



# ROTA FLOAT

The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting yachting as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

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## COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

I was sorry that due to the proximity of the 2008 International Convention in Los Angeles, I was unable to Charter the new Antalya Fleet in Southern Turkey, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, I was well represented by Bekir Yerguz, Regional Commodore, and Past International Commodore Ferit Biren. All went well and they have forty-three new members in the Fleet.

Then on June 12<sup>th</sup> we travelled to Los Angeles to begin a three and a half week visit to Los Angeles, Canada, and the San Juan Islands. Firstly, the Convention, where we met up with Vice Commodore Terry and Meryl Stretton, and Rear Commodore Clint Collier and Beverly, and many members of my own Bridge. Our Booth was only a single one, but it looked very attractive, and we always had a crowd of interested members around us, mostly in IYFR shirts, making our Booth the busiest in the Hall of Friendship. We sold much regalia, and enrolled many new members. All of this was in enjoyable company, and meeting many old friends.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> we held our AGM on the 54<sup>th</sup> floor of the Wells Fargo building--- a wonderful venue, providing a glorious view. We were honoured by the presence of Past International Commodore Bob Stuart (58/59) and Andrew Mitchell (91/93), and seventy members from around the

world, including four from Japan, several from Australia and New Zealand, and some from South America. The minutes can be read in the Members Only Section of the website.



Andrew Mitchell first left, PIC Bob Stuart 3rd right among IYFR friends



Brigantine carrying IYFR members

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, all those attending the PCC boarded the buses to travel to Long Beach to the Queen Mary Hotel. We had four wonderful days aboard. We were joined by Past International Commodore Ken Winter and Bente and quite a few local members. During the time there we sailed on local yachts around the harbour and had a picnic supper, spent a day sailing on two Brigantines, visited the famous Aquarium and then had a fantastic final dinner on

the Ship. At that dinner the entertainment was self supplied, each country performed a song or act, which produced much hilarity. We sadly departed on the Monday morning.

On Tuesday I left to fly to Vancouver, unfortunately leaving Chris to fly home alone to Britain with a damaged knee, after a fall. In Vancouver Clint and Beverly, with four other Bridge members, joined me and we met Otto Reive who entertained us all in his home, with members of the Vancouver Fleet. We then went by Ferry to Victoria, where Patrick Hunt and Deborah met us and hosted us at their Spencer Castle for five days. During this time, we attended the Tall Ships gathering, where we presented the Bounty, with a Rotary International Flag. There I met Jack Keyser and his wife, Past International Commodore (93/95) and had drinks at his home overlooking the harbour.



I.C., Patrick Hunt, Otto Reive and Deborah Hunt await the sail past of the Tall Ships.



IC with PIC Jack Keyser (93/94)

Patrick had arranged dinners for us all with the Vancouver Island Fleet, with much fellowship, ending by sailing in members' boats to Winter Cove, on Saturna Island, to celebrate Canada Day. This was something very special, a lamb BBQ roast, serving over 1100 people,--- a really unique experience.

Then we sailed off to Friday Harbour to celebrate American Independence Day. This included a Carnival, a dinner in the Yacht Club and a Rock the Dock Party on the harbour side. All this ended with fireworks from a boat

on the water. What a celebration !! Next day we departed by Ferry heading for Vancouver and so Home. Because of Chris' injury I was unable to fulfil my commitment to travel to Turkey on my return, but have promised to visit them on another occasion.

Now we begin our plans for next year in Birmingham, followed by the PCC on the west coast of Scotland. We have found great interest from our overseas friends and I advise you to book early if you are intending to join us, as numbers for the PCC are strictly limited, due to the capacity of the venues, and the number of boats available.

I have had incredible experiences this year, and have met great friendship wherever I go. I must reiterate my sincere thanks to the Newport Harbour Fleet, and especially Roger McGonegal, Hal Barstow, Clint Collier, other local Rotarians and Yacht Club members who were so much help in entertaining up to 80 people on the PCC.

