

# The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 1.1 - June 2017



Photograph taken by our own Tracy-Lee Wise

## Introduction

Good day all members of the Seven Seas Club

The "Tattler" will attempt to provide you good folk with a lot of useful and some useless information that we hope will entertain and even squeeze a chuckle or two. Our intention is to publish monthly unless we fail, in which case it will be every second month.

### Club Activities in June.

**100 Club Draw and Happy hour:** Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Member's Lucky draw:** every Friday evening between 17h30 and 18h30 exact time to be determined by the Chairman

## **From our Chairman**

The club is sound, our financials are under control and it is a good time for our club. As I alluded to at the recent AGM, we do have a concern that our average age of members has increased to about 63. Now, I have no problems with members of any age, but it does indicate that we need to recruit younger members to assure the long term future of the Seven Seas club.

I am pleased to have a hard-working committee, club Manager and staff. There are skilled members in all the key positions and, other than the age issue; we can look forward to a good future. This newsletter will serve as a vehicle for updates as will our website which will be upgraded in the near future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the club this year.

**(The Bean-Counter's Corner)  
From the Treasurer:**

After a very good year last year, the first two months of our new financial year, have been a bit disappointing, with sales forecasts not being met and costs a little higher than envisaged.

The many holidays in April obviously played a part in the sales drop and some unexpected maintenance item cropped up, which set us back a bit. Our tenants below the Club, required some serious floor sanding to be done and over and above this, our access system packed up, which required a complete overhaul. But, no worries...the month of May is looking a lot better and I think we will meet, or even beat, targets

Another uncomfortable job of the Treasurer, is to hunt down members who have not yet paid their annual subs. Remember, you have no place to hide....I will find you!! Subs are due from 1<sup>st</sup> March of each year and members have 60 days to pay, that is, by the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Well, we are now approaching the end of May and we still have some delinquents out there who haven't coughed up yet. Unfortunately, these members are going to forfeit their membership, if their payments have not been received by 20<sup>th</sup> June. I would like to appeal to members, who may find the payments too onerous, to contact the Treasurer to discuss easier payment terms. We can easily make a plan...we really don't want to lose our members.

Not much more to say, other than that the Club is financially healthy and we look forward to another good year of support from members and good control of our costs.

**Our Secretary says**

The minutes of the recent AGM were distributed by the Club Manager on 19th May . Attached were

- Seven Seas Club Constitution (2017)
- Seven Seas Club By-Laws (2017)
- Seven Seas Club Organogram

If you did not receive the post, let us know and we will gladly send them to you. You are encouraged to read these documents. Tattler suggests that you may have a quiet giggle at the pictures!

## This month in (military) history

- 3/6/1976** SAS President Kruger left Simon's Town, and sailed via Walvis Bay, Abidjan and Las Palmas to Norfolk, Virginia, and sailed from there, as part of a fleet of 53 warships (representing 22 countries) to New York where a naval revue took place on 4 July
- 4/6/1942** Battle of Midway begins; during battle, 4 Japanese carriers which attacked Pearl Harbor are sunk; this decisive U.S. victory is a turning point in Pacific war
- 6/6/1944** D-Day invasion of Europe
- 10/6/1942** In one of the most infamous single acts of World War II in Europe, all 172 men and boys over age 16 in the Czech village of Lidice were shot by Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of SS leader Reinhard Heydrich.
- 10/6/1943** Operation Husky, Allied landing on Sicily
- 11/6/1994** After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended
- 18/6/1812** U.S. declares war on Great Britain for impressment of Sailors and interference with commerce
- 18/6/1815** On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops. Thus ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe
- 20/6/1952** From 20 June 1952, prefix HMSAS was replaced by SAS - this was consistent with the policy to make South Africa less and less dependent on Britain.
- 20/6/1991** "Operation Bob Cat" (20 June - 4 July 1991) took SAS *Drakensberg* on a training cruise to the British St Helena Island. "Operation Chant" (15 July - 8 September 1991) was far more comprehensive and took the *Drakensberg* from Simon's Town to Cape Town and Durban (where approximately 35 and 750 tons of support supplies were taken on board); in a north-easterly direction across the Indian Ocean to Chittagong in Bangladesh (where approximately 630 tons of supplies were off-loaded to relieve the plight of flood victims); through the Suez Canal to Mersin in Turkey (where approximately 35 tons of supplies were off-loaded for the Kurds who had fled from the north of Iran to Turkey); next, back through the Suez Canal to Port Sudan (however, an attempted coup in Sudan meant that the SAN ship could not enter the harbour); then to Nacala in Mozambique (where approximately 120 tons of supplies intended for Sudan were off-loaded), and then, back to Simon's Town (8 September).
- 22/6/1941** - Starting at 3:15 am, some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 1800-mile front, in a major turning point of World War II.
- 25/6/1876** - General George A. Custer, leading 250 men, attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. Custer and his men were then attacked by 2000-4000 Indian braves.

