



The Bond

The Newsletter of the
Customs & Excise Retired Staff Associations



A Strange Crew in a Strange Boat! CERSA entry : 1999 Regatta

There was a runner, a swimmer, a sailboarder, and a dinghyman with a dodgy leg, plus some others who had messed about on boats before - but not a racer in sight! Because of strong winds we had a bouncy ride from Portsmouth to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, a boisterous ride racing around the buoys, and a fast return. It became so windy that one day's racing had to be cancelled.

All the crew performed magnificently.

We pulled sheets - although not in bed; mastered tacks and gybes - although not dancing; and at the same time raced against other boats. This latter activity was fitted in when we were not eating, drinking, laughing or having a good time

otherwise !

The boat we sailed looked after us in spite of all that we or the weather could do, and it is noteworthy that there were no visible signs of ageing in any of the crew at the end of the week.

Our embarrassing moment came in the end, however, when we were obliged to parade before the multitude at the Dinner. Notwithstanding our efforts we had won **Third Prize**. Concern has been

expressed that we have all announced our intention to return next year - *and do better!*

Peter Caswell

Story of the week:

"Green Waders"

Tall Story of the week:

"I went for a run with the lady, and we got lost".

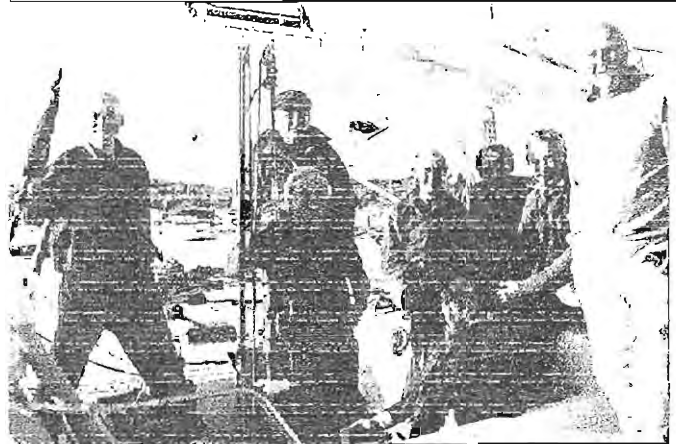
Quote of the week:

"Don't knock me off in the night."

Drink of the week:

Jameson

The Bond



If *THIS* lot can get 3rd prize, there *MUST* be other jolly sailors out there who could do just as well - or *BETTER!*

Fancy your chances for 2000? - then call Peter Caswell, telephone 01621 892832.

To contact the editor :

PO Box 696 Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1NQ

Tel/fax 0191 2702477

E-mail elsdonsc@compuserve.com



February issue :-
Deadline for contributions
5th January MM
(unless the end of the world does happen)
Merry Xmas and a Happy Millennium!





Local CERSA Activity Programmes

CERSA (Dorset)

A group of members and their friends recently enjoyed a visit to the Old Custom House, London. For some of us it was a rediscovery, as we had either worked, or been trained there. We were greeted by Ronald Macdonald, the Chief Press Officer for the National Investigation Service, who now occupy the building. A guided tour of the building followed. The impressively refurbished Long Room took the eye, and we were able to see various aspects of NIS work. Having outside to the verandah, we viewed the River Thames, with lots of activity, though more pleasure craft than commercial traffic are in evidence these days.

An appetising lunch in the staff restaurant, formerly the King's Warehouse, with drinks in The Waxer Bar, was made available to us. Then we took our leave, some going over to the Old Billingsgate Fish Market, others heading for The Docklands Railway, and yet more cruising down the river. It was a memorable day, made possible by our hosts, and thus enabling us to maintain our links with the department.

If other groups would like to visit this fine old building, I have the necessary contacts for them.

Peter G Bown.

Commiseration - Peter recently lost his car in a fire in the Waitrose car park in Dorchester. He now shops at Tesco's.

St Peter & St Paul Triumphant!

Eastern England Collection Divisional Golf Championship.



