

## S.A.T.S.

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## **GENERAL BOTHA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

<http://www.generalbotha.co.za>

**MAY 2012**

### **JOINT NEWSLETTER**

**Has your address changed?** Please send your updated details to Tony Nicholas Chairman Cape Town (details above).

**Do you have an interesting article for this newsletter?** Please send your contributions to Dennis Henwood, [dhenwood@iafrica.com](mailto:dhenwood@iafrica.com) Phone: +27 (0)21 6716373. Fax: +27 (0)86 6706710.

**Can you read this Newsletter?** If not please let us know. We can send you larger print if it is necessary.

March always turns out to be a busy month of the year in Cape Town. There is the Cycle tour which is a major sporting event drawing thousands of visitors to the city. Then there is the start of the Rugby season with the kick off of the Super 14 Series, and the winding down of the cricket season. There are also annual Club Championships at many of the tennis and golf clubs. All of these events in one way or another impact on our most important annual tradition of the Commissioning Dinner combined with our AGM. Over the past years Cape Town has become a popular venue for the class reunions attracting Obies from all over the world to reunite with their Chums & Old Salts, or in the latter years their Class Mates. In 2011 this was a particularly big gathering, and this year was equally successful. They have all been happy events enjoyed by all. The logistics of bringing these events together has been a combined effort by your Committee as well as the relevant reunion year organizing committees, who have all worked hard to not only overcome the challenges of the calendar events and venue bookings as mentioned above, but made it a very happy and memorable time for all. We look forward to the celebrations in the years ahead, and our venue has already been booked for next year on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, as well as on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 at the Kelvin Grove Club.

I am compiling this Newsletter while travelling on holiday through the Blue Ridge Mountains in the USofA, and what a wonderful time it is in the Spring. We are travelling from Atlanta in Georgia to Charlottesville in Virginia, across 4 States. This is scenic country and also good for the odd hike to stretch our legs, and the hospitality here is wonderful. I find networking the key to a successful trip. Without a network, we would miss out on so many good places to stay and interesting things to see and do. Travel would be just a list of places to tick off if it were not for the opportunity beforehand of speaking to people and making use of contacts. This newsletter, the Bothie database, the website with its links and the functions such as the gatherings in March every year at the various GBOBA Branches around the world, are all great opportunities for such networking. It never ceases to amaze me what a small world we live in when one finds, in obscure corners of the world, connections within connections resulting from an initial introduction. That is my experience of the GBOBA family amongst other networks, and I value that. Enjoy this read ... *Scribe*.

## FROM THE BRIDGE OF S.S. CAPE TOWN

My Stormers rugby team is top of the Super Rugby log and by all accounts another successful March Bothie weekend. Life could not be better. This being the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Ship's commissioning we celebrated at the traditional Commissioning Day Dinner with a number of our Old Salts in attendance. Their stories of the old Bothie is truly interesting and entertaining, we look forward to so many more of their tales. This year also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of the Titanic. **Grenville Stevens 1960/61** together with wife Suzette, embarked on a Titanic Memorial Cruise from Southampton to Halifax and then to New York pausing at the wreck site en-route. We look forward to their news once returned home.

I recently attended the Master Mariner's AGM at which a group of first year cadets addressed the meeting. Their theme was the difficulties our cadets under training at the Cape Peninsular University of Technology face. Travel and accommodation appears to be one of their biggest challenges. One cadet lives in Hermanus, some 120 Km away from their Granger Bay campus and started the academic year by commuting this distance daily, spent all his own money saved whilst working during school holidays on transport. Fortunately this individual subsequently managed to secure an affordable room in one of the university's residences. Made me think that there is still value in re-introducing the live aboard Bothie that we knew.

On the subject of reunions **Charles Kingon 1980** is arranging his class reunion for March 2015. We indeed look forward to this and trust Charles shall enjoy great support from all 36 class mates.

Both the 1952/53 and 1961/62 classes held successful and entertaining reunions over our March *Bothie Weekend*, I required a few days to recover after attending a few of their activities. Chris Nash 1961/62 commissioned a wonderful painting of their passing out parade, which he presented to our GB Trust. Well done Chris and thanks again.

Our UK members, or at least those in the vicinity, enjoy a monthly luncheon with The Old Conways and a change of venue has been announced. Starting 6<sup>th</sup> May the *Sunday gathering of the Conway Club Solent branch will be held at The Silver Fern, Warsash Road, Warsash.*

**For those of you who attend the Cape Town monthly lunch we have arranged what will surely be an interesting presentation for the 12th June lunch. Nick Sloane will tell us of some of his adventurous experiences in the salvage business. Further details shall be circulated by email, for those not on email please contact a Cape Town committee member beforehand for details, as the start time shall be 1130 for 1200.** Fair weather. Cheers.

## SCRANBAG

**M.L. CLARK 1956/57 #1987.** Malcolm Joined Safmarine and came ashore 1960. Started a career in marketing with BP Southern Africa before immigrating to Canada in 1977 and was involved in the aviation industry there. Retired to Vancouver Island in 1997.

**S.G. BREBNER 1979 #2639.** "I am at a World Port & Trades Summit this week in Abu Dhabi and met another Old Boy, who I didn't know but turned out to be Bothie class of 1983, his name is Bernd Walther and he is from Namibia. Hopefully this message will find you and once confirmed I will update my 'scranbag' details." Yes Simon, I have responded to you twice and await your reply. Last I heard you were somewhere in Brazil.

**J. LORD 1945/46 #1420.** Well our website also serves the purpose of drawing back AWOL members, John writes; "Hello Tony, just brought up the OBA page (first time for some years!!) Saw the SOS re me. I'm still around. Now 83 and going strong. Long since retired of course and still living near Colchester. Best regards." Now I am still waiting for John to provide me with his postal address.

