe keeping) contained not a computer but all the catalogues, business cards, van keys (van was parked at Newcastle Airport) & his house keys plus, of course, both our passports! So a trip to the police station at the airport to report the stolen passports followed by some quick talking with the airline to allow us onto the flight and eventually we landed at Newcastle. Some smooth talking at immigration in Newcastle, followed by a nervous half hour sitting in an office with chairs bolted to the floor but eventually we were allowed to go free.

CUNNING PLAN?

The other Andy, he who eats porridge oats for breakfast, gargles with malt whisky, wears a kilt when sailing & can recite the 'Selkirk Grace' without hesitation or deviation "some hae meat & canna eat" etc & in his spare time runs our e commerce site told me the other day that he had sold a couple of Whale Babyfoot pumps, to Thames Water Utilities pumping station in Staines!

I can understand that in these 'green times' when we are trying to save money and conserve energy that a green approach might work, or maybe it's a cunning plan by Nick & David, (the Clegg dancers) to get the one million unemployed youngsters back into work. Andy B, he of the honours maths degree, has calculated that, if the water authority had one million of these pumps they could supply enough water to satisfy the thirsty householders in the Staines area (assuming the youngsters didn't get cramp!) & as long as we supplied all the pumps we would ride the recession easily along with all those good folks in Bangor Northern Ireland where the pumps are made. Not to mention all the extra corporation tax and VAT we would be paying the government. So extra money in the government coffers, 1 million less youngsters unemployed, recession over and everyone's happy!!



DROP EVERYTHING!

The other day Andy took a call from a ships agent, "Heard you got a ship that had been prohibited from sailing by the MCA 'off the hook' by carrying out a complex FRP repair to its lifeboat in double quick time. Can you do one for us, like YESTERDAY, on another ship's self-launching lifeboat? This time it's on a rather large iron ore ship with a similar issue, again not allowed to sail. This one's berthed at the recently reopened Corus Redcar steelworks at Teesside & there's already a queue starting to form with cargoes waiting to be unload!" As usual your editor was on holiday when Andy took the call, however with great presence of mind he managed to wake me very early (was past 8am in the morning) & after a conversation that went something like "Do you realise what time it is?" to which his reply that was "Yes and since you are on holiday AGAIN I finished last night at 8 & started again at 6!" The decision was made to pull Ian off the long term project he was working on.



As can be seen from the image the ore carrier in question was a big one GOOGLE "Vessel China Act" to get the vital stats however I do know she is almost as long as three football pitches! To make our repair guru's job harder, the self-launching lifeboat, apart from being almost 100 feet above the waterline of the ship, was at an angle of about 45 degrees & the repair in question was only 30cms from the self-launching handle! Having said that, Ian has in the past been involved in repairing aircraft fitted with ejector seats. They, he tells me, have up to 4 separate safety devices to prevent accidental deployment, how many fail safes did the liferafts have? Ian isn't admitting!!

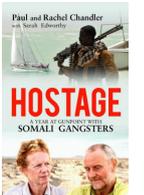
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Dear Aunty Foulin,

What can I buy the love of my life, who has everything, for Christmas? He has every known widget in his tool box, most bits of kit on his boat including the new Brizo (featured in the Oct newsletter) every manual on boat maintenance, chart work, pilot books, yes he's got the lot even though he has never ventured past the mouth of the Tyne! I do lie awake at night worrying what to buy him.

Dear Pensive from Penschaw,

What you need to do is get yourself down to 181 -183 Coast Road & purchase a personally signed copy of 'Hostage' written by Paul & Rachel Chandler. It's a 'rite good read' at only £9-99 & for every copy sold £1-00 will be donated to the RNLI lifejacket fund.



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

