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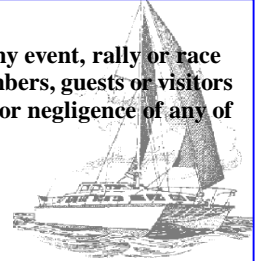
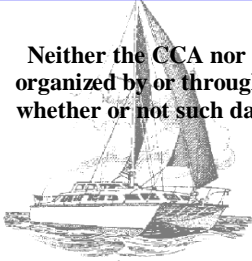
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#### Disclaimer

Neither the CCA nor Committee will accept any liability for personal injury arising out of participating in any event, rally or race organized by or through the CCA whether sustained by members, guests, or visitors, or caused by the said members, guests or visitors whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committees or servants of the CCA.

#### Boat Owners Third Party Insurance

It is the responsibility of all boat owners to have adequate third party insurance in respect of him/herself, vessel, his/her crew for the time being & his/her visitors.



March 2009

*Hello Members*

*Dear Fellow Members, our newsletter this month begins with the Minutes of our A.G.M. followed by our Commodore, Margaret Smith's report on the 2008 season.*

*This has been her first year as Commodore and we all wish to thank her for his sterling efforts and ideas enabling the continued growth of our Association.*

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### *Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of The Catamaran Cruising Association held at The Gun Public House on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009.*

*After welcoming those present and receiving confirmation that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, which had been circulated via the newsletter, were accepted, the Commodore proceeded to conduct the formal business of the meeting as follows:-*

- 1. The Commodore presented her report, which is attached to these minutes and this was accepted by the meeting.*
- 2. Our having and using an association group call was discussed and agreed to be used this coming season. After many suggestions, a vote was taken. The call sign to be used will be "CAT CALL". This will hopefully enable us to have more impromptu meetings during the season.*
- 3 It was emphasized that we all need to make an effort to encourage other like-minded catamaran owners to join the Association. Examples of a printed invitation to join the Association were handed out so that members could make copies and distribute where they think fit.*

4. *Jeremy was asked to write an article for the P.B.O. magazine, hopefully no later than May issue, to make other catamaran owners aware of the association and our activities.*
5. *Any other business.*

*It was suggested and agreed that a boat jumble be held during the rally at Bembridge. (May I say that it would be best to keep goods on some of the boats and not on the beach, as this could cause problems with the locals and the law).*

*With time running out it was agreed we must put right the fact that we didn't have a vote, to reelect committee members. This we will do at the May Rally. The member who must stand down this year to be reelected is the secretary, Peter Gimson. I also think it will be a good time to see if we can elect another new committee member and would like nominations or would like to hear from anyone who is interested in being on the committee.*

*We intend to have the vote at the May rally together with a jumble.*

*The results of the vote and the accounts will be publicized after the May Rally.*

*There being no time for further business the meeting adjourned.*

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## Catamaran Cruising Association

### Commodore's report 2008.

*Well I said at last years A.G.M. that Jeremy would be a hard act to follow and this has been the case.*

*My year started well with the May rally being supported by four 8 metres and 12 metre Dragon Slayer. Others hearing of the weekend bad weather forecast sent their apologies. The time we had together was great, even though it was cut short by bad weather.*

*This unfortunately was a foretaste of the weather to come all season.*

*Even the September rally had to be called off for boats. After seeing many members arrive for the lunch at the R.N.L.I. by car, this was voted a success.*

*The winter meet and eats were also hit by bad weather.*

*The February one timed for the heaviest snowfall of the season.*

*Hopefully the coming season will be a good one with fair wind and fine sailing for all.*

*I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who work quietly behind the scenes to keep things on an even keel. Particularly Peter who with Sue's support has not only produced the newsletter but also kept us entertained with the story of their travels last season.*

*We are very short of material for the newsletter so would be grateful for a few words about your sailing experiences and favorite anchorages etc.*

*Maggie Smith*  
*29/03/09.*

As per the minutes of the A.G.M. you are invited to vote for your committee and if you wish to put your name forward you may do so by e.mail to the secretary at [peter.Gimson@sky.com](mailto:peter.Gimson@sky.com) or our Commodore at [mihaptic@msn.com](mailto:mihaptic@msn.com).