**S.R. DICKASON 1975 #2515.** "My current position is Deputy Harbour Master/Pilot of Esperance Sea and Land. Maureen and I are still diving and alive and kicking. We completed a wreck diving specialty course two weeks ago in Dunsborough so we are now both Master Scuba Divers. In a little over a month my son joins us for a diving holiday to Ningaloo Reef. He has just resigned from Puma to work full time on his business JUICEIT in Cape Town. There is a local branch of Bothy Boys starting up in WA, so let us hope it takes off." It certainly has taken off. We look forward to some of your diving escapades.

**K.A. MORAN 1973 #2449.** SOS alert found Kevin locally; “Greetings Tony and Kathy, so sorry years have passed and also my details. I am no longer in Ireland and now living in Langebaan. FOR MY SINS I am now employed with SAMSA as a surveyor in Saldanha and will be so appreciative if I can be put back on the email mailing list. Please pop in if ever in the region and would so love my boss to allow me some time off to attend a Tuesday lunch.”

Hopefully your boss is reading this and accedes to your longing.

Many changes have been afoot recently at Safmarine worldwide. **Ian Fairly 1987** recently joined MSC. Still wait to hear from **Graeme Stephan 1978** and **James Lewer 1986**. Best of luck out there and look forward to hearing from you all.

**G.C. SPIRES 1975 #2508.** After spending a few years somewhere icy as Mooring Master with Smit Octo Luktrans, Movorossiysk, Russia, Graham has returned to Cape Town. Look forward to seeing you mate.

**J.D. MANN 1958/59 #2115.** Like so many Bothie Boys Jonathan recently *let go his headlines and stern lines* without informing us of his new mooring. With the assistance of Andy Fotheringham and an OW in Australia he has reported in whilst I have been preparing this edition. “I’ve been retired from pilot duties (GBR Pilot, licensed in all areas, and port pilot licences for Gove and Groote Eylandt) since April 2010. Though retired as such I remain on the boards of Torres Industries, Reef Pilots and Reef Helicopters. We packed up and left Cairns in FNQ for Medowie and we built here on the Golf Course. I am on the Match Committee here at Pacific Dunes, so keeping active. Our daughter moved back from Hong Kong and now lives in Canberra so when not on this golf course we are spoiling our granddaughter in Canberra. We will be visiting my sisters in the western Cape in September 2012.” Jonathan, our September lunch is scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to seeing you here.

## SOS

Since our last publication only one more gone AWOL; **Rory O’Malley 1978** last known somewhere in Cape Town, or at least he had a post box in Cape Town. Any leads?

## ANCHORS AWEIGH

**H.H. BIERMANN 1932/33 #610.** Hugo Hendrik, better known as HH, passed away 27<sup>th</sup> March. As past Chief of the S.A. Navy as well as past Chief of the S.A. Defence Force HH received a high profile funeral service attended by a number of retired Chiefs of the S.A. Navy as well as the present Chief of the S.A. Navy. After the service his coffin was borne away on the traditional gun carriage by the S.A. Navy. After G.B. served as a Cadet in the British Merchant Navy until 1938 when transferred to the Maritime Department of the S.A.R.& H. 1938 commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in the RNVR war reserve. 1946 appointed Lieutenant Commander, S.A. Navy Permanent Force. 1952 Naval attaché, London, Rank, Commander 12/52 Naval and Marine Chief of staff. Rank, Commodore. 1957 promoted to Rear-Admiral. 1965 promoted to Vice Admiral. Chief of the Navy and Commander, Maritime Defence, S.A. Defence Forces. 1972 promoted to Admiral. Appointed as Chief of the S.A.D.F. 1976 retired from the S.A.D.F. Since retirement served on the boards of: St Dunstons, N.S.R.I., Sandock-Austral, Trust Bank, K.F. Albrecht & Co, Suiderland Ontwikkelings Korporasie, Gilbeys Distillers & Vintners, Sunnyside Travel Bureau, Pretoria. Patron of the G.B. War Memorial Fund. HH was described as “The father of the modern South African Navy”. Served with distinction in WWII and South Africa subsequently, Admiral Biermann SSA SD OBE.

*On the recommendation of the British Admiralty, the then Lieutenant-Commander H. H. Biermann, an officer in the South African Naval Forces [SANF], was appointed an Officer of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire [OBE] “for distinguished service during the invasion of Southern France.” What he actually did to earn this decoration was “outstanding work in the reopening of key Mediterranean harbours” [particularly Marseilles harbour].*

*The Star of South Africa [SSA] “for exceptionally meritorious military service”. This decoration was replaced by the Order of the Star of South Africa in 1975 and the Admiral wore that decoration subsequently. [Post nominal was still SSA]*

*The Southern Cross Decoration [SD]. He received the first Southern Cross Decoration to be awarded. Instituted in 1975 it was for "outstanding service of the highest order and utmost devotion to duty in time of peace or war".*

*The Grand Cross Almirante Guillermo Brown by Argentina.*

*The Grand Cross of the Order of Infante Dom Henrique by Portugal.*

**K.A. SNOW 1950/51.** Reported the sad passing of Ken in our February newsletter. Subsequently a Service of Thanksgiving was held for Ken in Westminster Abbey in London and his ashes were interned in the Cloisters.

