



The Quill

*A periodic Newsletter for Distribution to the
Members of the Three Rooms Club*

Spring 2020

www.3roomsclub.london

Need to Contact the Club?

Our mailing address is: The Three Rooms Club, Room 136, Lloyd's, 1 Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA

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From the Editor

In this edition of the Quill.....

Membership Matters

By Ship To Australia from William Gingle

Tales from the Lloyd's '58 Building drawn from the Lloyd's Publication "Lloyd's '58 Building A Retrospective by MDH Hill and P Dalton

Dates for your diary

Keeping in Contact

Our website aims to keep members up to date with club news. However, we have very few member email addresses, if you have an email address please do let Tim Willens know your details. Email to secretary@3roomsclub.london

Articles and Pictures for Future Editions

We are in need of stories and pictures from the past please do send any content for the Editor of the Quill:

martinbrob@gmail.com

Membership Matters

Members we have lost touch with:

If any of our readers can assist with contact information for the members listed below please advise our Membership Secretary Paul Coombes

Email: membership@3roomsclub.london

Mobile: 07875 530 554

J.M. AUBIN – Life Member No. 00505
J.N.E. BUTCHER – Member No. 00100
J.C. COOPER – Life Member No. 00857
J.P. DANDO – Life Member No. 00954
K.D. GILLIES – Life Member No. 00468
M.D. GREY – Member No. 1371
A.W. HOLLAND – Member No. 00244
D.G. KING – Member No. 01031
Ms. C. LEGG – Life Member No. 1106
J.P. LOBEK – Member No. 1667
W. MYERS – Member No. 1524
M. PALMER – Member No. 1752
B.L. PRICE – Member No. 00866
C.C. TACKLING – Life Member No. 1367
B.R. TEMPLE – Life Member No. 00303
R.L. UPTON – Member No. 1535

New Members:

Robert Anthony DRAKE
John Paul Vincent GOODRICKE
Stephen David Anthony SAMENGO-TURNER

Deaths:

Michael BRUCE - Annual Member No. 962
John BUCKENHAM Life Member No. 00819
G.B. (Bryan) COATES – Life Member No. 00364
David J. FROST – Annual Member No. 1486
J.A. (Joe) LEACH – Annual Member No. 00309
Victor William McROBERT - Life Member No. 00669
S. W. (Mick) MUMMERY– Life Member No. 00626
G. F. NAUDE – Life Member No. 00652
R.A. (Joe) REGNIER – Life Member No. 00722
R.N. SKINNER – Life Member No. 00633
Bryan (Philip) WAGHORN - Life Member No. 00848
Michael Charles WHITE – Life Member No. 00977
R. C. WOODS - Life Member No. 00839

Officers and Committee

Bruce Carnegie-Brown	President
Don H Coombe	Hon. Life President ~ Mobile: 07980009758
Brian Wilkin	Chairman ~ Mobile: 07775734197
Martin Robinson	Deputy Chairman ~ Mobile: 07717487953
Vernon Ashford	Treasurer
Tim Willens	Secretary ~ Mobile: 07724856752
Paul Coombes	Membership Secretary & Web Master
Bob Hunt ~ Mobile: 07976805535	
Peter Cave ~ Mobile: 07563544581	
David Weekes	
Cliff Hutchinson	
Danny Wild ~ Mobile: 07946330946	
Peter Wright	
Editor of the "Quill" Martin Robinson ~ Mobile 07717487953	

BY SHIP TO AUSTRALIA from William Gingles

I departed a dreary London in mid-November heading for Cape Town on Qatar Airways Dreamliner 787 with a change of plane in Doha. After ten hours flying and as our plane banked to land in Cape Town suddenly on the port side there appeared the first sight of Table Mountain flanked by the Devils Peak and the Lions Head before touching down. With Table Bay in the background this is indeed the great pleasure in arriving in the Cape by air and one of the most exceptional in the world.

I had just one day to acclimatise with the city before heading for the Convention centre and embarkation on the Queen Elizabeth. The ship had left Southampton on 2nd November and would not return until 2022. I had signed up for the 17 day leg to Perth Australia with visits to Port Elizabeth, Reunion Island and Mauritius. Owned by Carnival Cruises, managed by Cunard and registered in Bermuda it was launched in Italy in 2010. This 90,000 ton vessel evokes the era of the 1930's. The present Q.E. is a tribute to the two previous Queen Elizabeth ships having many art-deco interior touches.