The Gun is always a popular venue, the only draw back being it has no car park. The car park situated opposite is run by the local council who in their wisdom, have over the years not charged during the winter months, but whether it be global warming or greed they now charge from 1<sup>st</sup>. March. This aside the Gun saw 19 sit down for lunch.

First to arrive Bob and Ann Freeman Cl. THINK AGAIN,  
Followed by Peter & Sue Gimson Cl. ME-AND-ER with guest  
John Waller, Aristocat, RUMPLETEEZER.

Maggie and Roger Smith Cl. HAPTIC DUO. With new members  
Fay & Peter Spanton, Rowan 22. VARMINT.

Aleck, Chris & Nick (Pop), Tidmarsh Cl. DRAGON SLAYER.

Tony & Jackie Linford Cl. JAZZ CAT.

Jeremy Bretherton & Caroline with Theo Hargreaves Cl. ALLEZ CAT.

Last but not least Clive & Jennie Smith 1930s Scottish fishing boat VERONICA. Clive and Jennie are local marine surveyors, I was surprised to learn that they had surveyed five catamarans owned by the members present at the A.G.M.

I recently went to my local sailing clubs boat jumble, 10% of the sale price of items sold went to help club funds. They had on offer all manner of goodies, shackles, sailing books, in many forms ie. Pilotage books of Brittany, various charts of the Med, Spain, France and the Balearics. Fenders etc. most items changed hands going to grateful new owners at a considerable saving from purchasing new, the sailing club also benefited by the 10%.

Most of us have bits and bobs tucked away in the loft or garage gathering dust, anything from anchors to charts, sails, old dinghies etc. bring them along during the Bembridge Rally and we will have an Association jumble.

**We will also charge 10% of the sale price of items sold to help our funds.**

Sue and I went to sell items not buy, that was our intention, we did sell an outboard engine but also while nosing round the stalls I spotted a danbuoy, we don't own a danbuoy, I had considered making one as it's one of those safety bits of kit that one should probably own and hope it is never needed. We are the proud owners of a horseshoe lifebuoy that crossed our bow while sailing across the ditch several years ago this we retrieved with the aid of a boat hook. It had obviously been recently purchased and not been in the water long, but with no vessel's name on it, and after reporting it to the coastguard, we kept it. Must remember to put our name on it. The advantage of a danbuoy is that it is easy to mount on a backstay. It is out of the way when fitted there quick to deploy and unlike our horseshoe buoy takes up little room. After a bit of haggling we bought the danbuoy with drogue for £7.00. and as we use inflatable life jackets the horseshoe buoy will more than likely disappear into one of the lockers when no guests are onboard.

I relating the purchase to another couple of catamaran sailors Pat & Arthur they owned a danbuoy purchased for £25.00 some thirty years earlier. Pat went on to say "we found it handy and used it in the Med, with a small dinghy anchor attached we would leave it in position where we had anchored, it stops others pinching your anchorage when we go off fishing. They are alright but the B.....batteries in the light kept rotting out so we ditched the light. We have never had to use it for what it was intended for to be honest, if it was rough and I was fool enough to fall overboard, Arthur wouldn't risk loosing 25.00 quid by throwing it in the water after me."

One can only hope that should you fall over your crew would be able to retrieve you. Last year we know the weather was bad and everyone heard about the yacht that was rammed off the Solent. There are many accidents that don't receive much, if any, publicity. We heard of several, two couples in their 20.s hired a yacht and while sailing down the Alderney Race the need to reef became apparent they started the engine to be able to head the boat into the wind the current taking them backwards. The man on the foredeck was washed overboard and struck the propeller rendering him unconscious the other handed the tiller over to his wife and dived in with a line they both died. The two women at least had enough sense to realize they were in deep trouble. They turned the boat with sails flapping they motored flat out ramming it onto the beach north of Dillette.

Another incident a young family of five, father and two children in the cockpit mother and baby down below sailed from St Peter Port towards Braye on Alderney they arrived at the Swinge with the spring tide at full flow. The three in the cockpit were washed overboard and died, the mother and baby survived.

These sadly are just two of many tragedies.