Peter Passmore and Paul Houghton swept all before them in the Eastern England Divisional Golf at Cotgrave, Nottingham, on 14th September. The Event was organised by Barry Young, Eastern England Sports Club Chairman, as a Stableford Handicap (3/4) Pairs Competition.

The Sainly Peter came in with a brave 34 points, while Paul gave modest support with 27 (18 on the back 9). Both play in the C&E Sheffield Society, where they competed in a qualifying competition earlier in the Summer. They are also members of the CERSA (East Midlands). Taking 1st Prize (and a near-miss for closest to the pin on the 10th by Peter) it was a most enjoyable day. It is hoped that next year retired representatives in the competition will do equally well. The competition to qualify will probably again be held at one of the Sheffield Society events.



Peter and Paul receiving their prize from Barry

Largest CERSA team

The Sports Club's Cross Country event held at Southend on 14th October was the last event in the athletics calendar for 1999 and it is particularly pleasing to be able to report that CERSA fielded its largest team so far.

Notably we had our first lady representative when Daphne Pugh elected to run for CERSA and then ran so well she took first prize in the female vet (over 45 years) event.

Daphne seems to make a habit of achieving "firsts" in a variety of competitions and it was delightful to have her running for CERSA. in this event. Thanks also to **Nick Pugh's** decision to run for CERSA on thos occasion we were able to field four runners, the largest group we have ever managed to put together for a single event. The team comprised **Dennis Thompson, Dick Kneill, Nick Pugh and Gordon Hodson** and competed in the Super-vets class (over 50's). Perhaps inevitably we came fourth out of the four full supervets teams competing but we did have a full team and despite the age gap we acquitted ourselves well. My thanks to **Dick Kneill** for travelling so far to compete for CERSA; to **Daphne and Nick Pugh** for competing for us and doing so well, and to **Dennis Thompson**, who, at **72 years of age** is our oldest competitor.

It was good to see you all there and I hope we can continue to put teams together to fly the CERSA flag at as many athletics and other Sports Club events in 2000.

Gordon Hodson.

ACCOUNTS 1998/9

The Bond

		1997Ex	Events	
Balance B/f		£544.52	No of C&E SC members (*)	£0.00
Uncleared cheques	(£7.04)	£0.00	Fishing (6)	£293.72
Barclays BC A/c	£685.99	£0.00	Sailing (9)	£410.00
Barclays BBP A/c	£2,371.78	£0.00	C/m Meetings	£247.00
Sports Club Grants	£3,000.00	£42.62	AGM	£0.00
A/Fees	£300.00	£547.33	Walking (1)	£22.66
Misc	£20.89	£254.77	Golf (29)	£527.80
Interest	£35.35	£120.00	The Bond	£94.24
		£697.58	Torquay(1998& 99) (12)	£240.00
		£25.29	AYR (32)	£965.00
		£153.60	Chair's Expenses	£111.78
		£108.36	V/Chair's Expenses	£0.00
		£16.77	Secretary's Expenses	£64.62
		£300.34	Treasurer's Expenses	£50.79
		£169.00	Sports Day (7)	£165.94
		£288.51	Squash (1)	£59.80
		£85.18	Southend Setup Costs	£0.00
		£102.00	Running (1)	£20.00
		£72.50	Xmas/Soc Events(52)	£230.00
		£0.00	Cersa's Social	£0.00
		£156.00	TENBY 1999 (5)	£100.00
		£3,684.37	Insurance	£156.00
		£3,468.98	Spent	£3,759.35
			Excess Income	£2,647.62
Total	£6,406.97		Total	£6,406.97
Balances on hand at year end:				
Barclays bank Commu- nity Account				£481.61
Uncleared cheques			#267	£89.16
Barclays Bank Busi- ness Premium Account				£2,255.17
TOTAL			£0.00	£2,647.62
<i>Paul J Houghton</i> Treasurer				

USEFUL CONTACTS	FEDERATION SECRETARY	Ron Sanders	tel: 0113 2605193
	CHAIRMAN & SPORTS CLUB LIAISON	Gordon Hodson	tel: 0118 9262411
	FEDERATION TREASURER	Paul Houghton	tel: 01332 552293



NOTE YOUR DIARY - NOW !!-

THE YEAR 2000 AGM

IS TO BE HELD AT BOURNEMOUTH, 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH MAY.