**B.D. COQUELLE 1965 #2261.** Born in Benoni on 25th March 1947. Went to boarding school in Kimberly from the age of six. Educated at Kimberly Boys Prep. and matriculated from in 1964. Played 'Craven Week' rugby and 'Nuffield Week' cricket whilst at school. Joined Safmarine in 1966 as a junior navigation officer and served for three years on bulk carriers, tankers and general cargo vessels. Resigned in 1969 as a result of failing an eye test prior to writing 2<sup>nd</sup> officer's exam. Joined Quinton Hazell Superite as a sales rep and over the next ten years occupied various management positions in different subsidiaries within their stable. This was followed by a three year stint with Trico Windscreen Wiper Blades as marketing manager, where after he joined a friend, in his newly formed business, Autoquip, as general manager for Johannesburg. A year later, he and his friend bought out the then major shareholder, Parts Centre. In 1987 the group listed on the J.S.E. to take advantage of the listings boom and to re-finance the business. It listed on the very same day that Wall Street crashed. In 1988 his friend emigrated to Australia and Bruce became MD. In early 2000 the decision was taken to delist the company. In February 2008 Bruce relocated from Johannesburg to Gordon's Bay and commuted to head office in Johannesburg on a bi-weekly basis. Bruce passed away on the 7th.JANUARY 2012 after a long illness and is survived by his wife, Dawn, his four children.

**C.W. DICKSON 1950/51 #1644.** After leaving Bothie Claude joined Shaw Savill Line operating between S.A. and Australia and then U.K. and Australia/New Zealand. Since he was desperate to follow his brothers to the Bothie, he completed his apprenticeship at the tender age of 18 years and 3 months and was not eligible to write his Second Mates ticket. The Company sent him home for an extended leave and when requested to join a ship some three months later, decided not to take up their offer. Married Dulcie in Cape Town and subsequently emigrated to the U.K in 1976. Took up various positions as Fire and Safety Consultant in the Petro-chemical industry specialising in the Fire and Safety design for Oil and Gas rigs which involved travel to various locations including back to S.A (Mossel Bay Gas Rig); on to Montreal (Hibernia Gas rig) in Canada and then to Glasgow, Aberdeen, and London. Finally retired on health grounds in 1998 and lived in Reading, Berkshire. Deceased 07/02/2012.

**O.D. WALLANDER 1957/58.** Olaf was born on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1940. He lived with his parents on a small farm in Somerset West when he enrolled at the SANC General Botha, Gordon's Bay in 1957. Left Bothie to help his parents on the farm. Olaf met his future wife, Patricia soon after school, and they were married until she passed away ± 2005. Olaf was absolutely heartbroken and never got over her death. Olaf was always a fun guy and all his life he was full of humour. He wrote to Dave Mac Callum: "My favourite is still our first day when we were on the road learning to dress off and Davis got us to count from the left, so it went 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 then laughter. Then we started again and by the time we got to 7 or 8 we were howling. What was funny was the different voice pitches. We must have tried a good 6 or 7 times but it just got worse. So Davis made us Bothie hop to the end of the Starboard Roadway and back, but it was useless. I think we were even laughing while we were hopping, and yes those were great times, and even the shitty ones were great. My parents had lost our farm and I had to leave and find a job and I was really pissed off. I know I could write a book on my time spent there and I wouldn't have traded one day for how to become a man overnight. Thanks for the memories. Love you guys. Olaf."

Malcolm Clark, Olaf's Old Salt wrote: "Was sorry to read of the passing over the side of Olaf who was a member of our Naval Association in Victoria on Vancouver Island. As far as background is concerned I know he only served a year at the Bothie and left due to financial implications. He immigrated to Canada in the early sixties and was involved in the petroleum industry. His wife Patricia

predeceased him and there are two children remaining. He passed away on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 and I sent a note of condolence to the family from the cadets of your year.”

Personal friends of the Wallander’s from Canada wrote: “I just wanted to reflect back on his most interesting life dating back to the early 70's when I first met him and Pat. We all lived in Deep Cove at the time where Olaf worked hard at his auto repair shop. Olaf had a love of cars and started collecting classic Studebakers at that time. We used to enjoy weekends up at Mixal Lake where the kids, Karin & Gavin, and their St. Bernhard, Nancy, had such fun times with the rest of us. He and Pat made many interesting moves from there over the years, starting a hobby farm in Sechelt and then over to Comox where they set up a store, always making new friends wherever they went. It was a sad day when we lost dear Pat and it must have been an empty time in Olaf's life after that. I will always remember him as a hard working, creative and lovable guy. May he rest in peace.”

A personal Bothie friend of Olaf since they were at nursery school together (Lindsay Sargeant) wrote: “Olaf was extremely neat, always sweeping the street in front of his shop. He built his lovely home by hand personally, and had a stream from outside flowing right through his living room. Olaf was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1940. He and Patricia were married in February 1963 and moved to Durban where their children were born. Their first child, Karin, was born in December 1693 and their son Gavin, arrived two years or so later. The family set off to Canada when Gavin was still tiny, first to Calgary, and then they moved to Vancouver Island where they owned and ran a general store called “Headquarters”. There was a brief period when they returned to South Africa and lived in Durbanville for a couple of years, during which time Karin came out from Canada and got married on top of Table Mountain! Thereafter they remained in Canada with the occasional visit to South Africa. In his lifetime he must have had at least 90 motor cars including all the ones he restored (Morris Minors, MG’s, Volkswagens, Mercedes Benz, Studebakers, and a Ford Mustang that we know of!) Despite good and rough times we kept in touch over a span of 65 years.”



*Our condolences to family and shipmates.*

### **GBOBA WEST AUSTRALIA (GBOBAWA)**

**David Bell 1953/54.** “Herewith the photo [which by now hopefully our webmaster Terry Purdon has posted on our website] of the four of us who were able to make it to the Inaugural Luncheon of GBOBAWA. The amazing thing is that I have at last been able to contact every one of the nine old boys in this huge state and it was Michelle Largesse who, in reply to my initial feelers re possibly the 17<sup>th</sup> March emailed us all and said “its the 17<sup>th</sup> March 12 Noon at the Albion Hotel Cottesloe. Which is a sea side suburb of Perth Well four of us and two wives could make it and we duly met and had a good meal and a glass or two with a lot of “did you knows” and “what ship was that” etc... etc. It was a change to have so many South African accents in one place and even odder when the young girl who brought our food and took the photos was also South African. We are planning now to organize a get together some time around Christmas or New Year when as many of us as possible will, somehow, congregate up in Perth (remembering that I am also 250 kms south of the big smoke). Distance is one of the problems here as Leon Strydom 1989 is in Port Headland about 12 or 1500 kms up north and Rob Lovell 1975 and Steve Dickason 1975 are in Esperance which is about a thousand kms away on the south coast. Tertius van der Pol 1942/43 is also about 150 Kms north of Perth and he and his wife could not make it as Tertius was not at his best. I will be going to see them in early August as Julia and I are going north for some sun and will pass through Ledge Point and Rona, Tertius’ wife, insisted we stay with them. The other two who could not make it are Richard van der Spoel 1982 and Steve Parnaby 1981. Well it has been worth the effort to ring/email and work at finding everyone thanks to

