



## Issue 5 September 2015

The Contessa 32 Class Association Newsletter is all about you and what you do in your Contessa so please contact me on:- [co32newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:co32newsletter@gmail.com)

A much shorter newsletter this time round, hopefully that means that everyone has been making the most of the summer, despite the indifferent weather!

We took Hungry Tiger to the West Country for the summer with the idea that we would get to the Isles of Scilly, like many people we're still waiting!

Despite the indifferent weather we still managed to get to many of our favourite spots from the Helford River to Salcombe and were reminded just why the West Country is such a lovely area to be!



### **Class Captain, Mark Himsworth and Class Vice Captain, George Isted**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Contessa 32 Class Association Newsletter!

The best things, they say, come to those who wait, and there was abundant evidence of that last weekend when we both raced at Cowes in the Contessa 32 Nationals. The weather made the job of the Race Officer a challenging one on all three days, but the Royal London Yacht Club looked after us very well both on the water and off. With George sailing Minstrel Boy and Mark on Drumbeat, our patience at anchor was rewarded with excellent racing conditions in the central Solent with a good breeze and sunshine, despite more gloomy forecasts. Congratulations to Blanco who came 1<sup>st</sup> overall, pipping Drumbeat by one point, with Conspiracy taking third. Racing was extremely exciting throughout the fleet and, as ever, there was a great social scene, with the Co32 'Liamar' joining race entrants for dinner on the Friday. If you're racing-curious, or just want to come and join in the fun off the racetrack, do please come to an event next year – you'll be made very welcome!

From a Cruising point of view it has been a mixed summer with those that got away early having the best of the weather. The least said about August the better really, with more on that from Jessie Rogers later in this issue. Also, some exciting news from the Rogers yard but we won't steal Jessie's thunder. Please do send in logs of your cruising, racing or even refurbishment for us to share with the wider membership: they are appreciated by all.

Dates for your diary – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> October Cruising Rally at Marchwood Sailing Club where we have not held an event for a while: please book now on the Co32 website. The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas Rally, details to be confirmed but stick it in the diary now!

Our profound thanks again to Lynn Roberts for pulling this newsletter together, and to each of our contributors for sending in their articles and news. Keep them coming!

Whether you will be sailing, winterizing and/or tinkering for the next few months, we both wish you, until the next Newsletter or time we see you in person, the very best enjoyment of your Contessas!

Mark Himsworth  
Class Captain



**A welcome to some old friends**

This year there have been two well-known and long-standing Contessa sailors who have gone from being experienced Contessa crew to Contessa owners.

**David Feltham**, (Son of Keith, ex owner of L'Aquarelle and Green Pepper) has bought and now lives on "Barefoot" that is moored on the River Exe. David has been around Contessa 32's all his life so it will take him no time at all to get used to her.



**Alice Butcher** whose father had a Co32 and has raced on Equator and more recently Mary Rose Tudor has bought "Panache". Alice has already joined in with two cruising events in the Solent and is enjoying sailing Panache both with crew and solo.





## **Kris Nisson and Fiona Rogers remember Torben Nielsen**

### **Torben Nielsen**

Torben Nielsen, the founder of the Contessa Class and later a founder member of the Contessa 32 Class Association passed away this last Spring.

Several of you will remember him in the earlier days of the two classes. He had the reputation of being an enthusiast and is said to have put a tremendous amount into getting the fleets going. Above all, he was well liked and respected. A Dane, Torben had come over from his birthplace to work as a shipping broker in the City.

He was already an accomplished helm before coming to the UK, where he raced Folkboats in the Solent. Then, after visiting the Rogers stand at the London Boat Show, he commissioned the build of a Contessa 26 (Flicka III) and campaigned her with great success at Cowes and in the Round-the-Island Race. It was then that he got to know and became friends with Jeremy and Fiona Rogers. He was a generous customer, and he laid on a lavish launching party in April 1971 at Lymington's Ship Inn for friends and the yard employees. Flicka III had been put in the water at the Town Quay, and after a copious lunch he slipped his lines and, to the astonishment of all, he set off for Denmark – no trial sail or anything – just like that!

Then in April 1975 he took delivery of his first Contessa 32 (Flicka IV), with which he also had much success.

When he returned to his home town of Svendborg to continue his business as a ship broker, he first bought another Folkboat (Flicka V) and then a Commander, (Flicka VI), a Danish design reminiscent of a 32, or so he first thought, but then changed his mind, complaining that she was far too tender. So, he just had to have another Contessa. That was to be "Flicka VII". The hull was completed in 1994 and shipped to Svendborg on the Island of Fyn in Denmark, where Torben had her lovingly and meticulously fitted out by craftsmen to his and his wife, Elsebeth's, exacting specifications. They cruised extensively for several years around the many islands of Denmark and over to Sweden. Flicka VII twice negotiated the 600 km of the Göta Canal from the Baltic in the East to Gothenburg in the West.

