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GENERAL BOTHA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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AUGUST 2015

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 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.

"It is the end of August, where the hell is our Newsletter?" you may well ask!!
"*No excuses, because none will be accepted anyway, but as I awake from hibernation after a cold Cape winter, I admit that I have been a tad tardy, and apologise for the delay!*" replies the Scribe. So late, in fact, is this edition, that I am ashamed to say the Rand/Dollar exchange rate accurately reported on by Space Cadet Ford has since gone to 14-something. I must be suffering from some of that "complex particles decay" that is concerning him (read about it in the Gauteng Branch News on page 5).

Please note our Bursary Golf Day coming up on 21 November (see the flyer on page 13). Anyone in the Cape Town vicinity who may be interested to participate, please respond to the contact details on the flyer.
For further details about the G B Bursary Fund and contact details, please read the report on Page 7.
Also please note the appeal from SOMMSA Benelovent Fund to support the Hub Stohr family (page 8).

So here we go, and please enjoy the read. Thank you to all the various news contributions. We always look forward to receiving news and items of interest from Obies.

FROM THE BRIDGE OF s.s. CAPE TOWN – Tony Nicholas, Chairman

Another quarter has passed somewhat quietly for us. We are deep in our cold and wet winter whilst the northerners enjoy a balmy summer, perhaps this is the time to return to the briny and head north? Neil Brown has been unusually quiet on the subject of our southern hemisphere rugby. His Sharks wimped out in the pool round, my Stormers wimped out in the semis. Our Springboks are also not faring well having lost to the Wallabies and the All Blacks, perhaps not unsurprisingly. What has this to do with Bothie, you may be wondering? Not much except that a few of us Bothie Boys get together during

some of the matches and quaff a number of lagers in true Bothie Boy fashion. Afterall, Honour and Duty must be lived up to.
Class reunions, excepting for the class of 1955/56, all the other classes have gone quiet, which is rather a pity as some of their overseas class mates are planning to attend our *Bothie Weekend,* March 2016. Again, Honour and Duty chaps, fall in and ensure your respective reunions are well supported. The list includes classes 1955/56, 1956/57, 1966, 1976 & 1986. To recap for all, our *Bothie Weekend* as follows:

a. Saturday 12th March 2016, Annual General Meeting followed by the Commissioning Day Lunch.
b. Sunday 13th March 2016, War Memorial Service, followed by refreshments at the Mission to Seafarers.

Thus the reunion classes should coordinate their events around these dates.
Our new stock of blazer badges are finally available. Made with a thread called Lurex which is a metal based composite thread, these are even better than many of the wire badges I have seen. These badges would look just as good on a sweater as on a blazer. At only R120 each I look forward to a full order book from members.
Until our next edition, **"Fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw!"**

SCRANBAG

P.H.C. KROON 1969 #2370. Peter has recently retired as SAMSA's East London Principal Officer and intends to take Elizabeth Down Under later this year. Our loss, Australia's gain. Keep in contact Peter.
C.M. DAVIES 1983 #2795. Chris has logged in from Wellington, New Zealand, but he has not mentioned what he is doing down there. We wait to hear from him.
R.J. LAING 1972 #2418. After mailing our newsletters to Ralph at his Cape Town address for many years, Ralph reports in from Beira paridise, he now resides in George. "Previously sailed with Unicorn before coming ashore for a number of years. 1997 returned to sea with Safmarine. 2015: Since Safmarine, I've been doing a thousand and one jobs with Land & Marine which became Pentow Marine, which eventually became SMIT AMANDLA MARINE. I worked with Lamnalco for a while but now free-lancing doing piloting, STS ops, SPM work, in fact anything to do with ship-handling/mooring with the odd FPSO installation/de-commissioning thrown in." Ralph, be sure to joining the GBOBA Garden Route Lunch Group on your visits home.
M.A. HAY 1958/59 #2109. Tom Fraser, GB 1979, recently joined a bowling club [something to do with age?] and found that an upstanding fellow club member is Bothie Boy Mike Hay. But despite various press gang tactics and threats of keel hauling, Mike has yet to provide his details to your Chairman. In this case silence is not golden.
A. MULAUDZI. From SAMSA's Cape Town office Azwi has been promoted to their Pretoria H.O. as Chief Examiner. A well derserved promotion.
K.H. ERIKSEN 1978 #2628. Konrad has been found somewhere in Gabon recently and we wait to hear what he is up to there. Hope this is not another case of his newsletters being posted into oblivion. We look forward to hearing from you Konrad.
R.J.D. DUIGAN 1982 #2759. Ronald moved to France a while back but we still wait to hear from him what he is doing there. Hope I do not wait in vain.
A. WALKER. Andrew is back in Cape Town. Cadet with Unicorn Lines to Chief officer 1990 -1998. Sailed as Chief Officer Bank Line (Andrew Wier Shipping) 1998-2002. Sailed as Master with German company Alphaship 2003-2006. Sailed as Master Safmarine/Maersk Lines 2006-2011. 2012 Employed by AIG South Africa as Marine Loss control manager for Africa and Middle East.
H.C. LIEDTKE 1981 #2741. Chris was known to be working in Angola and residing in East London. However recently found him living in Thailand, says he is a freelance rig mover / tow master. Again, I wait for his update.
R.L. NEETHLING 1966 #2287. 1967 to 1975 Roderick sailed with Safmarine & Unicorn Lines, cadet, 3rd officer, 2nd officer and chief officer. Master foreign going 1975. Joined the harbour