your new list you sent. For me it was also good as I stayed with my son and his family and watched our team the Western Force beat the Waratahs in the eastern states. Life does not get much better than that. Keep up the good...no Great work you are doing Tony, Julia and me, baring total destitution or other unmentionables, will be at the 60<sup>th</sup> that Barry Cullen 1953/54 is working on.

*Cheers, David. Convener GBOBABA. (If said as a single word, it could be Zulu or Sotho or Xosa) From now on it is a greeting meaning "Greetings from Western Australia" as in "Greetings Bothie Old Boys at WA".*

#### **KZN BRANCH NEWS**

The GBOBA Natal, AGM & Commissioning Day Dinner held at RNYC in the Trafalgar Room on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March was a great success. Obies, wives, partners and friends started gathering in the RNYC first floor bar with its great views over the yacht club and harbour. Friends from way back renewed acquaintances over drinks. In all there were 39 present for the evening.

Some of the visitors from afar included Ivor Little and his wife Anne, Errol Hunter from Australia, Allen Pembroke's Aunt, Mary Pembroke from the UK. From closer afield was Tony da Silva who is back from sea. Graham Douglas invited a distant relative of General Botha.

The Obies moved on to the Trafalgar Room for the AGM and other guests gathered in another venue where Odette McManus did a presentation on the history of the GB. The AGM went off smoothly and messages of goodwill were read from various corners of the globe. The Committee members were all willing to serve again and remains the same for this year.

After the AGM all the guests moved to the Trafalgar Room where we enjoyed a wonderful dinner and much reminiscing. After dinner Charles Whiting gave a very interesting talk about German Submarines and their role during the closing chapters of the second World War. Many Obies and friends continued chatting until close to 2300 and then found their way home.

#### **AUSTRALIA BRANCH NEWS**

Our Commissioning Day Lunch and AGM were held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Great Northern Hotel, Chatswood Sydney. In attendance were: John Fisher 35/37 and Wendy; Gordon Maxwell 40/41 and Betty; Stan Damp 47/48; John Mc Tavish 51/5; Grenville Stevens 60/61 and Suzette; Peter O'Hare 64 and Jenny; Rear Admiral Allan Du Toit (Hon. Member); Roger Pike Old Pangbourne and Maura; David Rowden Old Worcester; Peter Hay Old Worcester.

The AGM resolved to continue with the existing committee and to accept the changes to the Constitution concerning the Bursary Fund. We are talking to Old Worcesters about some combined get togethers in the near future.

We are holding a mid year GBOBA lunch in Newcastle on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July. Address is The Customs House, 1 Bond Street.

Regards to all and please get in touch if you are going to be "Down Under".

Grenville Stevens (2189 60/61) Chairman

Andy Fothringham (2525 '76) Vice Chairman

Peter O'Hare (2247 '64) Hon Sec, Australia Branch, [peteroh@bigpond.com](mailto:peteroh@bigpond.com), Tel. 0417 028809

#### **UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH NEWS---Ted Fisher**

The year has come around once again at a rate of knots. Here you all are celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Commissioning Anniversary and no doubt in other venues throughout the world reunions will bring together old shipmates from training days. As the GBOBA-UK Branch Hon Sec., may I on behalf of all the UK Members offer congratulations to the Committee and in particular our Chairman Tony Nicholas for their hard work in keeping the ship afloat throughout the year!! No mean feat I'm sure. We all know of the preparations that go into the running of an organisation so, please be aware that support from members throughout the world is always with you. On a personal note I thoroughly enjoy being Hon Scribe and value the liaison/dialogue with our Chairman Tony and indeed my old CCC Barry Cullen at various times in the year. I send my apologies for not being at the AGM, however, Barbara and I hope to be floating around in March 2013. The current UK Membership stands at circa 105 including retired and working Obies scattered around all points of the compass. It is impossible to gather many together

for functions, however, I do know that those who can attend events do try and generally if unable to always send in apologies....must be the result of our training. Also members in transit get in touch. This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Training College HMS Worcester ...much has been written about closer ties between Old Boys Associations of the respective Training Colleges. I look forward to representing S.A.T.S General Botha Old Boys Association at the Old Worcesters formal Dinner in Portsmouth Guildhall in June this year, an occasion to which Barbara and I have been invited to attend as guests. I gather some 600 OWs and their partners are attending with over twenty percent from overseas mainly Australia, North America and South Africa.

So, finally to all Obies and their ladies attending the AGM, to those celebrating the Anniversaries of their respective years aboard the ship my congratulations and please have a good time.....THE LEGEND LIVES ON!

### **Memorial Service: Rear Admiral Ken Snow CB and The Interment of Ashes in the Cloisters Westminster Abbey Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

The Memorial Service for Ken Snow (GB 50/51) was held. Barbara and I together with Doug Wrathmall (56/57) Chris Nash (61/62) & Anne, Dr Adair Butchins (50/51) sadly Adair's wife was recovering from a serious back operation and could not attend, duly represented the GBOBA on the day. Some 300 attended the service followed by a reception in Up School the Hall of Westminster School.