Caroline and I took over the responsibility of looking after Flicka VII back in 2004. We had seen the ad for her in Yachts and Yachting ("... never been raced or smoked in ... will deliver to the UK if required ...). We remember him standing with his walking stick below in a hay filled barn on Fyn, where Flicka VII was wintered, while we clambered enthusiastically up the ladder and all over his fine craft. Torben had by then had his stroke, and sailing was sadly no longer possible for him. The deal was soon done back at the house, and afterwards there was a whisky or two while Elsebeth tried to carefully ration the pouring thereof, somewhat in vain. That was all during a memorable sunset overlooking Svendborg Sound from their terrace.



I received this lovely email from Jeremy Warren to share with you;

Hello Contessa 32s,

Snap of "Conspiracy" rolling across Sandown Bay We were the Wayfarer who hitched a ride on their wake. Could you pass the photo on with my good wishes? They might like to see it.

Jeremy Warren

Wayfarer Hafren – Round Britain in 33 day!



**Footnote:-** Ray tells me he remembers this well, his 12 year old son was on the helm and they had just started to get 'the Contessa roll'!



## News from the yard

By Jessie Rogers



What a great '32' year it's been for us, both in the yard and on the water. Having the use of our own Contessa 32 'Assent' has been fantastic. Not only have we been able to join in some of the Association events and get some racing in but it's also been great to have the legendary 'Assent' back in Lymington and use her as a show case for some of the refurbishment work we can offer customers.

Earlier in the year we enjoyed joining in the cruising rally to Bembridge, a proper family outing which was great fun, even Bonnie the dog came. [Cowes week](#) (click on the link to DAY 2 for CO32 footage) was a huge success; a fantastic location right on the side of the beer tent area and a healthy number of 32s on the start line. We enjoyed having our ex-employee Lawrence Walters as crew, recently back from his epic [Ocean Valour](#) row across the Atlantic (92 days at sea raising money for Brain Tumour Charity). (Click on the link for DAY 7 for more about Lawrence's trip). Helming was shared amongst the crew members, Jeremy and Simon putting in some awesome performances with me (less awesomely) steering for Ladies Day.

After Cowes week we decided to head West – destination Scilly Isles – on a family cruise. This time we left the dog behind but one of our boys ended up taking a friend (four children just wasn't enough)! The first three days were blissful, we started the same afternoon as the Fastnet and took advantage of the calm sea and lack of westerly wind to motorsail as far westwards as we could. Our first family night passage went swimmingly with only minor seasickness suffered and mackerel caught for breakfast. We reached Fowey on the first hop, navigated our way through the Fowey Regatta week mayhem to the top of the river and enjoyed a perfect summer's evening of sun. And then the rain started! Helford river is beautiful but not quite as idyllic when viewed through stair rods of rain. Five boys on a 32 is fun but a little overcrowded when soggiess reaches a certain point. So, after the rain looked set in for the foreseeable (fortnight), we decided to keep the Scillies in the realm of the fantasy, somewhere to aspire to and dream of. Heading home via Salcombe we had dolphins riding on the bow and someone spotted a shark. We tested out the new cruising chute and barrelled home feeling a little bit cheated by the August weather. I'm sure we weren't the only people this summer who plotted a course for the Med. How about a Contessa rally – across the Bay of Biscay and round the corner for summer 2016!



Back in the yard we've had a steady stream of Contessa 32 refurbishments with people coming from far and wide to bring their boats to us. Christophe Declercq and his family brought Lecas over from Belgium for a refit, sailed home, and then back again for Cowes week – that's what I call dedication!

Non Contessa boat work has been busy too but nothing gives us more pleasure than getting our hands on a proper Contessa project and this year we've had plenty to get our teeth into; helping customers find a good second hand Contessa and then refurbishing it or working on a heirloom that's been in the family for generations.

This summer we also took an order for a new Contessa 32, so the moulds are back in the yard again for layup imminently. The Norwegian customer will take the helm of his new Contessa next summer.

All this work, including lots of interest in our Atlas Carbon davits at the superyacht end of the market and some special projects for the MOD, has meant we've recently expanded our work force again with a new shipwright and a new cleaner joining the team.

A huge thanks from us all at Jeremy Rogers Ltd for all you do to promote the 32. We look forward to working with the Association in the coming year and seeing you at future events.





### **Just a few final bits**

If anyone has a trip or experience that they would like to share please drop me an email I would love to hear from you.

I'm also keen to hear from any Contessa owners abroad who would be willing to share their Contessa sailing experiences in far flung places with us please drop me line.

For those of you who follow Facebook I'm sure, like me, you've enjoyed the Contessa of the day series from Tim Devlin on Coh Karek, so thank you Tim.

By the time you get this newsletter the end of Season Rally for the Solent based boats will have been held, if any other groups are having an end of season get together I'd love to hear about it!

There will be a Christmas Rally in the Solent at the beginning of December. The weekend of the 5th and 6th of December has been earmarked for the event. It's a fun event for all, so if you're around come and join in and if your boat is out of the water why not come and join in the pontoon party and meal ashore?

Finally I massive thank you to Alan and Vanessa (Izy) for yet again proof reading the newsletter for me.

Well that's it folks for this edition. I hope that you enjoy reading it and I look forward to the compiling the next one.

Have a good Christmas (eek frightening how soon it 'll be upon us!) and happy maintenance times over the winter as we all snuggle down and plan next season!