- 25/6/1950** - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea
- 25/6/1990** For the first time since 1945, the South African flag was shown in the Far East. The port city of Kaohsiung was also visited and South African ships participated in manoeuvres with ships of the Taiwanese Navy. The return voyage took the South African ships via the Sunda Sea Strait and across the Indian Ocean to Durban (25 June).
- 28/6/1914** - Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.
- 28/6/1919** - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. According to the terms, Germany was assessed sole blame for the war, forced give up Alsace-Lorraine and overseas colonies, and pay reparations of \$15 Billion. The treaty also prohibited German rearmament.
- 30/6/1815** - USS *Peacock* takes HMS *Nautilus*, last action of the War of 1812

## **SPOTLIGHT ON GLEN RODNEY MARLOW**

**This month the Tattler looks at our Club Manager. Frequently smiling, very rarely frowning, he can be thought of as the "glue" that holds it all together.**

### **Personal details.**

- Born in Robert's Heights, Pretoria on 15 October 1954. Parents, Ron and Helen Marlow (unfortunately both deceased).
- The middle of three sons. Roy (65) first born, Vaughan (57) last born
- Married to Olwen Anita (nee) Thompson on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1990
- One son Christopher 21 years old.

### **Naval Career.**

Joined the Navy in November 1971 as an ordinary Seaman aged 17 years old. Qualified as an Telecommunications (Radio) Rating, also known in naval terms a Telegraphist and served at sea on various Minesweepers but for the most part onboard the Type 12 Frigate SAS PRESIDENT STEYN.

Commenced Officer Training in 1978 and on completion of two years training with the rank of Midshipman, was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980.

Served in various Naval Units in Simon's Town, Durban and Pretoria as a Supply Officer. He regards as a highlight of his junior Officer career as the three and a half years he served in SAS TAFELBERG as the supply Officer (1984-1988). Apart from Supply Officer he was also the Flight deck Officer where he logged in excess of 200 helicopter landings and take offs as the Flight deck controller (batman). This was a very exciting task as one could imagine the

intense concentration required from both the helicopter pilots and Ship's staff landing aircraft on deck in the darkness of night on a pitching and rolling deck.

Another highlight during his time on board SAS TAFELBERG was being granted the opportunity as a non-combat Officer to undergo Bridge Watch keeping training, and on completion of 600 hours on the bridge as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer of the watch, he was found competent and completed a further 1 400 hours as Officer of the watch. In January 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Captain (SAN) and appointed to the Secretariat for Defence Division where he was further appointed as the first Officer Commanding of the newly formed Procurement Unit in Simon's Town.

He returned to the SA Navy in 2005 and served at the Fleet Command Headquarters until he went off on pension in November 2011.

### **Seven Seas Club Manager.**

Just 10 months after retiring the big guy obviously got under his wife's feet too much and was appointed Club Manager, a position for which he is clearly (over) qualified.

### **Proudest Moments.**

1. Birth of his son Christopher.
2. Obtaining a Commission in the SA Navy.
3. His first watch as the "Officer of the watch" on board SAS TAFELBERG

### **Most embarrassing moment in the Navy.**

While on duty as the Operations Officer at the Operations Room, Naval Base Simon's Town in 1982 the phone rang and on answering the voice on the other side claimed to be the Chief of the Navy. Thinking one of his mates was playing a joke on him, he convinced the person that he knew the Chief of the Navy and this was definitely not his voice. Well.....it was!! (Ed - and yet he still advanced?)