service,various ranks up till Assistant Port Captian, port control. 2010 retired, 2 years back on contract. 2013 fully retired.

E.J.P. FENECH 1975 #2494. Eric has been found wallowing 25 NM offshore from Beira on a 22 meter harbour tug which is on charter to Vale Mining. Fishing must be good.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

G.K.BENNETT 1946/47. Gordon passed away 4th June. 1948 he was indentured with Ellerman Hall Line, sailed on five different vessels, promoted to 4th officer before resigning to join Simmer and Jack Mines as a learner mine surveyor. Eight years later joined Rand Water Board as Topographical and Engineering Surveyor from where he retired after 34 years as Principal Surveyor.

F.W. MORE 1943/44. Fred passed away 17th July. 1945 - 1956 Fred served as Cadet, 4th, 3rd, 2nd and Chief Officer with Ellerman Associated Lines of U.K. 1956/57 served as 3rd and 2nd Officer with Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. 1957 - 1960 Chief Officer with Northern Steamship Company. 1960 - 1969 Master with S. Berg & Company of Sydney / Port Vila / Hong Kong. This firm bought out by Dilmun Naviation of London. Continued as Master with Dilmun until 1972. Then Master and relieving Shore Manager with Eastern Sea Services of Singapore. 1972 to 1987 Junior Officer and rising to Master with Howard Smith Industries of Syndey. 1987 to 1994 Marine Consultant and relieving Master to tanker operations in Pacific Islands before retirement.

P.E.A. WATKINS 1952/53. Philip passed away 1st July. Philip returned to Bulawayo after the Bothie. He served in the Deeds Office and became the senior deeds officer in Bulawayo. After his retirement, he accepted land transfer documents from attorneys, for him to check for accuracy.

R.A. HIND 1954/55. Bob passed away 20th June following a long illness. 1956 Bob joined Clan Line Steamers. "A large chunk of my life in what became British & Commonwealth Line was in Trampships King Line." 1962 joined Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. 1964 returned to S.A. and joined S.A.R. & H rising to Tug Master 1970 returned to N.Z. Port Employers Association as a Ports Safety Officer. Four years later promoted to Head Office in Wellington as Research Officer in Industrial Relations. 1976 returned to S.A. Joined Rennies Stevedoring as superintendent in Durban. Three and a half years later joined the S.A. Navy as a Lt CDR. Naval Pilot, Assistant Naval Harbour Master and OC of SAS Somerset. 1984 appointed Naval Harbour Master, Simon's Town. Bronze service & general service medals, C of DF commendation. 2002 retired from S.A. Navy and 2003 returned to New Zealand. It was Bob's wish to have his ashes scattered over the GB in False Bay.

J.S. BROWNLESS 1940/41. Passed away 15th June. Joe was the first General Botha Cadet to join the s.v. Lawhill, serving some years on her as Cadet. Then joined a Danish tanker "Ingemersk" as 4th and then 3rd Officer, this being run by the then S.A.R.& H. Wrote Second Officer's Certificate at the Hull Trinity College in England and further study obtained a square sail endorsement. Sailed as Second Officer on a Polish Ship around the Eastern U.K. Coast and to Europe. Later treturned to South Africa and sailed on various ships run by the S.A.R. & H. Failed his eyesight test when applying to write Chief Officer's Certificate, so came ashore and became a toolmaker with the Railways. Studied further and became a Factory Engineer. 2006 Retired.

A.G. LOGAN 1973. Alan passed away 12th June. Alan was a tug master in Richard's Bay. Any further information of his career would be welcome.

J.R. BANACH 1972. Jan pased away 29th May. 1996 saw Jan in Singapore working for a line management company as their Operations Manager for South East Asia. Controlling two lines in that region, one with connections to New Zealand and the other to Australia.

June 1998 relocated to England. Based in London as General Manager of a new shipping operation Europe to Nigeria. 2008 relocated to Singapore with an oil company and latterly in Australia.

M.A. LUNDY 1957/58. Mike passed away 27th May. 1959 Mike joined Ellerman & Hall Line. 2½ years at sea. 1967 graduated from University of Cape Town with B.Sc. degree majoring in zoology with botany & chemistry as sub majors. Two years as research technician in the Oceanography Department of the University of Cape Town. Between 1969 & 1980 worked for two chemical companies in Technical Sales, becoming Sales Director of Paragon Chemicals in 1975.