It was also unique in having a female captain Inger Klein Thorhauge. Inger was born and grew up in the rugged, rocky windswept Faroe Islands. Starting as a cadet at 16 she worked her way up through the ranks and now commanded Cunard's most prestigious liner. My portside stateroom no 4083 was on the 4th floor and I was greeted by a pleasant 30 ish Ukrainian chambermaid and a bottle of champagne who announced she would be looking after me until Australia. Not a bad start !

It was then time to acquaint myself with my fellow passengers with whom I would be sharing a table in the Britannia restaurant. Mainly Australia some of whom had embarked in Southampton and reported stormy seas in the Bay of Biscay with much sea sickness. A mother and daughter in search of new love, a retired doctor and his wife and a South African couple who had emigrated to Queensland fearing the worst in a post Apartheid South Africa. As the vessel lifted anchor a band played Rod Stewart's Sailing and it was on to Port Elizabeth two days away.

From there it was 5 days to Reunion Island travelling close to the coast of Madagascar. Reunion is one of the overseas departments of France having French as official language and Euro the currency. It has a varied and enticing terrain, which boasts magnificent waterfalls and vibrant coastline. Alas, it was the start of the rainy season and as soon as I reached the beach the heavens opened curtailing any activities for the rest of the day. Mauritius lies 175 km west of Reunion and we berthed early next morning in the capital Port Louis. Ceded by the French to Britain in 1814 its economy is primarily dependent on sugar production and tourism. Tourists are attracted by the beauty and variety of this magnificent island which boasts moonscape mountains, wild gorges, cascading waterfalls, volcanic craters, lush tea plantations and fields of sugar cane. On arrival I had arranged to meet a friend from London Michael Mordant Smith outside the main post office proudly displaying its construction age of 1852 and where many customers were already queueing. Michael who now resides on the island was the ideal host in his 4 wheel drive vehicle as we traversed the city. Visiting the Citadel overlooking Port Louis which was built by the British atop the highest hill and used as a defensive fort against the French who always threatened to reclaim their former colony. After a good lunch it was time to rejoin my ship for the remaining 8 days across the Indian Ocean.

Of the total passenger list of 2,000 about 60% were Australians with about 25% British and looked after by a crew of 1,000 mainly from the Philippines. En route entertainment was supplied by a variety of resident entertainers and during the day various guest speakers which in the past included Sir David Frost who sadly died suddenly in 2013. This time we had Squadron Leader John Peters who came to the worlds attention in January 1991 during the First Gulf War when his bruised and battered face flashed on the television screens around the world. It was his disfigured image that became a potent symbol of Saddam Hussein's ruthless aggression. he explained in graphic detail the delights of being a POW of the Iraqi's and his seven-week ordeal

of torture and interrogation.

Another speaker was Chris Lubbe the ex-bodyguard to Nelson Mandela who gave four talks about Mandela's charismatic leadership and how he brought South Africa back from the brink of civil war. How the Truth and Reconciliation Commission under Desmond Tutu's leadership became a catalyst for change, reconciliation, forgiveness and healing. Not forgetting Hercules the Voice. Flown in for our entertainment and billed as a successful international touring star appearing in international arenas around the world. Spinto Tenor Hercules revives classical music with bold ballads and introducing covers to wow. That is what they said about him. I never did get his nationality.

Throughout the day apart from sunbathing there was a variety of entertainment available. Art classes, bingo, bowls, bridge, chess and board games, chairbics, croquet, deck quoits and foil fencing. The energetic could head for the ballroom and zumba dancing or do some golf chipping. During the voyage I noticed a tall Englishman who looked familiar to me from the City. He turned out to be Chris Burbridge ex- Terra Nova who was heading for Sydney to do some sailing.