This year we should all practice, not the usual picking up a floating fender but trying to get someone onboard from the water. It is hard enough when the sea is calm. How would you or your crew manage if you fell over? If you are going to practice please make sure there are at least two adults on the boat at all times.

**If any of you wish to update your members registers £7.00 inc.p&p.or smarten your boat up with a new burgee £12.50 inc. p&p. now is the time to do it before the sailing season begins in earnest.**

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Subject: walkie talkies

Dear Peter, I endorse your use of the walkie talkies which I bought on your recommendation from Argos for £14.00.

catorgary preschool toys/audio no347/4602(D) for use with the crew when working on the foredeck. They leave the hands completely free whether you are the helmsman or as crew lying on the fordeck reaching for a buoy. They are also useful if one of you has to go below for some reason, chart work or making coffee. One can keep in touch without having to shout. The downside is that I think manufacture has ceased. At Christmas I went to the Stevanage Argos and was told they had none in stock. I was offered the equivalent of two hand-sets which is no good for our purposes and was told I could punt around other branches to see if they had any residual sets in stock.

All the best. Jeremy.

More on walkie talkies

Hi Peter and Sue, good issue... Thanks.

Not sure if we can make the AGM, its about that time that we are thinking of putting Scubacat back in the water. and we have James's wedding in Canada in May that makes timing things a bit more difficult this year.

P.S. we now have a transparent door on ScubaCat - lots more light inside, and a holding tank (well at least its in the heads, but was not fitted last time I looked).

AND, we got a pair of "Cyber link" 2 channel walkie talkies second hand on Ebay (£11 incp&p) (They are marked "Pre-School", which fairly accurately describes us sometimes!)

but I need to modify the headbands because they are tiny! ..

OH, and I got ANOTHER propeller, - I spent a good long time talking to the expert at Steel Developments, and whilst he could repitch my prop for £30, he had a four blade that should do a better job... time will tell...

If OK, I will text / email / phone a few days before to let you know if we are coming to the AGM, but I would rate our chances at about 50 50 at the moment.

All the best

Dagnall and Cathy....

Hi Dagnall and Cathy.

The transparent door is an idea that others have tried with success, usually only after their boat has been broken into. The equipment we leave on in our boats will always be at risk. The secret is out of site out of mind.

The four bladed prop is interesting last year I was talking to a gentleman with one, that was an option for a Tohatsu 9.8hp 2T he was advised by the dealer that it was better than the 3 blade reverse thrust prop that is the other option, recommended for sail boats with that engine, he thought it was marvelous. As per normal, having spent the money he would be reluctant to admit if it wasn't.  
I agree with you time will tell.

Ref: Pre-School we also intended to modify the headbands but to date it has not been a priority, we even considered mounting one set to be used on the foredeck in a woolly bobble hat.

All the best

See you soon Peter and Sue.

Our congratulations go out to Allan Morris.

His adventure of a lifetime that many of us could only dream about has been completed.

The dream started many years ago in Sydney Australia, when he met, at a book signing an English man by the name of Shane Acton the author of "Shrimpy" a 17ft. Caprice that sailed round the world. Allan like Shane had never sailed a boat. Allan being fed up with work and after reading the book, bought a mono sailing yacht but found it both cramped and the rolling motion made him terribly sea sick, not a good start for his dream. He sold his yacht and bought "Rush" his 30ft.

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Catamaran. With the extra room and lack of rolling his seasickness almost disappeared. He set off in 1994 and when he reached England he stayed for several years at Millbrook and worked during the winter months at Pat Patterson's yard. He stayed for eight years and during the summer months he sailed round Great Britain, and many European countries including the Mediterranean. Here is an update of his final trip from Marilyn.

Hi,

This is a very long overdue email. I think some would say 'welcome back to reality'.

If the days continue to race by as fast as they have been, I will be setting up the Christmas tree in no time.

Wow, life has been flashing before my eyes it seems. I arrived back on October 3 from Fiji and worked for the next 5 weeks. It was almost boring, working, eating and sleeping and of course catching up with friends.