The Bond

Your Stars by Waxer

Chairman writes

Capricorn Be nice to everyone you meet in the coming weeks; buy them all an extra pint, whilst reminding them that you are *really* looking forward to your birthday.

Aquarius You should fix that dripping tap in the bathroom, then perhaps you can get off those sleeping pills at last

Pisces Don't eat kippers this month: the Health Minister is about to disclose new findings. Otherwise you'll have a whale of a time

Aries Something will make you look very sheepish, so don't go anywhere near the meat counter at Tesco's.

Taurus It's OK You're still off the menu in most countries.

Gemini Just as you are about to inherit Aunt Molly's fortune, the twin you never knew you had will turn up

Cancer Crustaceans are going to have a cracking time this month. You'll see a lot of nippers about.

Leo In the mane you'll be very content just lion around.

Virgo Not much doing this month, either. Sorry!

Libra Get on the scales every day. You'll have to get that spare tyre off before the Festive season, or you'll be in *real* trouble with the wife/partner.

Scorpio Don't make any slinging comments this month, or you may find a sharp retort in the next issue.

Sagittarius The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune will miss you for a change. Except on Thursday.

Federation Reunion 2000. The Federation's 2000 AGM and Reunion will take place 8th to 10th May in Bournemouth. It is being arranged by the Dorset CERSA. Terms are still being negotiated. The selected hotel can hold 92 people in 40 double and 12 single rooms so, as more than 92 may attend they are arranging further accommodation in adjacent hotels. These events have steadily developed over the years and have proved very enjoyable for those attending. It would be a great help to me, and the Reunion organisers, if we had some idea of how many would wish to attend. So, if you are thinking of going to next year's event, please call me on 0118 9262411 or drop me a line at 36, Green Road Reading, Berks RG111HY, or e-mail me at gordon@hodsonnth.freemove.co.uk.

Major General's Parade, 2000 Anthony West has applied for seats for the parade. As these tend to go quickly, get your bid in now. Call Tony at 01735 654084.

Kneller Hall School of Military Music Stewart Stredwick has obtained 25 tickets for a visit to Kneller Hall on Wednesday 12th July 2000, at £4 each. These tickets go very quickly, so please call him a.s.a.p. if you want one, tel 0181 9792701.

Paris in the Spring A Spring Weekend in Paris is planned for 24th & 25th March, with an option of an extra "free" Sunday night. For details, tel. Norman Shackley at 01784 251490, fax 07971 015567, or e-mail to nshackley@ndirect.co.uk

"The Bond", October issue The newsletter was printed and submitted in time for distribution with the October *Portcullis*, but an administrative cock-up caused its omission. Hopefully you received it in November. Better late than never?

Gordon Hodson

"What do I get out of the Federation?"

is a question I am frequently asked.

Here is a brief summary:

£2,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover. National Holidays (Favourable rates through purchasing power). Membership of Union Jack Club, London.

The Bond newsletter. Job opportunities. Central Welfare Advice & Casework. Improving Sporting & Recreational opportunities. Formal contact with the Department if necessary.

The Federation also encourages and supports new Associations and provides a link to retirees who live outside areas covered by existing Associations: they are often lonely, and sometimes housebound.

Ron Sanders. Federation Secretary



Condel Street, London SE1 9UL Telephone 0171-928-8401
Advance Reservations Direct Line 0171-928-4814
Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm
OR
Fax 0171-620-0585 (Home)

COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION BARS,
RESTAURANT, TERRACE, COLOUR TELEVISION
SMOKER ROOM, LAUNDERETTE, GIFT SHOP,
READING AND WRITING ROOMS
UNIFIED GARAGE SPACES

FUNCTION ROOMS FOR
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS,
OWNERS BUFFETS DANCES
WEDDING RECEPTIONS