After a distance of 5,543 nautical miles on a very calm sea we berthed early on 6th December in Freemantle Harbour, the port of Perth where the weather was forecast to hit 42 degrees and with large tracts of Eastern Australia ravaged by uncontrolled bushfires. It was time to say goodbye to my new acquaintances some of whom were also disembarking as well and new passengers arriving for the onward voyage to New Zealand and Japan. I planned to stay in Perth for five days before heading for the Northern Territories but at least I had fulfilled a long held desire to arrive in Australia by ship having eschewed the 10 pound assisted passenger scheme back in the 1960's by staying in Lime St and an offer of a pay rise.

The Australian Newspaper headline on my arrival read " Waca to become boutique cricket heaven ", so I went for a tour of the Waca to see what was afoot. it seems the problem is one of capacity, because just across the Swan River lies the New Optus Perth Stadium with a capacity of 60,000. The Waca with a capacity of only 20,000 is now deemed too small to accommodate Test matches against major test playing countries. So, when the next Ashes series takes place in Perth later this year the travelling Balmy Army will have to find a new section at the Opus but it has the benefit of an open air swimming pool which they might find useful. During my visit to the Waca I was able to observe Graham Smith and his teammates in net practice for their match against New Zealand. In view of the extreme heat and humidity I think they were glad it was a day-night event.

Rottneest Island lies about 20 km west of Freemantle. This was a highly recommended trip to see the amazing fauna and flora of the island its stunning beaches and incredible salt lakes. Apart from the island's permanent population of 300 it is home to the quokkas. A small native marsupial found in few other places it roams freely around the island and resembles a giant rat. These adorable animals are world renowned as the happiest animal on earth -according to the Aussies !

Tagged as the most isolated city in the world, Perth is deserving of its reputation as a safe and beautiful city with an abundance of parks and waterways including the impressive Kings Park and the many royal statues whilst offering uninhibited view of the stunning skyline. A picturesque and green city situated on the banks of the River Swan. It's historic King St. is largely intact and its commercial buildings dating from the 1890's gold rush. His Majesty's Theatre opened its doors in 1904 and has been entertaining audiences ever since. Internationally acclaimed performers to have graced the stage include Sir Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh and Dame Nellie Melba.

Freemantle is situated 20 km south, gateway to the capital and maritime centre to the west. It boasts spectacular colonial architecture and vibrant year-round activity. I went to visit Freemantle Prison, a vast, austere 19th century built by convicts labour from limestone rock quarried on site. Used as a maximum

security prison from 1855 until 1991 this grim bastion with protected status is now open to the public as a tourist site which includes the execution shed.

After a very pleasant five days it was time to move on and see more of Australia so I headed to the airport and a flight to Broome. A town of 15,000 located in the tropical north of Western Australia on the Kimberly coast. For many travellers Broome is Australia's true getaway with palm-fringed beaches and a cosmopolitan atmosphere in this dusty old port noted for its Chinatown. It has its famous cable beach where camels parade up and down as the sun sets. Washed by tides that can reach over 9 metres it was the Japanese who became instrumental in laying the groundwork of Broome's pearling industry in 1880. The riches from the pearl beds did not come cheaply and the town's Japanese cemetery is the resting place of nearly 1,000 divers who lost their lives working in the industry.

It is slightly ironic that Broome was attacked by 9 Japanese aircraft on 3rd march 1942. They attacked 15 flying boats that were refuelling in Roebuck Bay, planes transferring mainly women and children refugees from Java to southern Australian states. Many were killed. Walking out on the mud flats today when the tide is at its lowest, it is possible to see the wrecks of the Catalinas and Dorniers flying boats now designated as living graves. However, the famous dinosaur footprints 30 metres out to sea were not visible on this occasion. Broome cemetery also includes a large Chinese section and is a truly a meeting and resting place of many different peoples and religions who have lived, worked and died here. Sisters of St. John of God have a wonderful section. These Irish nuns arrived in 1907 and did not go home including five siblings called Green from Doolin Co. Clare and buried side by side.

G'day mate, are you ready for a long trip with us today said Shane the lead driver on my Greyhound coach as I arrived at 6 am. Shane confirmed our journey time to Darwin of 27 hours covering a distance of 2,000 km. I had signed up for this trip as it was the ideal way to see at first hand one of Australia's last frontiers, still little travelled and a remote area of great rivers and magnificent scenery. It was an opportunity to see the crimson cliffs of the Kimberley's - a vast and relatively undiscovered region of Western Australia which even many Australians know little about.

