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April 2004

To all fellow Bobcat and Catalac sailors

Last month's "Meet and Eat" having been notified that eight members would be attending the lunch meeting at The Haven Bistro, Lymington Yacht Haven on Saturday, 27 March, not only the organizers but also the management were knocked sideways when twentyfour sat down for lunch. The ensuing melee and musical chairs, as more and more arrived, added to the fun and helped members who had not met each other before to discuss their problems and exchange notes. Those present included: Jeremy Bretherton (8/184), Peter and Sue Gimson (Meander), Nigel and Ann Ladd (9/220), Chris, Aleck and Nick Tidmarsh (8/115), Roger and Maggie Smith (8/63), Mike and Kelly Galbraith plus 3 children (9/63), John and Madeleine Green (900/906), Eric Abraham (Jemima), Bernard Warden and his wife (9.110), Arthur and Barbara Leeks (900/918) and Toni and Jacqui Linford (8.123) . Jeremy.

Next month

'RALLY AT BEMBRIDGE'

Spring Bank Holiday from Saturday 29 – Monday 31 May 2004

Extract of letter sent by Jeremy Bretherton to Bembridge Harbour Management confirming details of intended rally:

Further to our telephone conversation this afternoon, I am confirming the wish of the Bobcat and Catalac Cruising Association to hold a Rally in your harbour over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend from Saturday, 29 May to Monday, 31 May. As mentioned, I anticipate that the majority of boats will wish to moor on the beach where it is proposed to have a bar-b-que on the Saturday evening – rubbish will be cleared away.

TIDES Sat 29 May	Sun 30 May	Mon 31 May
HW 07.23(3.8)20.15(4.1)	08.29:21.10	09.28(4.2) and 22.01(4.5)
LW 13.14(1.6)	01.53:14.15	02.48(1.3) and 15.07(1.1)

ENTRANCE

Check the tide level with the tide gauge north west of St Helens Fort. Course from there to the start of the buoyed channel is approximately 2400. Entrance can be gained by Catalacs from -3 hours to +3 hours of high water.

marina on the Wednesday and we are going away for a week on the Thursday. I cannot delay the launch as she is blocking in other boats that are also due for launch. I consult with the man who does most of my winter maintenance work (Adrian Metcalfe of Silverwood Yacht Services) and we decide that the only solution is to remove the rudder bar-and put a centre crank in it to clear the motor. This, of course, means that the fixing holes to the quadrants are now not on the correct centres. He has a good contact with a stainless steel fabricator and will decide whether the existing bar can be modified or whether a new one is the preferred option. So we put the boat in the water, I negotiate a berth for a week and I go away and leave it to him, having lost much sleep in the meantime. Come back from our week in the sun and low and behold a happy ending. Adrian has come up trumps for us, rudder bar modified and re-fitted, motor installed, power tilt works, Maggie delighted and we motor round to our berth in Fareham Creek, once again proving that however much time you allow for a job on a boat it is always a panic at the end. Oh, and I still haven't worked out how to make a stern cover for the motor as, of course, the original no longer fits.

(ANOTHER CAUTIONARY TALE)

This letter was sent in by Kelly and Mike Galbraith who asked for it to be included in the newsletter

Please read our story and consider putting it in your next news. Thanks – Kelly and Mike

Family of Five Fish Go mad In Poole

Family of Five True Story

Mike 35

Kelly 34

Katelyn 11

Kristen 6

Mitchell 4

Our story begins with selling up and moving to America. The chain of real estate proved to be very difficult in everyway, with the loss of airline tickets, storage and shipping, due to broken chains. We exhausted all ideas renting, caravans and mobile homes. We nearly gave up hope, but instead put our heads together and never gave into defeat. Finally the answer came. The dream of sailing to America was the answer. With Mikes sailing abilities, it didn't take long for the dream to take full shape. We would live on the boat until the house and all matters were settled. We would sail in the summer. The children would have the adventure of a lifetime and gain great knowledge on the way.

Perfect solution!

SELL UP AND SAIL Pavona Catalac No 63

Studying and listening to everyone's knowledge or opinions seemed to take a lifetime, but we still listened and studied. Finally, a decision was made a catamaran. It took another eternity to find her (Pavona). Pavona had not been taken care of and needed some love and care. We were ready to give Pavona what she needed **IF** she was seaworthy.