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, conducted the service. The service sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir conducted by James O'Donnell Organist and Master of the Choristers.

Her Majesty's Lord –Lieutenant of Greater London and Lady Brewer were received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

A Tribute was read by Ken's son Rear Admiral Christopher Snow CBE DL who spoke very eloquently of his father's life with particular reference not only to his time in the Royal Navy but how proud he was of his South African heritage and of his training received as a cadet on the Nautical College General Botha, something which stood him in great stead in his later life. Ken and Pam continued over the years to enjoy many visits to South Africa where he sadly passed away last December.

As always, it is only on occasions as above that one really gets to learn about the life and times of the deceased. A brief synopsis: after GB 50/51 where Ken was Chief Cadet Captain and the last winner of the Kings Gold Medal, Royal Naval

College Dartmouth, into the RN serving through to commanding minesweeper HMS Kirkliston 1962, frigate HMS Llandaff 1970, frigate HMS Arethusa 1979 also Squadron Commander and as the last Capt of the carrier HMS Hermes 1983. Ken served in the Admiralty as Dep.Ass.Chief of Staff 84-87. Following retirement Ken joined the staff of Westminster Abbey. He was Receiver General and Chapter Clerk 87-98 and Deputy High Bailiff 98-2008. His final duty being the Funeral of Princess Diana Princess of Wales. The profile of Receiver General included in this newsletter.

In conclusion Pam tells me that Ken always enjoyed his time on holiday in Glencairn meeting with Obies and friends, attending reunions, something she will continue to do on her visits.

I feel it a great honour to have met and known Ken albeit briefly over the years, however, a true officer and gentleman.

**Social:** Advance notice for diaries namely the joint GBOBA/CONWAY SOLENT Christmas Lunch Crown Hotel Lyndhurst Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. Hopefully to be joined by a contingent from the

#### OFFICE OF RECEIVER GENERAL AND CHAPTER CLERK OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Historically the Receiver General collected all the rents from Abbey properties and estates, combining in a single role duties which in monastic times were assigned to more than one official. The first contract or 'patent' for a Receiver General dates from 1544 and from then on the names of all those who have held that office are known. The Chapter Clerk was a trained lawyer responsible for a wide range of administrative duties for the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

The Receiver General today holds the most senior lay position in the Abbey. He is responsible to the Dean and Chapter for the control and running of all administration, financial, and protocol matters, is in overall charge of lay personnel, is responsible for the security of the Abbey and precincts, and is the co-ordinator of all affairs concerning the Abbey's secular life. For over a century the offices of Receiver General and Chapter Clerk have been combined. The Chapter Clerk acts as chief executive of the Chapter, responsible for agendas and minutes at their meetings. The Receiver General generally acts as Registrar of the Abbey, recording all baptisms, marriages, and burials.

Ken Snow was the twenty-ninth Receiver General since the re-foundation of the Abbey as a Collegiate Church in 1560.

Association of Old Worcester's.....as Chris Nelson of Conway stated "The more the merrier" on the occasion!

As always my thoughts are for a summer social somewhere, however, the practical logistics of travel, costs, lack of response from Obies in retirement and work all fully understandable in these difficult times.

Am given to understand the Cape Town AGM/Commissioning Lunch was a great event with the 52/53s, 62/63s and 73s in addition.....bet our Chairman Tony had difficulty in keeping control!!

Enjoy the year ahead one and all.

Ted Fisher (54/55) email: [tedefisher@aol.com](mailto:tedefisher@aol.com) Tel: 44(0)1903 744400 Mob: 44(0)7702 635017

### **GENERAL BOTHA SOUTHERN LUNCH**

The next **GENERAL BOTHA SOUTHERN LUNCH** will be held at the Seven Seas Club, Simon's Town on **Tuesday 17 July 2012** at 1200 for 1300. Those wishing to attend are requested to telephone Brad Wallace-Bradley on 021-786-1957 or Ian Manning on 021-782-1559 **before** 1700 on Friday 13 July 2012 to make reservations.

### **GAUTENG BRANCH NEWS**

The Gauteng branch held its Annual Commissioning Day luncheon at the Golden Harvest Restaurant in Strydom Park on Sunday 18 March. This was a week later than previously advertised as we had difficulty in obtaining a suitable venue. The whole question of venues has become a worrisome one as, by the nature of things, we require a private room, a decent ambience and a good menu, and finding all three in one venue is not easy and is invariably expensive. Normal restaurants, which are prepared to accept a large group, are invariably noisy and crowded and so, for the last number of years, we have been using club houses and retirement village dining rooms. This gives rise to another problem in that as soon as we find one that we like and use it more than once, either the members or the Body Corporate complain that we are taking over, at the expense of the members or residents, and we have to move on. This was the case with the Golden Harvest for the date that we requested, but because we have proved such good long-standing customers and have residents on the property the Caterer intervened and we were granted the use of this pleasant venue. Our membership is at the moment 106 ex-cadets and notices were sent out to each of them. Sixteen attended and seventeen sent their apologies. The sixteen who came along were bolstered by wives, friends and family and the final number who sat down to a delightful lunch was thirty-one. It was a beautiful day, the caterer had pulled out all the stops. The service was, as usual, good and the excellent meal proved value for money. Messages of goodwill were received from the Cape Town and Australian Branches and read out. A good time was had by all and the last stragglers left at 16h30, after a very sociable lunch. Frank Redgment (1939/40) received the prize for the oldest Old Salt present and Henri Fouche (1968) the prize for the youngest Chum. It was none-the-less a disappointing turn out for such a large Branch, particularly after a lot of time and effort had been put in to organising the event. There are many reasons for our declining attendance, which reached a high of 70 ex-cadets when the meal was free and sponsored, and now has dropped to the present paltry 15. One of the reasons is cost. This last meal cost R140 per head, as against R70 when we first started using the Golden Harvest, and attendance has dropped as the cost has risen. We can and have gone to cheaper places, but then we get complaints about the food, crowd or ambience. It seems that our ex-cadets want privacy, top-class food and a pretty ambience, but want it at steak house prices and the two ideas are just not compatible. There is also a perception held by some that the two annual functions are simply a "get-together for Ivor Little's '50s friends". This is patently untrue, as it will be seen that at the last luncheon the attendees spanned the period 1939 to 1968. It is a perception and perceptions are hard to change, if those holding them do not themselves attend. However, it is a fact that the large majority of our members are from the decade of the '50s as this was the *Botha's* heyday and I think that the same holds true for the other branches as well. Those present at the luncheon understood the problems that our Branch is facing and it was agreed that we are reaching a crisis point if we wish to continue in existence. Because of a lack of interest and fixed pensions, we are quite simply pricing ourselves out