Opened own business Lundy & Associates (Pty)Ltd in January 1980 and 34 years later still at it trading in marine & non-marine insurance claims, purchasing damaged cargo from insurers & selling it on. Like changing your job every week for 34 years!
Has written five books on hiking guides in the Western Cape & co-authored another three. ("Top Treks of the World" & "Hiking Atlas of the World" have sold internationally with Top Treks having been translated into six languages).
Over a 20 year period (up to 2005) Mike did weekly hiking reports on Good Hope Radio, KFM & Cape Talk. Also wrote a weekly column for the Cape Times 1994 - 1997 & Sunday Times 98/99.
Married to second wife Barbara & lived happily in Hout Bay with all three sons, two stepdaughters plus seven grandchildren (not all in the same house!).
2005 Mike joined The Owl Club, a gentleman's dining club formed in 1894 to provide a social meeting place for those with an interest in the liberal arts and science. Mike also served as the club's president for a period.
Mike was widely known and respected, his legacy lives on.
M.R. BERTRAM 1945/46. Mark passed away 20th March. Mark was a businessman running and owning several businesses in Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe] and Malawi. Mark was a keen sportsman, playing rugby, baseball, fencing, and a bit of golf. He also loved fishing.
A.R. FROST 1942/43. Arthur passed away recently. Any information of his career shall be welcome.
I.H. BUCKLEY 1972 #2412 Passed away 5 August 2015. Classmate Alan Rathbone (1972) spoke of his old shipmate with the following eulogy (also attending the funeral were classmates Roy Martin, Don Arbuckle & Gordon White).

> "Ian began his career in the shipping industry in 1971 as a cadet officer with Unicorn Shipping Lines. In May of that year we met in Port Elizabeth when Ian joined the ship the Bulwark, under the command of Captain Ingor Pilsgog. So began a lifelong friendship and Ian and I shared many adventures as we plied the coast between Durban and the West Coast of Africa.
>
> Ian was a few years older than me. He had spent a few years working and had also spent a year at Onderstepoort, studying to become a vet. He was something of a big brother to me and I remember him taking me along to the bank to open an account, and generally looking out for me whenever we went out on the town. He was the life and soul of any gathering and had a great sense of humour. He found humour in just about any situation, and while this was entertaining and fun it was not always wise. After a few months of too much mayhem and mischief Unicorn Shipping issued an instruction that Cadets Buckley and Rathbone were not to sail together on the same ship. We were however fortunate enough in 1972 to spend a year together in Cape Town at the Bothie. All in all there were 18 cadets, some who are here today, and others who are scattered around the globe. Part of our training at the Bothie required us to train for medical emergencies at sea. The easy means of communication so commonplace today did not exist, and it was imperative that sailors undergo training to deal with illness and mishaps at sea. Besides lessons in theory we had to attend to outpatients at Groote Schuur Hospital. I have no doubt that the situation Ian and I found ourselves in would not happen today. It was a weekend and we arrived at Groote Schuur outpatients to find staff rushed off their feet. Ian was kind and caring, had great empathy with people. We studied various subjects at the Bothie, including navigation, chartwork, seamanship and also dreaded Maths and Science. Ian and I commiserated and shared many anxious conversations about these subjects. A trip to the Seamans Mission or other local pub in Ian's car, nicknamed Sir Rhosis, usually cheered us up, although, of course, it did nothing to improve our marks. I think I can safely say that Ian's infectious sense of fun and the many laughs I and the other cadets shared with him made our time at the Bothie a very enjoyable, and very memorable year.
>
> In 1974 Ian married the love of his life, Anne Walters. I was privileged to be the Best Man at their wedding, and have fond memories of the bell bottom trousers, lilac shirts and shoulder length hair which we both sported. The following year Ian was Best Man at my wedding. The passing years saw both our families grow. Ian and Anne's children, Tarryn and Barry, were a

great source of pride and delight to Ian. He was a devoted family man. His children, their partners, Jen and Kathy, and grandchildren, Dan, Grace and Millie were a constant delight.
Ian always loved sports. We had fun surfing off the Congo at Point Noire and at General Botha he played rugby, enjoyed martial arts, rowing and sailing. Later in life Ian ran the Comrades Marathon and was always a very active person. Unfortunately Ian was forced to become a sports spectator rather than a participant when his health declined. Losing a leg and later on suffering serious kidney disease meant Ian's physical capability was hampered. But this did little to dampen his exuberance for life. Our families enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Transkei one year. The stunning scenery, beautiful beaches surrounded by rolling green hills, was more than Ian could resist. In spite of his crutches he insisted that we walk up one of the hills to enjoy the panorama. It was tough going but he made it up, smiling all the way. If asked "How are you?' Ian would always reply 'I'm fine'. He was not one to complain and even to the end, as he struggled with alarmingly high blood pressure, Ian would insist he was 'fine'. Ian loved the sea and had a lifelong interest in shipping. His home on 11th floor of Kensington flats gave him a spectacular view over the Indian Ocean. After retiring last year Ian loved to sit on his balcony to watch the ships passing by. Through all his travels through life Anne was always Ian's anchor. Anne, we will miss Ian too. May you be comforted by many happy memories. Ian was a much loved, wonderful human being who brought light, laughter and joy to many. Farewell old mate, you will be missed.Alan Rathbone 12 August 2015"