The seller is a family man with a wife, two kids and on a number of visits to Pavona; the seller even had his mum and dad there as well. With all family members involved, we felt no possible way they would all steer us so wrong. The seller assured us more than once Pavona was seaworthy, sound and did not have any leaks. On a number of occasions, the seller was asked about the cat being dry. Our big concern since we would be living in Pavona thru the winter with the CHILDREN. Again the answer was "yes Pavona is dry" and again the pressure from the seller was on. The seller wanted it off the mooring before he had to pay the winter fees. We

should have known better, but we decide to let that decision up to the **surveyor**, since he is the expert.

We paid the surveyor from multihull surveyors in Plymouth for a full survey. Little did we know we could have spent the money better by throwing it to a sea of people on the High Street. All parties involved knew our dream of sailing to America with the children. The survey came back as a safe and sound seaworthy cat. We were confident the seller and a surveyor would not put a family in danger or at risk.

We were happy and felt safe to sail Pavona home. On the sail home the sails tore, the births leaked, the rigging was loose, the ropes weren't the correct size, the engine wouldn't turn over, after Mike fiddled with it, the engine smoked leaving a trail of oil in the sea, the roller ruffing was broken, the lights blinked off and on, etc. giving us a nightmare ride home. Kelly held the wheel as Mike crawled for the sails. The children got sick and cowered below. The sail was very hard and long, forcing us to stay two nights for repair and to recoup. Even though all signs were in the air, we kept our confidence in the surveyor and the seller. We thought no one in their right mind would send a family out to sea with an unseaworthy yacht. We were sadly mistaken. Although we encountered many misleading people, we made it home safely. We believe because of our sunny outlook on life.

The Awakening

Pavona was not right, but we still stayed strong and confident. We could fix anything. Sadly, No matter how hard the five of us work on Pavona or looked for new options, we are struggling.

Mr. John Lack (son of the Catalac creators) came to have a look at Pavona. Mr. John Lack brought us to our knees informing us of many more defects, the survey was poor and how we over paid for our Pavona. Again, the money would have been better spent throwing it in a sea of people on the High Street. The feeling of overpayment was in the back of our minds but when the proof was brought to our attention, it turned our sunny outlook to rainstorms. We cried.

Mr. John Lack said, "Sue". We thought more time and more money, but we continue to explore all avenues.

Mr. John Lack couldn't tell us how to fix the leaks and he would be more money for us to continue with him. We only agreed to suggestions.

Not knowing where to turn we started to show our survey to other people, sadly the conclusion was the same.

The hard thing to swallow is, the seller and the surveyor know Pavona. They knew well in advance the condition of Pavona but let a family of five set sail, with out a second thought. The seller and surveyor just saw a family they could take advantage of and make a profit.

We were told to sell Pavona but we feel it's not fair to the people who buy her next. We could take a loss for Pavona but we wouldn't have a way home. Further more we continue to work on Pavona. Pavona is a better yacht now, since her new family care for her. The answers aren't easy. We are stuck and can't move forward and with money running out... Well you know how that story goes.

We are writing to share our story to inform you even when you have a surveyor and a family man seller don't buy into what they say. We found out much later, the surveyor has been sued before. The surveyor put all his assets in his wife's name and claimed broke. The surveyor then returns to work as if nothing happened. The surveyor is still out there surveying yachts so beware. Don't trust insurance papers. Oh and sellers are not always what they seem. Con artist is the best word for both of them. At the time we thought we did the proper steps to protect our family from this devastation, but the proper steps did not protect us (the buyer). We don't know what else we could have done or can do to help us but we are open to ideas.

We have lost all trust in everyone since we bought Pavona. We have given into defeat, which is not like our

family at all. We hide our anger, tears and hate but feel our story should be told to help other people from being taken advantage of

For the sake of the children, we try to maintain a normal life on the surface, ignoring the pools of water in the children's berths! The pools stay in their rooms even when we are moored in the marina, the sea is calm and not a drop of rain!

We pretend life is good, taking the children bike riding, to the park, and acting as if we have a perfect life. We feel its best for the children.

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SEABIRD

Jacqui Linford --- Jazzcat 1992

Wish I was a seabird flying,
Flying high in the sky,
Wish I was a seabird flying
In a Heavenly sky.

Watching the waves that curl and toss
And crash on the rocks below,
Seahorses rolling, rising and falling,
Tide turning into a flow.

Watching the ships as they go,
Spinnakers billowing low,
Tall ships are here once again-
Here come the tall ships again.

Wish I was a seabird flying
Flying high in the sky,
Wish I was a seabird flying
In a Heavenly sky.