of business, if we continue in the same vein. It was agreed to appoint Rene Poerner, Henri Fouche, Ivor Little and Tony Hunter as a steering committee to try and solve the problem by coming up with new ideas to try and re-awaken interest amongst ex-cadets. Those ex-cadets who attended the luncheon were Frank Redgment (39/40), Frank Wheeldon (41/42), Gordon Bennett (46/47), Rene Poerner (48/49), Vic Albert, Mike Crewe, and Ken van der Walt (52/53), Tony Hunter, Ivor Little and Keith Quayle (53/54), Tony Jacquet and John Orrock (54/55), Archie Campbell and Brian Watt (56/57), Wim Keirsgieter (58/59), and Henri Fouche (1968). Apologies were received from Laurie Barnes (46/47), Gordon Cross (47/48), Terry Drummond (50/51), Trevor Bond (52/53), Eric Moir (53/54), Dave Howard and Hugh Lendrum (54/55), Dale Allen and Gert Smit (57/58), Peter Syndercombe (58/59), Tony Proudfoot (61/62), Richard Morgan (1968), Alan Ford (1971), Dave Sharrock (1974), Philip Hawkins (1982), David Jones and Ian Thurston (Old *Worcester*). Our next function will be in September and will take the form of a garden party at the delightful home of Rene and Karen Poerner in Linksfield. **IVOR LITTLE**

### **BOTHIE REUNION - THE LATE FIFTIES (56 / 57 / 58)**

The 57's and 58's had a great 50th reunion in 2008, and all expressed the wish to come together again ten years from then. But later Don Forbes suggested a 55th get together instead of a 60th, and there were most positive responses from many who reacted on this suggestion. We also received many calls from 57's to include our '56 Old Salts this next (last?) time as well. Since we agreed that we cannot do better than we experienced during the 2008 reunion at Bothie, the AGM, the Cenotaph and Simon's Town, and since we also did not want to compete with our own, and cannot compete with better reunions held in the Cape Town area, the idea was then to have another type of reunion, that was originally supposed to be more accessible to Obies outside CT. Many venues were discussed, ranging from the Kruger Park, the B&B of Gerard and Jill Marais in Jo'burg, down to Plett and Knysna etc. Eventually Mossel Bay was chosen and it proves to be a most suitable venue for most (if not all). The dates between the 2013 Argus and the GBOBA's AGM was then chosen, to allow those of our Guys who normally take part in the Argus on the 2nd Sun (10th March 2013) to reach Mossel Bay by either Monday 11th or even Tuesday 12th March. The Bothie Boys and their wives/partners can leave Mossel Bay on Friday 15th to travel to Cape Town, in time for the AGM and Sticky Buns ... being the highlight of a memorial week with all General Botha Old Boys who will be there as well. Please contact Van (Laurentius van Rouendal #.2082 57/58) at [vanrouen@mweb.co.za](mailto:vanrouen@mweb.co.za) or **082 822 3131** for more details and to tell us if you would like to be part of this reunion. We will answer every email, and can email relevant information back to you for you to consider.

### **Appreciation from Brian Georgeson**

"To those OB's who sponsored me for the charity I was walking for in the recent Discovery/Cape Times Big Walk from Simon's Town, thank you. For what it is worth I walked away (no pun intended) with the Gold Medal for my category!" Cheers, Brian Georgeson.'57/58.

### **An Interesting Snippet from Gavin Durell**

A 36 ton anchor belonging to a historic ship, once the world's largest, has been transported by Wilhelmsen Ships Service from Gujarat and has just arrived in Hong Kong, to be placed as the centrepiece in the new Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Wilhelmsen Ships Service Hong Kong was approached by the Norwegian ambassador in Guangzhou in early February to arrange the transportation of the anchor of the Jahre Viking/Seawise Giant which was scrapped in India this year.

The ULCC (Ultra Large Crude Carrier) was the world's longest ship until she was beached to be broken up after 35 years afloat. Gifted to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum by an anonymous donor this anchor will recognise the involvement of Norwegian shipping in Hong Kong waters since the early 19th century. The transportation of the anchor from India to Hong Kong was sponsored by the government of Norway.

Built for Mr CY Tung in 1979 and subsequently sold by his family, the ship was owned and operated by Norwegian shipping interests for the rest of its life.

The anchor of the Jahre Viking/ Seawise Giant, has 20 links of chain, is 7m long in the shank, 4.45m across the flukes and 1.13m thick. This represented a considerable challenge to shift from the beaches of Gujarat to the Government Shipyard in Hong Kong. The India office of Wilhelmsen Ships Service arranged for the purchase, documentation and land transportation of the anchor onboard a 40 foot flat rack container from the scrapyard in Alang to Pipanav port and thereon onboard the Nedloyd Barentz to Hong Kong. The anchor arrived in Hong Kong on 17 June and was transported to the Government Shipyard for storage by Wilhelmsen Ships Service Hong Kong using a crane barge.