R. HILDYARD 1948/50 #1584 Passed away on 30 July. Born 19 August 1932, the elder son of Gordon & Elizabeth Hildyard. Rodney grew up in Durban with his siblings Veronica, Eden and Pam. His father being a pilot in the Port of Durban, both he and Eden were exposed and developed a love for the sea, ships and shipping. He attended the GB with a view to becoming a deck officer and follow in the footsteps of his father. However he failed his eyesight test and had to change his intended career to the engine room. He then did a trade in fitting & turning with James Brown & Hamer. On qualifying as a fitter & turner he joined Safmarine as a Junior Engineer and met his wife to be who was nursing at Addington Hospital. They were married March 1957 in Bloemfontein, and enjoyed 58 years of marrriage, 4 children and 7 grandchildren. They moved to the UK in order for Rodney to complete his studies. He was appointed as the youngest, at the time, Chief Engineer in Safmarine. He then took on Marine surveying before joining SAR&H where he worked on various tugs and dredgers, stood by new buildings, and finaly retired in 1988 as Senior Marine Engineering Superintendent in the Port of Richards Bay. During his retirement he enjoyed pottering around in his workshop, reading and getting about on his scooter. He was also involved in the fund raising and building of his church, St Barnabas.

Our sincere condolences to family and shipmates.

S.O.S.

Newsletter returned from **William Coxwell 1956/57** previously of Somerset West.
Class mates have also been attempting to contact **Paul le Sueur 1972,** but no reply.
Similarly **Yuri Kolber 1978**, where is he now?
All, please assist in locating these defaulters.

Gauteng Branch – Alan Ford

Our branch lost Gordon Bennet #1452 '46/'47 on 4th June after a long illness. Gordon was always a regular attendee at our Gauteng functions until a few years ago when for health reasons he was no longer able to attend.
Our headcount remains static having lost a further member to relocation, gaining a transfer, and digging another AWOL defaulter out of the woodwork.
Our branch, I think along with most of the others, has a lot of similarities these days with deep space probes. Up here we deal with the cold and dark (thanks to Eskom masters), we go into long periods of hibernation, and report back to Earth (Cape Town) according to an infrequent schedule. We minimize our power usage, and gather as much energy as we can from the Sun. As we approach with increasing

velocity mammoth celestial entities (Commissioning Day /AGM functions), systems awaken, emails fly hither and thither, calculations are made, pictures are taken and celebrations are had by all. In very short time such encounters become history and we head off into open space again. And yes, space probes still navigate by the stars and Sun just like we used to in the good old days.
From the above analogy you may correctly deduce that very little has happened up here on the Highveld since our last email transmissions to the Universe. In other places, like CERN near Geneva, they have discovered Pentaquarks in the Large Hadron Collider after suspecting they were there for the last 50 years. They are, I believe, also looking for some more Fermions and Bosons. I haven't detected a proper looking Bosun for ages. While still on the topic of natural science exploration, we are all still looking for the large quantities of Rands (which are today fast decaying entities… 12.6 something to the Dollar), which disappeared into a… *mathematically defined region of spacetime from which nothing can escape* (which goes by another non PC name), in particularly well known rural region of Kwa Zulu Natal. The experts tell us this week that from recent observations traces of the Rands can be found amongst the accelerated entropy taking place at that particular homestead.
And lastly, still on the scientific theme, we all know complex particles decay with age. So it is with old Bothie Boy's brains, some sadly more so than others. But don't we all battle to remember where we put something in the workshop or linen cupboard? Now where the Hell are my car keys, I had them this morning, I need to go and collect my chronic meds from Dischem.
Space Cadet Ford signing off until next quarter.