**Bryan Skinner** International Commodore I.Y.F.R



Japanese Contingent at AGM including Kozo Kajino and Kayoko



Presentation from San Francisco and Newport Harbour Fleet. Roldano Guerra and Gary Hickman



Bob Stuart at the helm of the Brigantine we sailed on at the PCC



U.S. 'Coast Guard' took part in the Tall Ship in Parade Victoria Harbour, Canada



A romantic setting for the I.Y.F.R. Post Convention Cruise 2008

## AN APPRECIATION OF THE 2008 PCC

The Queen Mary was our 'floating hotel' whilst on the PCC in Long Beach, California, where we could imagine how grand and elegant life would have been aboard her in her heyday, with the elegant dining room, extensive menu, gentlemen's smoking room, grand suites, well patronised bar and children's playroom. What a fantastic time Meryl and I had with our Rotary fellowship members whilst in LA. It was good to meet so many folk from other countries and to make lasting friendships. Congratulations to Bryan and Chris and their Bridge for a well organised PCC. We are fortunate to be involved with such wonderful people who obviously enjoy fun. We are both looking forward very much to the next changeover in Birmingham. Be assured there will be more than just four of us from New Zealand in 2009.

**Terry Stretton** International Vice Commodore I.Y.F.R.

### COMMODORE'S DIARY

2008

28/08-01/09	Visit Finland
03/10-06/10	Visit Catania, Italy
06/11-09/11	GB&I Fellowship weekend in Keswick
19/12-22/12	Visit Netherlands

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Chicago Fleet's Phill Klein explores the brigantine's rigging and proves that he has a head for heights.

## CLIMATE CHANGE GREETINGS INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE BRYAN & CHRIS IN SYDNEY

Although February-March is usually renowned for glorious weather in Sydney Australia, International Commodore Bryan and his wife Chris were welcomed to Sydney in overcast and rainy weather. However, this did not dampen the warm welcome and hospitality given to them by members of the New South Wales and Hunter Fleets during their recent visit 'down under'.

IC Bryan and Chris were officially welcomed by FC Richard Hardman and RC Robert Eaglesham a luncheon held on board the SS 'South Styne' in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

IC Bryan's message to the fleet was that of the need for more communication within and between fleets, supplemented by Inter-Fleet visits so that the value of IYFR membership, Fun-Friendship-Fellowship, is enhanced to members worldwide.

Despite consistent rain, the following day saw them cruising Sydney Harbour and its environs with members of the NSW Fleet, rafting up for lunch in Lane Cover River

where great IYFR fellowship overcame the inclement weather to round off a great day.

After a 'free day' on Friday with friends, they were treated to a Farewell Cocktail Party at the home of FC Richard with members of the



Members of the NSW Fleet with IC Bryan & Chris on board the SS 'South Styne' in Darling Harbour, Sydney.



Presenting Intl. Commodore's banner to Regional Commodore Robert Eaglesham



NSW Fleet Commodore Richard Hardman presenting IC Bryan with a book on Sydney as a memento of his visit to Sydney, Australia

Fleet before departing Sydney for Japan the following day which was then a beautiful and sunny Sydney day.

During their visit, they were hosted by PIRC John and Merrill Milne at Balmain Cove and on John's boat *MV 'Good Times'* which flew the IC's Burgee proudly. Their visit, the first by an IC since 2004, was well received and most appreciated by the Fleet.

### Robert Eaglesham

Regional Commodore for  
NSW & South Australia



The well patronized Bar on the Queen Mary.

Porthole view of Los Angeles



(photographs by Phill Klein  
Chicago Fleet)

## NEWPORT HARBOR FLEET - California, United States of America (33° 36' N - 117° 54' W)

Newport Harbor is located in Southern California. It is a general boating location and is home base for the Newport Harbor Fleet. The fleet currently has 38 members and 14 vessels, with vessels kept at marinas and locations throughout the Southern California area. The boats are fairly evenly divided; with 6 sail and 8 power boats.

Southern California is noted for ideal boating conditions, with generally good boating weather and sea conditions year round. Depending on vessels and the desire and skill of skippers, boaters can stay in protected waterways or venture offshore to visit nearby Catalina Island, the Channel Islands, run down the coast, or beat northerly to other coastal locations.

This has been a busy year for the fleet. It was the designated host fleet for the post-convention cruise and members assisted International Bridge in pre-Convention planning, site locations, visitations, and preparation. During one pre-Convention visit, the fleet was honored to host Commodore Bryan Skinner and his wife, Chris to a dinner aboard the Queen Mary. During the Post Convention Cruise, several members of the fleet participated in the cruise itself or in associated events.