I rejoined Alan in November in Bundaberg for his final leg back to Sydney. We left Bundaberg amidst loving sunshine but it didn't last that long. We spent a couple of days in Tin Can Bay waiting for the rain and wind to abate. We spent another night watching a brilliant lightning/thunderstorm overhead for an hour and a half off the coast of Brisbane. It was just on dark when it hit so we were in for a great display of the might of the heavens.

We arrived in Southport on the Gold Coast and what a great place to be 'stuck in'. The weather was glorious, I bought a bike and we biked around for the 4 days we were there and had a great time. Time was marching on and I wanted to be down near home by the end of November so we sailed through the night to Coffs Harbour, only to arrive early morning to rain and an overcast day.

We spent the day there with Alan's brother who caught up with us there as he was sailing down the coast back to Sydney as well. He was further north than us. It was great to catch up and then we both headed off the next day, Ian for Sydney and us for Port Stephens near Newcastle. Ian's catamaran is a seawind 1000, the same size as Rush so even though Ian and Alan didn't actually say they were testing each others sailing skills, Alan was very happy to get on the radio and check frequently where Ian was. He left before us and we gained on him quite a bit. Alan was chuffed to think that Rush was so much older and yet sailed so well. This sail was one of the best we had down the coast. It was again an overnighter and we flew down the coast for us, averaging 8 - 10 knots and had to slow Rush down as morning approached, as we didn't want to arrive till daylight as we had some islands to negotiate. Once again as we dropped anchor, the heavens opened and it rained all that day and then the next. The weekend was spent with friends and my brothers and their families were up so it was a good few days. It really is a pretty part of the world, especially when it doesn't rain and you can appreciate its beauty.

Monday, December 1 saw us sailing down to Pittwater in Sydney, a great sail all the way till we were almost at Barrenjoey and the wind died. Alan's parents and sister were waiting watching us sail in and kept ringing to see when we were going to get there. Ian had paddled up from his yacht on his kayak wondering where we had got to.

On principal Alan wasn't going to start the motor. This was coming back home, to the place he had sailed out of in 1994. We finally tacked our way in and it was awesome moment, bringing Rush home.

It is a strange feeling, knowing our sailing days are over for a while, we both had to get back into reality, I had my work to return to but Alan had to get a job.

On the top of my agenda was to find a place to live. I have been renting my unit out while I have been travelling, staying with friends when I have been back and really 'over' living out of a suitcase.

I spent the next few weeks looking for a place to buy and finally found one that as soon as I walked in the door, I knew this was 'it' and have bought a little unit in a complex at Woy Woy. It is near the water with all the conveniences of civilization. It is still up here on the central coast, north of Sydney. It is flat, I can bike all over the place, I have a major train stop for trips to Sydney or wherever. I have a beautiful drive to work around the water and as I come back home from Sydney, I wind my way down overlooking the bays and even if it is raining it is view to admire. If I had really powerful binoculars I could see Rush from Ettalong, about 5 klms from my unit.

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From Rush I can look across the bays and see the Mantra, a big hotel, so close and yet so far. Alan is about 14 klms by water and 94 klms to drive. I can catch the ferry across to Palm Beach and meet Alan there. It is so handy to Sydney, the best of both worlds.

Alan is now working for a boatyard in Pittwater, has a car and a motorbike, trail bike of course. He has his land toys and enjoying time with his mates and playing tennis as well as some twilight sailing but living on Rush. We have taken Rush out sailing a few times and it is good to be back on the water.

For me, well I am enjoying the things that modern society has to offer. My own little kitchen and appliances, a bath and even the pleasure of washing in a machine instead of by hand. I love being able to go out on the bike or just jump in the car to go wherever I want to go. I have even sat and watched some TV and been out to the movies. I hope to buy a kayak soon to paddle around in the endless number of bays Woy Woy has to offer. If nothing else, as I come home or even go to work, I have the most beautiful view, I look across the bay to the lights at night, the peace and tranquility of the water in the daytime. Each time I go out I am reminded of the beauty that surrounds me, it doesn't matter whether it is sunny, rainy or blowing a gale. It feels like home.