*Source: Wilhelmsen Ships Service*

### **GBOBA BURSARY FUND**

The draft Annual report was tabled at the Cape Town Branch AGM, as required by the Constitution and substantial discussions and interaction followed in this respect. Further to this a debate took place on the Fund's proposed activities for the coming financial year.

A substantial amount of support for what the Fund had achieved so far and for its proposed activities was expressed, specifically for the proposed joint fund raising event with SOMMSA – The Marine Bursary Golf Day (see Page 14).

The Fund balance stands at R74,487 (dated 3 May 2012). The Fund is committed to payments of R12,000 in June 2012 and a further R24,000 for the existing students next year. The decision will be whether to fund one or two half bursaries next year. The intention of the Management Committee is to draft and approve a 5-year strategic plan. However, this will depend largely on the annual income from donations. A questionnaire will be circulated to all Patrons/donors to gauge the intended level of contributions.

The Committee is seeking assistance from persons or companies prepared to mentor our students.

Interested persons are encouraged to actively join the Management Committee. If you are interested then please contact one of the GBOBA Committee members listed on the header page for further details.

**Keith Burchell, Chairman, GBOBA Bursary Fund**

### **BOTHIE TERMINOLOGY – By Alan Bole**

*This is Part 1 of 2. The second will follow in the next Newsletter.*

#### **A Catalogue of Bothie Terminology.**

Some time ago, I floated the idea of compiling a 'Dictionary' of terminology as might be given to a new cadet coming to the 'General Botha' i.e. the language, unique to the Institution. Manning refers to it briefly in his book on Captain Legassick. Sadly, as the years pass, memories fade and much of the picturesque jargon is lost. It would need someone to collate this work and I'm sure that many memories could be jogged at Obies meetings and lunches etc. rather than see this interesting language – I'm sure that it has some fancy name – disappear forever. I would be prepared to take on the work myself, but feel that I am too remote to really be in touch with members.

I include here some terms with my idea of their brief explanations, which come to mind:

#### **General Terms**

Gwogs: any confectionary, sweets etc.

Tings: A general terms for cigarettes;

Sponsies: To keep cave or to warn of the approach of trouble.

#### **Staff.**

Gus: Capt G.V. Legassick – Capt Superintendent of SANC General Botha from 1946 to 1978;

Legs: Mrs Legassick. This came from Legassick rather than as a comment on her anatomy;

'Jock' Frame: Headmaster and teacher of Maths and English;

'Schnoz' du Bois: Afrikaans teacher. Apparently a description of his proboscis;

'Olly' Stokes: Physics teacher – no idea of the origin;

'Chiefie' Prest: Chief Officer. Noted quote "The onus is on you"

'Hydro' Harry Pinn: Second Officer and Navigation Instructor;

'Apples' Aplin: Third Officer;

‘Uncle Bob’;  
‘Granny’ - Bert Costick: Signals Instructor. The name probably derives from his prowess with the sewing machine making signal flags;  
‘Tallow’ Gough: Seamanship Instructor;  
‘Nuts’ Almond: Electronics Officer;  
PTI Smith: trained the boxing team;  
‘.....’: Burser; i/c payday  
‘.....’: Carpenter  
‘Pop’: Night watchman. Roused the ”cadet-capstans, batsmen and bugler” 20 minutes before Reveille;  
‘Padre’:

#### Cadet Hierarchy.

‘Chainie’: The Chief Cadet Captain. Distinguished by his silver chain and bosun’s pipe;  
4 Senior Cadet Captains (SCCs): One in charge of each of the four Tops;  
7 Junior Cadet Captains (JCCs); One as second in each Top, the 3 remaining had special responsibilities;  
Badge Cadets: Cadets with assigned special responsibilities – Sports Store; Band Locker; and Tuck Shop;  
‘Old Salts’: Senior cadets i.e. those in their second year;  
‘Chums’: Junior cadets i.e. those in their first year;  
Batmen: a nautical term for ‘fags’. Officially employed by a Cadet Captain for general duties but mainly to clean shoes and to attend to ensuring that laundry was sent and collected. It had the advantage of protecting one from being required to perform ‘unofficial’ duties for other Old Salts.

#### Organisation.

Watches: each cadet was assigned to either Port or Starboard Watch, with one Watch assigned as Duty Watch on alternate days. This comprised some 50 cadets and was only called out when some major work needed doing. On rare occasions, ‘Both Watches’ might be called e.g. when a cutter needed to be hauled up on the davits;  
‘Tops’: F’o’c’sle, Foretop, Main Top, and Quarterdeck. Equivalent to ‘houses’ in ordinary schools and are basic competitive units. Cadets assigned evenly. For minor events, the Duty Top would be called.  
‘Slack Party’: for minor infringements of college rules, ones name would be placed in the Slack Party register. When Slack Party was called, cadets whose names were in the book would turn out and would be assigned minor – usually dirty jobs;  
‘Clear up Decks’: Initial clear up of all areas, first thing in the morning and – before prayers – last thing at night;  
‘Gangway’ and Gangway Duty’: The initial reception area. It would be manned by 2 cadets – one senior and one junior – to welcome visitors and enquire after their business and direct them to the appropriate person. It was also the duty of the Senior to ensure that the regular activities of the day took place at the correct times e.g. hoisting and lowering of flags at Sunset when a cadet Captain, a bugler, and 2 cadets would be required. Also, to keep a logbook. If a particular cadet was required for some reason, the junior cadet would proceed with a Bosun’s Pipe and call his name, to which the cadet would be required to answer ‘Whereaway’ when he heard his name called. When one was on Gangway Duty, one was excused school. It was a long day.  
‘Mess Deck’ and ‘Mess Cooks’: The former was the dining area, where meals were served and eaten. The duty ‘Mess cooks’ were 2 cadets for each table and were assigned weekly to prepare and clear the tables at each meal. A cadet Captain sat at the head of each table. One contentious issue was the division of the butter at breakfast and would cause serious comment if not meticulously divided. Chums and Old Salts were never on the same table at meals;  
‘Galley Boys’: These were Africans who worked in the Galley and who served the food.