Watching the children on the shore,
And surf-riding waters that roar
Onto the beaches, slipways and reaches,
Sand and sea evermore.

Back to the coaster and ketch,
Circle the fisherman's net,
Back to the tall ships again,
Tall ships are here once again.

Wish I was a seabird flying,
Flying high in the sky,
Wish I was a seabird flying
In a Heavenly sky.

Kindly sent in by Jacqui for inclusion in our newsletter, published in 1995. ED.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

For sale:- 9.9 yamaha outboard 4 stroke.
 extra long leg with all equipment to fit 8metre catalac.
 The engine has been sevised professionally annually, and is a very reliable engine.
 Change due to new deisel inboard installation.
 Contact Roger Smith (01329)236546.

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For sale..... One 25lb. Danforth anchor good condition£25.00

One stainless steel, five spoke, 15inch diameter steering wheel in excellent condition.
 Contact John Green Tel: 02392 462502 Mobile: 07979 001153.

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Ref No. Qya!)tit~ DescriRtion	RRP Offers
BARTON MARINE ITEMS. Offers	
1 1 Towable Genoa Car	60
2 3 Fiddel Swivel Block 9.	82
3 1 Triple Swivel Block	60
4 1 Double Reverse Shackle	32
5 1 Single Fixed Eye Block	17
22 1 Single Fixed Eye & Beck Block Size 3.	8
6 1 Towable Genoa Cars 2:1	60
7 3 Single Block Swivel Becket size 4	11
8 2 Single Snatch Block, Snap Shackle. 10mm	36
9 3 Single Block Swivel Becket size 5	26
19 3 Triple Swivel Block & Beck Size 3	22
20 3 Single Snap Block Shack & Beck Size 3	26
10 3 Double Swivel Blocks 10mm size 3	15
11 1 Triple Block Swivel Becket size 3.	22
12 1 Double Rope Clutch 10mm.	70
13 4 Size 1 Deck organisers, 4 sheaves.	35
14 2 Size 1 Deck organisers, 5 sheaves.	36
1 Size 1 Deck organiser, 6 sheaves	
17 1 Size 4 Stand up Block	22
18 2 Stand up General Block 25mmx57mm	32
21 2 Fiddle Blocks with swivel & Beck Size 5	62
25 1 Lazyjack System Kit suit 9m boat.	
LEWMAR MARINE ITEMS.	
15 2 Solent Snatch Block Size 1'	80
16 1 Superlock Rope Clutch 10- 12 single.	37
23 2 Solent Fiddle Block Size 1	19
24 1 Sloent Fiddle Block Size 2	27
OTHER ITEMS.	
1 Plastimo Olympic 85 Compass	
1 Samsung Roadmate Microwave Oven 12volt 350	
All above items are new, purchased at an auction now surplus to requirements.	
Bernard Warden	
1296.663	
bwb@bwarden .freeserve. co. uk	

*It's tasty snack time
>>>"Elma McRae"<<<
Sailing Dish for the month is.*

Flat bread

I got these from a tv programme, I've tried them and they're mmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Flat bread.

- 1kilo strong flour.
- 2 sachets dried yeast.
- Salt
- 2 dessert spoons sugar
- 1 pint tepid water.
- Flavouring, (whatever you fancy) such as dried tomato, herbs etc.

Mix together the flour, yeast, salt and sugar. Gradually add the water and knead until smooth. Roll into shape of sausage and cut into pieces. Using a rolling pin, roll each piece quite thin. Place directly onto the oven rack and cook in a hot oven for about 3 or 4 minutes. These can also be cooked on a B.B.Q.

Very useful if you are away from the stores. ED.

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MANY THANKS

To Dr RBL Ridge, ex. Catalac 9m owner, who has kept BCCA newsletters from the start of their publication and has very kindly given them to the Association – interesting reading.

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....e.mail from across the pond.....

Hi Peter I am the owner of 12 m Catalac and I am looking for some other Owners that might be interrested in buying Blue sail cloth in 8 OZ or more I have founded a manaufacter that well do in Dacron but need to order about 800 YARDS and I need 80 yards for myself so I am looking for about 10 more people.

Best Regards J.P. McCammond

Reply.....Hi Captain John

I will ask in next months news letter.

where do you keep your boat?

Peter G.

Peter Thank You . I am docking at Key Biscayne FL or in the Miami area is there a market for the 12 M in England if so may sail over I have own **Once Upon A Time** for about 13 years and looking at buying a large Cat. about 55 to 60 FT.

I wonder how little Captain John wants for the 12M. ED.