Despite this, I am getting itchy feet again and looking forward to planning a trip away, be it for a long time, short time, sailing or just getting away. I am lucky there is plenty of work for me. The tax man loves me working again that's for sure. I am still sorting out the stuff that has piles up over the years. It will take me a while yet to get it all sorted the way I want it but such a good feeling sorting and throwing out all that stuff I have stockpiled under my other place. I want to paint and carpet my place and hope to get onto that in the next month so it is still busy days yet.

Work is such an inconvenience to my lifestyle. I'm not sure where my next time out will be. Some days it is just to get away for the weekend and others to go back overseas and say hi to everyone we have met over the last few years. At the rate the days are flying by at the moment anyway, it won't be long before I am off again. In the mean time though, there is a spare room for anyone who would like to come visit. The door is always open and a welcome sign on the door.

It is now Autumn here and the trees will be losing their leaves soon. There is a nip in the air early in the mornings now as, the days are getting noticeably shorter. Daylight saving finishes in a couple of weeks and it will be daylight earlier in the morning again. The evenings will be darker sooner as well, the time to snuggle up in front of the TV or read a good book when I can.

I am hoping the world will stop still for a short time soon and let me catch up now that we are back in the fast lane.

Till next time, love Marilyn

Who knows what will happen in the future, Allan had always wanted to buy a narrower cat and explore the French canals, maybe that is something to think about during your winter months.

We will always remember the not too early morning cycle ride to buy the fresh baguettes when we sailed in company to the Morhibien and the videos you took of the sailing boats being spun 180 degrees round by the currents still sailing but now backwards. One thing for sure the last two summer seasons on this side of the globe has been plagued by strong winds that usually lasted for several days. By the law of averages this summer should be better.

Many thanks for the many pictures and keeping us updated with your travels.

Love from ME-AND-ER.

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**2009 Registers.....£7.00 inc. p&p.**

**Burgee.....£12.50 inc. p&p.**

## C.C.A EVENTS CALENDER 2009

- March 28<sup>th</sup>. AGM midday at The Gun, Keyhaven.
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>.–27<sup>th</sup>. Rally Bembridge I.O.W. Saturday evening meal in Brading YC.
- August 28<sup>th</sup>.–31<sup>st</sup>. Rally *Meet up at Poole-Bramblebush/Brownsea depending on direction of wind. We will be organizing a lunch on Sunday at the RNLI Poole and require numbers for those wishing to eat. Please text to Peter Gimson on 07971 808777. This is a popular event and is enjoyable to both young and old.*
- September 19<sup>th</sup>. *Southampton Boat Show Meet and Eat will be held on the last Saturday at 6.30pm. for 7pm eat, at The Duke of Wellington, Bugle St. Southampton. Numbers required, please text to Peter Gimson on 07971 808777 or email to [peter.Gimson@sky.com](mailto:peter.Gimson@sky.com)*
- November 7<sup>th</sup>. Meet & Eat midday at The Alverbank Hotel, Stokes Bay, Gosport.
- February 6<sup>th</sup>. Meet & Eat midday at The Bun Penny, 36 Manor Way Lee on the Solent. Fareham Rd. Easy to find by following signs to HMS. Collingwood.
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### The Bembridge rally.

We need to know as soon as possible, the numbers wishing to attend the Bembridge Rally.

We all had an excellent meal at Brading YC. last year and as before you can order either:

any 2 courses for £10.95. or any 3 courses for £13.95.

They are a small YC and we need to help them by preordering our meal from the menu below.

Unfortunately they have only 25 places available.

Please contact Peter Gimson with your requirements before the end of April to avoid disappointments.

**Broccoli & Stilton soup.**

**Prawn cocktail**

**Garlic mushrooms**

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**Chicken breast with cranberry sauce, topped with brie,  
Served with potatoes & fresh seasonal vegetables**

**Ocean pie, served with potatoes & fresh seasonal vegetables**

**Pork loin in honey & mustard sauce,  
Served with potatoes & fresh seasonal vegetables**

**Mushroom, leek & sweetcorn pie,  
Served with potatoes & fresh seasonal vegetables**

**Steak & ale pie, Served with potatoes & seasonal vegetables**

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**Fresh fruit pavlova**

**Tiramisu**

**Fruit crumble**