‘Sick Bay’: A number of rooms where sick cadets would be treated for minor ailments;  
‘Sick Parade’: The weekly visit by the doctor who would check one Top per week and attend to cadets in the Sick Bay. Cadets would line up and run up to the doctor, shout their number and lower their trousers. The doctor would put 2 fingers in ones mouth with the instruction to say, “aah!” – the other hand went onto ones crotch with the instruction to “Cough!” He was carefully watched to ensure that he didn’t reverse his hands.  
‘Church Parties’:

*To be continued.....*

### **Aren’t Golfers Wonderful People?**

A husband and wife are on the 9th green when suddenly she collapses from a heart attack! "Help me dear," she groans to her husband. The husband calls 911 on his cell phone, talks for a few minutes, picks up his putter, and lines up his putt. His wife raises her head off the green and stares at him. "I'm dying here and you're putting?" "Don't worry dear," says the husband calmly, "they found a doctor on the second hole and he's coming to help you." "Well, how long will it take for him to get here?" she asks feebly. "No time at all," says her husband. "Everybody's already agreed to let him play through."

A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?" Mickelson replied, "The holes are numbered."

A young man and a priest are playing together. At a short par-3 the priest asks, "What are you going to use on this hole, my son?" The young man says, "An 8-iron, father. How about you?" The priest says, "I'm going to hit a soft seven and pray." The young man hits his 8-iron and puts the ball on the green. The priest tops his 7-iron and dribbles the ball out a few yards. The young man says, "I don't know about you, father, but in my church, when we pray, we keep our head down."

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?" "Yes" says the woman. "Did you hit him with that golf club?" "Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face. "How many times did you hit him?" "I don't know -- five, six, maybe seven times....just put me down for a five."

The bride was escorted down the aisle and when she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side. She said: "What are your golf clubs doing here?" He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?????"

*The Pessimist complains about the wind, the Optimist expects it to change and the Realist adjusts his sails.(William Arthur Ward)*

*"A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition." (William Arthur Ward)*

*"In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are consequences." (Robert Green Ingersoll)*

*From the Scribe, [dhenwood@iafrica.com](mailto:dhenwood@iafrica.com).*

### SLOP CHEST

These slop chest items all proudly display our association insignia and is available from Cape Town branch. Place your orders without delay with Kathy or Louise Nicholas:

Phone: 021-7885957; fax: 086 604 0811; Email: [cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za](mailto:cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za)

<b>BADGE</b>	<b>R100</b>
<b>TIE [STRIPED]</b>	<b>R60</b>
<b>PLAQUE</b>	<b>R150</b>
<b>PEAK CAP [BASEBALL TYPE]</b>	<b>R100</b>
<b>‘n NAAM WAT SEEVAARDERS EER</b> Geskiedenis van die opleiding skip.	<b>DONASIE</b>
<b>A NAME AMONG SEAFARING MEN</b> History of the training ship.	<b>DONATION</b>
<b>FIRST DAY COVER</b> 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Old Boys' Association	<b>DONATION</b>
<b>BELT BUCKLE</b>	<b>R170</b>
<b>DVD “THE SHIP”</b> Filmed on board during the thirties.	<b>R40</b>
<b>DVD “RED HILL 1946/47”</b> Collection of Rex Chamber's photographs with titles and accompanying music.	<b>R45</b>
<b>DVD “SOUTH AFRICAN NAUTICAL COLLEGE GENERAL BOTHA 1954”.</b> Filmed by Barry Cullen and Chris Copeland.	<b>R40</b>
<b>NO REWARD FOR DUTY</b> <b>A Biographical Note on the life and career of Captain G.V. Legassick DSC RD RNR</b>	<b>R129 incl. packageing &amp; postage</b> <b>R227 overseas airmail</b>

#### **PLUS PACKAGING AND POSTAGE!**

**Note: some items in the slop chest are available from Durban branch as well.**

#### **BANKING:**

Cheque or postal order should be made out to “General Botha Old Boys' Association”. Post to: P.O. Box 4515, Cape Town, 8000

Alternatively, the payment can be made by electronic fund transfer directly into our bank account.

Details as follows:

- Bank: Standard Bank
- Branch: Thibault Square, Cape Town
- Branch code: 02 09 09
- Account name: General Botha Old Boys' Association
- Account number: 070835128

# THE GENERAL BOTHA OBA & SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS



Invite you to participate in our



(Sponsor name) **MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY**



**Venue: Rondebosch Golf Club**

**Date: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**Tee-off between 11h30 and 13h30**

The event is being hosted by the GBOBA Bursary Fund and the SOMMSA Benevolent Fund in support of their marine bursary programs for disadvantaged learners and students studying towards school and university marine qualifications. All profits from the golf day will be split equally between these two funds.

**The competition will be a 4-Ball Alliance with 2 scores to count.**

**Cost: R1,600 per 4-Ball**

**(Includes Half-way House vouchers and Prize Giving snacks)**

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Naming rights for the Golf Day – R15,000

Sponsored holes: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> – R5,000 per hole

All other holes available for R1,500 per hole

Prizes for winning 4-Balls, “Nearest the Pin” & Longest Drives are required and will be sought from sponsors.

To book 4-Balls and/or become a sponsor please contact us on our email address: [mastermariners@icon.co.za](mailto:mastermariners@icon.co.za) or contact one of the following organisers:

### Hole Sponsorship

Bruce van der Meulen  
082 381 9363

### Booking 4-Balls

Neil Lawson  
083365950  
or Peter Coetzee  
021 7127982

### Other Sponsorship

Keith Burchell  
0832824928 or 021 7129167  
or Rob Whitehead  
083 627 1684