After two hours on a highway almost dead straight we crossed the mighty Fitzroy River which drains the West Kimberley's and our first stop at first stop at Fitzroy Crossing for breakfast. A dusty little cattle station town of just 1,000 and a further 2,000 aboriginal community throughout the Fitzroy valley. We made steady progress during the day and although in the middle of the wet season the water levels remained low which was just as well as rivers and creeks can rise rapidly following heavy rain and become impassable. Halls Creek was next stop. Called after Charlie Hall who found a 28 ounce gold nugget in 1885 and 15,000 prospectors arrived to try their luck. Now a cattle station of little more than 1,000 it is the only sizeable town for 600 km on the Great North Highway where take away alcohol is prohibited.

From there our journey took us close to the Purnululu National Park famed for its Bungle Bungles, a range of dome-like mountains with orange and black layers. As night fell our reserve driver took over and his biggest problem during darkness was avoiding the kangaroos and other animals like buffalo, cattle and wild horses jumping out in front of the bus. During the night I saw a near miss when a kangaroo narrowly missed the bus. After further stops at Turkey Creek, Kununurra, Timber Creek and Katherine for breakfast we arrived on time next morning at Darwin. Formerly a bawdy frontier outpost and named after the evolutionist Charles Darwin who was a shipmate aboard the Beagle when the harbour was discovered in 1839.

Heavily bombed during World War 2 it suffered a disaster when Cyclone Tracy struck on Christmas Eve 1974 with wind speeds of 280 km destroying 70% of its property and sixty-six lives lost. Insurers paid for the new and rebuilt cyclone proofed buildings we see today. Now a modern place with a young population and easy going lifestyles as well as a cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Darwin has plenty of beaches to visit but the strong advise was DONT SWIM in Darwin waters during the wet season because of the deadly box jellyfish and abundant crocodiles along the coast and rivers. So, if no swimming was possible then there were numerous bars on the famous Mitchell St. not far from my hotel where happy hour seemed to extend into the next day. After 4 days in the 38 degree heat plus 65% humidity it was time to head to the airport for my departure from Australia.

Over the years Darwin Airport has played host to many early aviation pioneers like Amy Johnson and Amelia Earhart. In 1919 Captain Ross Smith and his crew landed in Darwin and won £ 10,000 prize from the Australian government for completing the very first London-Australia flight in under 30 days. It was a two hour flight across the Timor Sea to Denpasar capital of the Indonesian island of Bali where I was due to spend Christmas. The arrivals hall was chaotic with flights arriving from many destinations. My hotel was in Nusa Dua well away from the backpackers. The hotel staff welcomed me with a typical Balinese welcome and I felt I was going to enjoy Christmas.



QUEEN ELIZABETH CAPTAIN -INGER KLEIN THORNHAUGE GREETES MR WILLIAM GINGLES

FROM THE ARCHIVES



TALES FROM THE LLOYD'S '58 BUILDING



One year Eric Morley brought all 59 contestants in the Miss World Beauty contest, adding a welcome touch of glamour! Ambassadors, Admirals, Generals, Lloyd's Agents and many other dignitaries came to Lloyd's, and spent a few moments on the gallery looking down at the incomprehensible mass of people below them, all to-ing and fro-ing and giving the impression that they knew what they were doing!

On 28th December an old wine vault was uncovered – apparently, some of the wine, especially the port, proved to be still very palatable! On 25th January 1952 a Roman Hypocaust was found along with many other Roman artifacts. An exhibition of some of these was set up in the 1928 Building before they were eventually handed over to the Museum of London.



Left: After being buried for over 10 years, several hundred bottles of port were discovered in a wine vault just in time to toast the New Year 1952.

Below: Terence Cuneo and his painting of The Queen's visit to lay the Foundation Stone of the new building on 6 November 1952.

The archaeologists had finished their researches, the foundations were completed and by November 1952, the site was sufficiently advanced for HM The Queen to lay the foundation stone. The ceremony, on 6th November, being recorded by Terence Cuneo in his second painting for Lloyd's.



Dates For Your Diary

Three Rooms “Club Get Togethers”

Thursday 14th May, 2020

Thursday 12th November, 2020