GBOBA - UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH – Ted Fisher

SOCIAL: After a couple of years lunching at the 'Silver Fern', Warsash, and having mixed reviews, the Conway Solent Branch have decided (correctly in my view) to locate back to the 'Rising Sun' Warsash. The well known and remembered watering hole for those fortunate to attend School of Navigation in advance of their examinations…light years ago!!
This change will be effective from Sunday 2nd August and will continue as before on the 1st Sunday of each month. Recall CONWAY SOLENT/GBOBA-UK Sunday Lunches. It is well known our own Doug Wrathmall (57/58) is the only Bothie Old Boy keeping the flag flying on a regular basis and is indeed a Hon Conway to boot. Residing in Portsmouth has advantages!!
On a personal note I am unable to attend the new venue in August or September, however, Barbara and myself will be going in October so, perhaps any interested Bothie Old Boys could make their way down to the 'Rising Sun', Warsash on Sunday 4 October 2015. Here we are chaps, plenty of advance warning to all and your ladies.
Please be kind enough to advise Old Conway Solent Hon Sec Chris Nelson by telephone on +44 2380 293270 or email chris.nelson543@gmail.com of attendance in advance. Look forward to a new beginging!!
MEETINGS: Barbara and myself met with Peter Heydenryck (52/53) and his wife Norma back in June for an enjoyable lunch in the 'Gribble Inn' near Chichester followed by tea back at their home in Tangmere. Live within a dozen miles of each other yet seldom find time to gather, however, a very good 'catch up' occasion.
Also, in July, we had the company of Harold Lincoln (59/60) together with Lorraine for a day in July. What ho, they drove over from Lymington Hants, coffee here at home Storrington then out to the 'Woodman Arms' for lunch, a tour of Worthing environs, back for a 'cuppa' then return to Lymington. They of course do live in Hingham Mass USA!!
FINALLY: Cutty Sark, it is reported that on the evening of 1 June 2015 some 224 people gathered aboard stated vessel for a CWP reception under the hull. The Conway Ensign flew from the topmast, the Worcester and Pangbourne ensigns flying at the spanker gaff over the entrance greeted guests. Please remember our Old Bothie Boy Derrick Kemp (57/58) continues as Chairman of Friends of HMS Conway up on Merseyside. *Regards to all and please get in contact if passing through. Ted Fisher Hon Sec Tel: +44 903 744400 email: tedefsher@aol.com*

Australia Branch News – Peter O'Hare

Hi to everyone from Australia. A casual lunch was held on Saturday 1st. August in Sydney
In attendance were:Gordon Maxwell 40/41; Stan Damp 47/48; Rudi Auer 59/60; Grenville Stevens 60/61 and Suzette; Peter O'Hare 64; Peter Hay Worchester; Hugh Murray Hon Member; Richard Pollecutt Hon Member and Libby; Gerry Hallock Hon Member and Helen; Hilton and Pat Stevens, Guests of Grenville Stevens. Our next get together will be the casual pre Christmas lunch at the Great Northern Hotel in Chatwood, Sydney on Saturday 21st December, 2015.
Regards to all and please get in touch if you are going to be "Down Under".

Grenville Stevens	(2189 '60/61)	Chairman
Andy Fotheringham	(2525 '76)	Vice Chairman
Peter O'Hare	(2247 '64)	Hon Secretary, peteroh@bigpond.com, Tel. 0417 028809

Durban Branch News - Derek McManus

It is with regret that we report the passing of Rodney Hildyard (details under "Anchors Aweigh" page 5). Rodney was a loyal member of the Durban Branch supported by his son Gordon, a local pilot and member. Notwithstanding his disability of late, he nevertheless made an attempt to attend the Christmas Luncheon. Rodney will be missed and sympathy to his family. In addition, Ian Buckley (1972) passed over the side, always the life and the sole of the party. An old school friend, Alan Rathbone (1972), gave a run down on Ian's past (see Anchors Aweigh page 4) misdemeanours and certainly a character of note. I great family man! At the college he owned a Morris Minor named Scerosis – on one occasion negotiating a hill the Morris blew off steam. A crisis meeting was held and as no water was available, he decided to urinate in the radiator. This plan was abandoned. After making a decision analysis, they parted with the 5*l* can of wine which saw them reach their destination. Now we all know that there was an Austin 8, Morris 8 but never envisaged a Urine-8! Knowing Bucks, if they mixed the sweet wine and Pee, his comment would have been "Sugar in the Urine". On another occasion, after a Bothie function he ran into a booze roadblock, as quick as a flash, he asked the centre for a response at the appointed time. As the officer approached the radio blurted out "Man fallen down Hatch – G-Birth – Emergency!" "Follow me" said the officer with Blue Light Flashing and headed to the relevant birth. Buckley (Bucks as he was known at P&O Ports) shot up the gangway never to be seen again.
In closing, we have lost yet another one of the Characters that made up our organisation. Sympathy is extended to the family. *Regards from, Derek McManus, Chairman, Durban Branch*

G B Bursary Fund.