South of Newport Harbor, the U.S. Navy maintains bases for active-duty ships in San Diego, California. During the last Rotary year, the Newport Harbor Fleet arranged for tours of active-duty vessels, to include an aircraft carrier and an attack submarine. In addition to the fleet members, the trips included other Rotarians.



Future IYFR members and sailor show the colors from the flight deck of U.S.S. Ronald Reagan.

**Gary Hickman** Commodore Newport Harbor Fleet

## BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND THE VENUE FOR THE ROTARY CONVENTION 2009

Birmingham was a good choice of venue for anyone who participates in water travel. From outside the Convention Centre a water bus will carry you along many of the canals that flow into Birmingham. To learn more of the history of Brum's (slang name) canals visit these websites:

[www.virtualbrum.co.uk/canals.htm](http://www.virtualbrum.co.uk/canals.htm)

[www.bcn-society.org.uk](http://www.bcn-society.org.uk)

## ITALY NORTH WEST FLEET

On July 4<sup>th</sup> the 2030 DG Ermanno Bassi, AC Francesco Clemente, Commodores and Mariners of the Italian Fleets, together with Rotarians coming from different Italian districts, met in the Muggiano Shipyard, near La Spezia, to attend the ceremony held to present the activity schedule of Nave Italia for the next months, the Ship having completed a first period of overhaul that will allow her to carry on the assigned mission. "We embark uneasiness, unload smiles" is the Ship's motto and the "Dream of Service" involving all Italian Fleets.

Italian Navy flag on the poop deck of the Brigantine Italia.

Left to right: **FC S.Santi**,  
**Dr G. Pecori Giraldi** -Tender to  
Nave Italia ONLUS  
President, Adm. F Paoli CINC ,  
**AC Franco Clemente**,  
**FC Luigi Falanga**,  
F. De Angelis Luna Rossa  
Skipper and Italia Testimonial



The next Saturday, the IYFR pennant was first at the arrival gun shot in the Viareggio Regatta. The Iforian Francesco Sodini, Viareggio Harbourmaster, and his 'COCONUT' was the winner. He is by now accustomed to this most rewarding conclusion of his seafaring days that have led him to qualify for the next Italian championship Regattas to be held in Punta Ala at the end of August .



Francesco Sodini at the helm of Coconut



Star Class Start in Viareggio Regattas

A week later the IYFR flag was waving again on the flagstaff of the Circolo Nautico pier in Rapallo, hosting the Fleet's yachts meeting there for the OPA Marine Annual Regatta and the first IYFR Cup in the NW Italy. The gunshot at 1.00 p.m. of Saturday 12 July let the Italian Mariners start to race on the 42 miles course from Rapallo to Punta Mesco and back in company with



the yachts participating to the 6<sup>th</sup> OPA Marine Trophy that was hosting our regatta.

Hauling to windward against a nice 10 knots breeze the Mariners reached the turning buoy when it was darkening and in the first hours of Sunday, after a day spent out at sea, finally went back to the Rapallo harbour to refresh before the prize giving ceremony.

IYFR Cup winner RC Luigi Norsa and his first, second and third mate (the whole Norsa Family) on board of their 'Yamick 2'. Special Prize to Iforian Mario Cappetti on his 'Postilla 2' and his all Iforian Crew, splendid, outstanding second and... honourably last!



Part of the participating IYFR Crews with their cups

After so many times meeting on shore, finally the Italian Mariners of the NW Fleet had the chance to sail together on their natural environment: the sea! Aeolus and Neptune decided to be merciful with the NW Fleet Iforians, although in the last Regatta a dead calm only a few miles from the finishing line let them be patient for more than a couple of hours, in the night, before they could berth and finally meet Morpheus. But they bore the event in a most Rotarian way: nobody withdrew and all of

them qualified.

These have been the first occasions in which the IYFR burgees have met in the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian sea, but you can be sure it will not be the last: the fun, the jokes, the happiness to be together we experienced, commit us to do it again as much as we can and in as many ways as possible.

The proud Italy NW Fleet Commodore,

**Sergio Santi,**



Editors' note

Aeolus: Greek god of the wind

Morpheus: Greek god of sleep

## IYFR ISTANBUL FLEET

On January 27, 2008 we hosted Power FM DJ Geveze at a Brunch at Istanbul Sailing Club. As a sailor and boat owner, he made us a very enjoyable speech about his sailing experiences and its effect on his personal and professional life. Sixteen of our members attended this organization. We have also presented a Memorial Thank You note to Geveze for his participation.