The Fund sailed a steady course through the second quarter of the year and on into the third. Thanks to our regular GBOBA donors and their continued support of the fund. These contributions are the rock on which the fund operates.
The students are in the mainstream of their studies. Despite the ongoing extra-tutorials provided by the Fund, several of the bursars are finding the academic demands very challenging. This makes the individual mid-year mentoring reviews, held after the winter break, extremely important as they enable an assessment to be made concerning any additional support needed. The Committee will be considering the possibility of providing for continued coaching during the September school holiday for those who need additional help with preparation for their year-end exams.
The students are very fortunate to have our S.A.T.S. *General Botha* Old Boys Bill van Ryswyck, Hugh James and Ian Peddle teaching at Lawhill Maritime Centre.
Tony Nicholas has accepted the role of mentoring co-ordinator since his retirement, and he and Ian Fishley have become very popular visit leaders amongst the students, delivering the perfect balance of tutoring and inspirational role-modelling. Ian's report on the second term visit to a Green Point Lighthouse and the Port of Cape Town illustrates the spirit and intent of this core element of the Fund's mentoring programme:
"Eight Fund bursars, accompanied by Debbie Owen (Lawhill Maritime Centre) and GB mentors Tony Nicholas and Ian Fishley, travelled to Green Point Lighthouse on the 14th May for a visit followed by a

launch trip around the Harbour. At the Lighthouse the students were given a talk on its history and the operation and characteristics of all lighthouses around the SA coastline, and their importance and function as navigational aids. The students then ascended to the top of the Lighthouse where they saw the magnificent view and the light itself. Further explanations were given and questions answered by the mentors. After the genuine thanks to the staff, the group proceeded to the launch berth in the harbour near the Sturrock dry dock. After donning life-jackets and having a safety briefing, the party boarded the Servest launch and proceeded on a trip around the Duncan Dock and the other basins viewing all the vessels that were berthed, including trawlers, tugs, a diamond dredger, oil rig supply and service vessels, seismic survey and drilling vessels, handy-size and handy-max bulk carriers, tankers, yachts, container vessels, a gas carrier and other miscellaneous craft. Various details were pointed out to the students and questions answered, where possible, as the speedy launch cruised around the harbour, including a visit to the historic Victoria and Alfred Basin, before returning to the Servest base for a welcome cup of tea and doughnuts, and farewell and thanks to the launch staff."

The Committee remains in contact with its ex-bursars to provide support if and when it may be needed as their career's progress. It was very pleasing to note that one of the Fund's original bursars, Tsoso Hanong, achieved an excellent four distinctions in his S3 examinations in maritime studies at the Cape Peninsular University of Technology. Bravo!

The Committee was very pleased to be able to provide some supplementary support to the two students who were chosen by Lawhill this year to participate in the truly inspirational programme run by Phil Wade and Anthony Just of Marine Inspirations, using maxi-yachting experience to motivate young people for maritime careers - particularly, as our bursar Archie Leeu was one of the two selected. The students spent ten days in Palma, Spain, receiving an intensive induction into all aspects of seamanship and boat management. In addition to crewing during the Palma Superyacht Cup 2015, they had a valuable two-day work experience in the prestigious Astilleros de Mallorca Shipyard. Both of these young ambassadors of Lawhill and the Fund received fine testimonials including the following statement:

"These two fine young gentlemen not only showed great enthusiasm but quickly displayed that they have the perfect attitudes to go far in an industry such as this – ears open, mouths shut, absorb every little piece of information available, and ask the question before making the mistake. It's amazing how many newcomers to the industry have trouble understanding this philosophy, but with their big smiles and impeccable manners Archie and Thami were an absolute pleasure to have aboard. Well done lads, keep it up!"

The Fund's Chairman, Keith Burchell, summed up the Committee's view of the Marine Inspirations initiative in his response to Phil and Anthony, as follows:

"I can only say how fantastic this Marine Inspirations initiative is proving. I am sure that Thami and Archie must be the envy of all at Lawhill – an experience of a lifetime thanks to the team at Marine Inspirations and your fantastic supporters. It is great the way that all our endeavours are proving to be complementary (i.e. Lawhill, GBOBA Bursary Fund, and Marine Inspirations) in our combined efforts to provide the maritime industry with inspired, well trained and mentored youngsters, well prepared to enter on their career paths and aware of the opportunities that the maritime industry presents in this respect. Well done!" The voyage continues!

The Society of Master Mariners South Africa Benevolent Fund

P.O. Box 373, Paarden Island, 7420,

Date: 19-08-2015

To all ex-SAMNA General Botha Students

Many of you have had the privilege of attending lectures by Captain Hub Stohr during your years studying at the SAMNA General Botha. All are in agreement that Hub was an exceptional educator who was completely dedicated to his job and to his students. We are all part of the legacy left behind after Hub's passing away in 2011 and we all owe Hub a great debt of gratitude.

After retiring in 2003, Hub was badly advised to invest his savings in an investment scheme, which unfortunately went into liquidation in 2005, and all his retirement savings were lost. His widow, Nicole

(also known to many of us), is now in poor health and is battling to make ends meet on a small pension. Compounding her situation is her daughter's poor health making it impossible for either of them to work.