February 15- 24 , 2008 we have visited Eurasia Boat Show fair that was organized by CNR Ekspo Trade Fair. There we had a chance to see the new developments in the world.

On March 23, 2008 we hosted sailing instructor Melih Sanalan from Search and Rescue Association (DAK/SAR) at Fenerbahce Sports Club at a Sunday evening dinner. Sanalan talked

about the activities of DAK/SAR that were not known by the public so much. He made us realize the essence of existence of this Search and Rescue Association in Istanbul. As an instructor, he also talked about sailing techniques. Eleven members have attended this organization. Their web site could be visited at <http://www.ddd.org.tr/mainpage.asp?page=dak>. We intend to present them with a Recognition Shield in the coming months.

On April 6, 2008 we attended the yacht tour at Rotayat organised by our Past International Commodore Ferit Biren. Due to heavy weather conditions the tour did not last long, however we had good conversation with all fleet members in Turkey at the Atakoy Marina on our arrival.

**Pýnar ÇOPKUNER GENÇ** IYFR Istanbul Fleet Commodore.



PIC Ferit Biren, accompanied by Turkish immediate past and present Rotary Governors, enjoying the sea breeze.

### ANTALYA MEDITERRANEAN FLEET

First of all I would like to thank International Commodore Bryan Skinner in the name of my Fleet Members for allowing us to start the Antalya Mediterranean Fleet.

The Charter Ceremony took place in Antalya on 2nd June 2008. The 2430 District Governor Ali Gokben, PIC Ferit Biren, TFC Bekir Yerguz, Selda Gerson, Golden Horn FC Sevinc Kuyas, three Rotary Club Presidents and forty-three IYFR members together with fifteen Rotarians attended the ceremony.

#### **Murat Pakir**

Fleet Commodore  
IYFR Antalya Fleet  
[www.iyfraaf.org](http://www.iyfraaf.org)



## HUMBER FLEET YACHT LEADS 125th ANNIVERSARY SAIL PAST

It is not everyday that a sailing club celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but John & Pat May, members of the Humber Fleet, took part in the celebration of their sailing club, the Humber Yawl Club, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They asked Christopher & Jane Bishop, past National Commodore, to join them. The event started with a briefing at 8.00.a.m. There was going to be a sail past the Humber Sloop '*Phyllis*', which was built in 1906 and is on the Historic Ships' Register.

The yachts assembled in a holding area until '*Phyllis*' was able to get into her position as she had to come out of the lock which was tide dependent. Soon she came into view and the sail past started. On '*Phyllis*' were the Lord Mayor of Hull and Admiral of the Humber, Cllr Elaine Garland together with the Humber Harbour Master, Captain Philip Cowing. They were joined by all the Past Club Captains able to be present with John May being the senior one as he was Captain in 1978-1980. They were also joined by the present Captain, Mrs Philomena Smith.

The Fleet was led by Leona, John and Pat May's boat, which is an Albert Strange yawl built in 1906 and carefully restored by John. Having led the sixty plus boats Leona then went to the back and brought up the rear of the Fleet, adding a new meaning to the phrase, 'the First and Last'.

This was followed by a champagne reception and lunch in the clubhouse and in the evening a ball was held to round off the celebrations.

**Christopher Bishop** Past National Commodore G.B. & I.

## EMAIL REGARDING ROTAFLOAT ARTICLE APRIL 2008

From : "Dr. Manfred Ahlsdorff" <dr.m.ahlsdorff@onlinehome.de>

To: 'BARNSELEY' <gbsx@delmep.co.uk>

Good Morning

Thank you very much for your mail. This also is a good summery about IYFR. For the reason of political correctness I would like to tell you:

The founder of the German fleet WESER-JADE was Dr. Manfred Ahlsdorff. He used to be of the first members of FLEET BAYERN in 1987. When he moved to Bremen/Germany he was asked by the Regional Rear Commodore Adolf Kracht to launch a fleet in North Germany. So Manfred established the Weser Jade Fleet, chartered in October 1997.

He was assosted very effectively by the first secretary Wolmar von Taube. Manfred Winter was the first cashier of the fleet.