The Society of Master Mariners' Benevolent Fund has stepped in to support Nicole by providing substantial financial assistance both initially and over the longer term. Although the Fund's current resources are fairly healthy, the Governing Board of the Fund is very conscious of the fact that it needs to ensure it remains able to support other potential beneficiaries in the future. As such, the Fund is hereby inviting past students of Hub's to assist the Fund by making voluntary, personal donations that will be used exclusively in the support being offered by the Fund to Nicole.

For your information, the members of the Governing Board of the Society's Benevolent Fund are: Rob Whitehead (Chairman); Keith Burchell; Neil Lawson; Charles Kingon.

Any donation, no matter how large or small, can be paid into the following bank account (use as reference: H Stohr):

Account Name: SOMMSA BENEVOLENT FUND
Bank Name: STANDARD BANK
Branch: Thibault Square
Branch Code: 020909
SWIFT Code: SBZAZAJJ
Current Account Number: 07-059-493-7

Please feel free to pass this letter on to any other GB Old Boys/ex-students of Hub's.

Best Regards and thanks for your support,

Rob Whitehead, Chairman, Society of Master Mariners South Africa Benevolent Fund
Email: mastermariners@icon.co.za; Ph. (+27) (0)83 627 1684.

CAPE MEN BROADCAST.—Midshipman J. R. Langridge, of Echoes, Third-avenue, Fish Hoek (left), Sergeant M. Day, of 71, Joubert-road, Green Point, and Third Officer R. W. McA. Thomson, of Sydney-on-Vaal, Kimberley (right), photographed during a "Songtime in the Laager" programme from the B.B.C.

A blast from the past: left Jim Langridge GB 1940/41 and right Robert Thomson GB 1939/40.

The Indian Doctor v. American Lawyer

An Indian Doctor can't find a job in a Hospital in the US, so he opens a clinic and puts a sign outside 'GET TREATMENT FOR $20 - IF NOT CURED GET BACK $100.' An American lawyer thinks this is a great opportunity to earn $100 and goes to the clinic... Lawyer: "I have lost my sense of taste." Indian: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 22 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth."

Lawyer: "Ugh... this is kerosene." Indian: "Congrats, your sense of taste is restored. Give me $20." The annoyed lawyer goes back after a few days to recover his money... Lawyer: "I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything." Indian: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 22 and put 3

drops in his mouth." Lawyer (annoyed): "This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste." Indian: "Congrats. You got your memory back. Give me $20."
The fuming lawyer pays him, and then comes back a week later determined to get back $100. Lawyer: "My eyesight has become very weak I can't see at all." Indian: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this $100." Lawyer (staring at the note): "But this is $20, not $100!!" Indian: "Congrats, your eyesight is restored. Give me $20" You can't beat Indians!!

Lighthouse moved 41 m – The Independent August 2015

This story takes me back to my 2nd Mate days and chart corrections!

Los Angeles: With the help of human ingenuity (*seamanship to a Bothie Boy*), hydraulic pistons and just a little bit of soap, a historic lighthouse on the US East Coast has been moved approximately 41 m inland, away from the eroding cliff-face that threatened its existence.
The 160-year-old Gay Head Lighthouse sits atop clay and sandstone cliffs buffeted by the Atlantic on the remote western tip of Martha's Vineyard, an island off Massachusetts known today as a summer retreat for the East Coast elite.
After several landslides in recent years, the lighthouse was left a mere 14 m from the fragile cliff's edge. Workers from the New york-based International Chimney Corp painstakingly moved it to its new destination after moving very slowly on a concrete pad at the same elevation, propelled by hydraulic pistons at just a few metres an hour, along steel rails lubricated with soap.
The lighthouse arrived at its destination and the landscape around it will now be restored to remove all trace of the move. – The Independent.

BOTHIE POEM - Barry Downing cadet 1819 - 1953/54

Bothie was a good place to remember
Having cold showers in mid September
It made you glow from boy to man
And proud to be of the Bothie clan

Every Friday we mustered for our measily pay
And many of us had to say
Cap in both hands and eyes straight ahead
1819 defaulter was heard to be said

Remember as a chum going to get your clean ship fare
Ending up in the soggy barrel for the electric chair
Round over and off for a game of sport
Or that what it was of sorts

Sat after rounds was quiet and peaceful and fun
If we did not have to go up the mountain for a run
The food on Saturday was really great
With all the left-overs piled on your plate

Ten minutes in the barber grip
Made you look like a drip
Short back and sides and nothing on top
Thank god we had caps to cover our shorn mop

Damond with his black magic bags
Smuggledin for many of us some good old fags
Behind the trooper we all stood waiting for our brand
Two packs of Rembrandt van Rhyn placed in your hand

Sick bay all had to visit to see all's well
Just then marks on your buttocks began to swell
Once again you had to tell a little white lie
How you got them yea really learning to fly

The ad in those days was truck and car
But to go by trooper was best by far
To sit in that lovely smoke screen
Smoking to be sure never to be seen

The galley was clean and modest place
I can still see cooky in his grace
Someone asked: "please sir, can I have more?"
"You boy have had enough to feed the poor"

We laughed and had a lot of fun
Even swimming lesson for a chum
Officers were all navy class and smart
Petty officers good men all with good heart

Prize giving day was at its best
Mums, sisters and dads all finely dressed
A few red faces in the cutters crew a warning run
Dammit somebody forgot to place the bung

At last the Admiral said: "I implore
I have not seen such a splendid show before"
My story must now come to an end
Or all the readers will go round the bend.

S.A.T.S. GENERAL BOTHA HYMN

The following hymn was sung every evening, unaccompanied, during evening prayers before "standby hamocks". From Hymns Ancient and Modern - For those at Sea no's 592 to 597

595 For absent friends

HOLY Father, in Thy mercy
Hear our anxious prayer,
Keep our loved ones, now far distant,
'Neath Thy care.

Jesus, Saviour, let Thy presence
Be their light and guide;
Keep, oh, keep them, in their weakness
At Thy Side.

When in sorrow, when in danger,
When in loneliness,
In Thy love look down and comfort
Their distress.

May the joy of Thy salvation
Be their strength and stay

May they love and may they praise Thee
Day by day.

Holy Spirit, let Thy taching
Sanctify their life;
Send Thy grace, that they may conquer
In the strife.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
God the One in Three,
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them
Near to Thee.

“Sorry! NO Minutes of the Meeting”
Or, in this case “NO Newsletter!*!*!*!”

Sorry, no minutes arrived this week. Instead we’ll make do with the records of another meeting that took place in the wash room at an airport.

I was barely sitting down at the airport washroom, when I heard a voice from the other stall saying, "Hi, how are you?"

I'm not the type to start a conversation in the restroom but I don't know what got into me, so I answered, somewhat embarrassed, "Doin' just fine!"

And the other person says, "So what are you up to?"

What kind of question is that? At that point, I'm thinking this is too bizarre so I say: "Uhhh, I'm like you, just traveling!"

At this point I am just trying to get out as fast as I can when I hear another question. "Can I come over?"

Ok, this question is just too weird for me but I figured I could just be polite and end the conversation. I tell them "No . . . I'm a little busy right now!!!"

Then I hear the person say nervously, "Listen, I'll have to call you back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps trying to talk to me."

"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)

THE GENERAL BOTHA OBA & SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS
INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR

SMIT AMANDLA MARINE
MARINE BURSARY GOLF DAY

The event is being hosted by the GBOBA Bursary Fund and the SOMMSA Bursary 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.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Par 3 - 6th & 14th holes on special at R4,000 each provided sponsor sets up as a "wet" hole (i.e. with drinks and/or snacks)
All other prime holes – i.e. 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 18th – R6,000 per hole
All other holes available for R2,000 per hole

Halfway House and/or Prize giving snacks

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

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

Cost: R2,000 per 4-Ball

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

To book 4-Balls and/or become a sponsor contact one of the following organisers:

Hole Sponsorship	Booking 4-Balls	Other Sponsorship
Rob Whitehead: 083 627 1684	Neil Lawson: 083 655 5950	Mary Burchell: 083 286 3362
mastermariners@icon.co.za	neil@lawson.co.za	quite.contrary@yebo.co.za

SLOP CHEST

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

Phone: 021-7885957 fax: 086 233 6410 Email: cptchairman@generalbotha.co.za

TIE [STRIPED]	**R60**
PLAQUE	**On application**
PEAK CAP [BASEBALL TYPE]	**R125**
'n NAAM WAT SEEVAARDERS EER Geskiedenis van die opleiding skip.	**DONASIE**
A NAME AMONG SEAFARING MEN History of the training ship.	**DONATION**
FIRST DAY COVER 60th anniversary of our Old Boys' Association	**DONATION**
BELT BUCKLE	**R250**
DVD "THE SHIP" Filmed on board during the thirties.	**R40**
DVD "RED HILL 1946/47" Collection of Rex Chamber's photographs with titles and accompanying music.	**R40**
DVD "SOUTH AFRICAN NAUTICAL COLLEGE GENERAL BOTHA 1954". Filmed by Barry Cullen and Chris Copeland.	**R40**
DVD "THE BARQUE LAWHILL – ON WINGS OF THE WIND" A film by V.J. Penso	**R40**
MAGNETIC BADGE	**R30**
BLAZER *WIRE* BADGE	**R100**

PLUS PACKAGING AND POSTAGE!

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

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
- SWIFT: SBZA ZA JJ