Kind regards

Manfred Ahlsdorff

## IYFR IN DAFFODIL PARADE 2008

Each year the City of Tacoma, Wa. U.S.A. celebrates the daffodils raised in the valley. All the surrounding towns participate with parades etc. Twenty-four of the local high schools select a senior girl princess who competes to be Queen. This is not a beauty contest, but rather based on grades and goals etc. All the girls get to be in the parades, a dinner and presentation to the Commodore and members of Tacoma Yacht Club and many other events over a period of a couple weeks. On the last weekend, Tacoma Yacht Club hosts Yacht Clubs from all over Puget Sound. The Clubs come by boat, motor-home and autos for a fun weekend and many events and contests. On Sunday Tacoma Yacht Club has its opening day of the boating season with all the clubs present flying their burgees for the presentation.



Commodores from the various clubs



Vashon Island is in the background and the Ferry that runs to the Island.

We cruised in a parade of approx. fifty decorated boats from the Tacoma Yacht Club, down close to shore along the Tacoma water front. Several restaurants have ballots for their patrons to vote on the boats as they pass by as to best decorated, best theme, etc. We continued to the end of the Foss Waterway where the Grand marshal, Queen and Princesses, plus the Judges



My Egg Harbor double cabin motor cruiser with the Rotary Wheel. It is our flagship for IYFR. . It is a 1970, all mahogany with oak ribs and has undergone extensive restoration.

waited. Then we turned and cruised back to the Tacoma Yacht Club.

**Richard Jamison**, Commodore, Puget Sound Fleet

## OPENING DAY ON THE BAY 2008



On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 many members of the San Francisco Fleet took part in the PICYA 'Opening Day on the Bay' Parade. Opening Day has been a yearly event since 1917 to commemorate the opening of the boating season in San Francisco Bay.

Although this has not been confirmed at the time of sending Rotafloat to the Webmaster the editors believe that the boat '*Full Tilt*' with Humpty Dumpty and Rotary's children aboard, belongs to Bill Randall and that Dave Breninger took the photographs.

(Photographs sent by email to IC Bryan Skinner)



## I Y F R REGALIA

The Editors wish to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition of Rotafloat. Please keep us informed of further Fleet activities.

The IYFR Regalia can still be found in Volume 73 in the historical section on the web—or, maybe you have kept a hard copy!

Questions and orders for regalia should be sent to our Regalia Officer Pat Thomson. To do this go into [www.iyfr.net](http://www.iyfr.net) with your user name and password. Go into **BRIDGE OFFICERS** and click **e-mail the Regalia Officer**

## MEETING OF GOLFE DE ST. TROPEZ FLEET

Ce vendredi 25 avril s'est tenue à Cavalaire sur Mer, une très sympathique manifestation amicale de l'IYFR Golfe de St Tropez, à l'initiative de notre Commodore 2007/2009, Humbert de Ribaucourt, à l'occasion de la mise à l'eau du nouveau bateau de notre ami Jean-Paul Baudry, un magnifique Crown line de 34 pieds. Lors d'une sortie en mer, il a été possible de se rendre compte des qualités de confort et de rapidité de cette belle unité.

Notre ami Claude Thénégal, aux commandes de la vedette de la SNSM, a tenu à saluer cet adhérent de la station, en actionnant les pompes à incendie du bord, ce qui fût un spectacle impressionnant et fort apprécié, cette démonstration servant également à montrer aux Rotariens Navigateurs membres de l'IYFR, les performances de cette vedette de sauvetage.

Geneviève et Jean-Paul, ainsi que Pierre Rio (l'heureux vendeur) nous offrirent ensuite un somptueux apéritif sur le quai devant le bateau (photo) auquel participèrent les membres et épouses présents. Cette excellente soirée se termina par un dîner très convivial dans un restaurant du Port de Cavalaire, qui réunit une bonne trentaine de convives, membres de l'IYFR Golfe de St Tropez, venus de différentes villes de la Côte d'Azur, mais aussi de Lyon et même de Sarrebruck spécialement pour cette occasion festive très réussie.

La prochaine occasion de "se faire plaisir " aura lieu en septembre prochain.

**Daniel Mustel** Vice-Commodore 2008/2009

### ***Editors' interpretation of this report:-***

On Friday 25th April in Cavalaire on Sea the Commodore of the Golfe de St. Tropez Fleet organised a meeting to view Jean-Paul Baudry's magnificent new Crown Line 34' boat. During the sea trials it was possible to appreciate the comfort under speed of this vessel. There was also an impressive demonstration by the SNSM of their fire boat.



Members and wives enjoying an aperitif

Genevieve and Jean-Paul, as well as the happy seller, Pierre Rio, provided a sumptuous aperitif. The Evening concluded with a convivial dinner at a restaurant in the Port de Cavalaire. This meeting was especially memorable as it included members of the fleet from the French Riviera, Lyon and even Saarbrücken. The next opportunity to do this will take place in September 2008.

## POST CONVENTION CRUISE JUNE 2009 SCOTLAND A BOOKING FORM WILL BE ON THE WEB SITE

The Post Convention Cruise will be held on the west coast of Scotland from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Accommodation for the duration of the cruise will be aboard yachts. Continental luggage will be stored in secure storage at Greenock throughout. Such that only clothing required for the cruise will be taken aboard the boats.

The cruise begins at Kip Marina on the river Clyde, about 30 miles west of Glasgow. Transport from Birmingham, will be available for those requiring it, at extra cost. On arrival at Kip, you will be introduced to your hosts and taken aboard the boat on which you will spend the four days. There will be an evening meal at the Chartroom Restaurant in the Marina, during which you will get to know your hosts.

For further information about  
Kip Marina see  
[Http://www.kipmarina.co.uk](http://www.kipmarina.co.uk)

Friday we will sail via the Kyles of Bute to Loch Fyne, en route at lunchtime boats will raft up for some good Rotary Fellowship. It is hoped the evening meal will take the form of BBQ.

Saturday will involve transport by coach and ferry to visit a distillery and sample some of the produce. You will be moored in the village of Tarbert, East Loch Fyne and will travel about two miles by coach for your evening meal at



West Kyle looking south, on the left is Bute

On Sunday you will sail back around the bottom of the Isle of Bute to Largs Marina, on the River Clyde, where you will have a drink at the Largs Sailing club before going to your meal at an old Country House, which has been converted into a sports training centre, the National Centre for Sports Scotland. It is hoped that the evening meals will give you a taste of Scotland and along with the three days sailing, weather and midges willing, you should leave with a short insight into the beauty of the Scottish hills and lochs.

On Monday morning you will be reunited with your luggage for onward journey to your next destination.

Stonefield Castle Hotel - shown below



## A DRY YACHTSMAN ON SAND OR ICE

Fifty year old Gareth Rowland, a member of the Humber Fleet, (burgee 649) has been competing in land and ice yacht racing for over thirty years. He has represented Great Britain on many occasions and has previously been both British and European Sand Yacht Champion. He has travelled extensively throughout the world in pursuit of his sporting activities. In addition to sand pursuits he has also gained a reputation in competitions for ice yacht racing.

Argentina hosted the World Sand Championships this year for the first time and Gareth was to take part. He towed, behind his car, his class 3 yacht (K11) together with that of his co-



competitor Tim Spears' class 5 yacht (K109) to De Panne, Belgium. He loaded the yachts into a container for trans-shipment together with the yachts of the Belgium competitors.

With the yachts on the way to Argentina Gareth managed to fracture his tibia (shin bone) thirty days before his own departure by air to the competi-

tion. The hospital where the plaster was applied told him to report back in forty days! He managed to rearrange his appointment for twenty-eight days and was eventually passed 'fit', subject to rest and physio treatment. He eventually arrived at the Rada Tilly Sand Yacht Club, hosts of the World Championships. In Gareth's words 'The racing conditions were very interesting especially at the north mark which you approached at great speed and tried to maintain as you turned southwards into a relative light wind, which suddenly gusted.' In Gareth's case this meant cranking the mast controls a bit, letting out the traveller and sheeting in.

After a while he and the competitors became acclimatised to the conditions and it became safer although all of them had their moments of anxiety. The question was always where would the next gust of wind occur. The sand on this course gave no telltale indications of wind strength and direction. Despite, technically, a broken leg, a push start at the rear of the grid and fifty factor sun, Gareth happily accepted 13th place in his class. His friend, Tom Spears, stormed the world to claim first prize in class 5.



(Extracted from Gareth's diary of events by  
**Ian A. Hornsby** Joint Editor Rotafloat)