### **Scariest experience.**

In the early seventies he was a Leading Seaman serving in SAS PRESIDENT STEYN and the ship was tasked with recovering the body of a deceased meteorologist on Gough Island which is some 1 600 sea miles west of Cape Town in the South Atlantic Ocean. For some 24 hours before arriving at the Island the ship experienced the worst roaring forties type weather imaginable with huge mountains of sea swell hammering the ship. He thinks nobody on board was seasick because they were too scared. Action messing and the highest combat state was certainly the order of the day.

### **Mentors.**

He had quite a few mentors while serving in the Navy including his late father, but the two senior Officers he held in the highest regard were Captain Chris Moon (ret) and the late R Adm Eric Green .

### **Sports/Extra-curricular activities.**

- *Played first team cricket and rugby at school.*
- *Played inter unit rugby for various units and Ships in the Navy (last game age 42...stupid!)*
- *Had the privilege of racing modified saloon cars for a few years as a sponsored driver. (Ed - poor little car!)*
- *Riding Harley Davidson Motorcycles.*
- *The Tattler notes that Glen makes no reference to his boxing days. Would anybody want to take a left hook from this man?*

### **Who makes him laugh?**

*The Tattler believes that many people make this jovial man laugh, but in his words "When I look at what is happening in these times we live in, I must laugh because if I don't, I will probably cry. Besides that I really enjoy a good joke and probably like telling jokes as well."*

### **Who pisses him off?**

*False self-pretentious people and minibus taxi drivers.*

### **Special Friends.**

*All my friends are special. (Tattler believes that the reverse is also true)*

### **What makes the Club special.**

*38 years of very special memories, the camaraderie and now that he is a Naval Pensioner, the contact with matters Naval.*

***Tattler says - Thanks Glen - you help making it special***

### **Moving into the 21st century with our WebMaster ( Euan Smith)**

Some of you will know but some of you may not that the Seven Seas Club has its own web site. You can find us by pointing your favourite browser at

<http://www.sevenseasclub.co.za>

We used to just have a page on the Simon's Town general web site but now we have control of our own destiny. On the site you can see the club and its facilities along with our contacts and how to find us. I hope all of you would know that already even if we sometimes fail to remember how we returned home. By taxi of course. You can also find links on the site to all our reciprocal clubs scattered all over the world and could be useful when traveling abroad.

The site is designed to give the world a view of who we are and what we do but it also has a member's only side to it. As a member you can sign up to the site and you get your very own login and password. Once you have logged in you have access to more information. There is a calendar showing you all the upcoming club events and access to the latest committee minutes so that you can see what your committee has been deciding on your behalf.

In Member's news you will find some of the information that members would like to have but the rest of the world does not need to know. The site is still a work in progress and I would love to hear any suggestions that you might have to make it look better or be more informative and useful. Looking forward to seeing you logging in

### **CAPTAIN SMITHERS**

In the greatest days of the British Empire, a new Commanding Officer was sent to an African jungle outpost to relieve the retiring Colonel.

After welcoming his replacement and showing the courtesies (gin and tonic, cucumber sandwiches) that protocol decrees, the retiring Colonel said, "You must meet Captain Smithers, my right-hand man, God, he's really the strength of this office. His talent is simply boundless."

Smithers was summoned and introduced to the new CO who was surprised to meet a crooked, toothless, scabbed and pockmarked specimen of humanity, with three strands of hair on his head - a particularly unattractive man of less than three foot tall.

"Smithers, old man, tell your new CO about yourself."

"Well, sir, I graduated with honour's from Sandhurst, joined the regiment and won the Military Cross and Bar and three DSO's after 12 months of expeditions behind enemy lines.

I've represented Great Britain in equestrian events and won Gold Medals in the middleweight division boxing, archery gold, wrestling and a 2 golds in the Olympic games. I have researched the history of....."

Here the Colonel interrupted,  
"Yes, yes, never mind that Smithers, the CO can find all that in your file.

Tell him about the day you told the witch doctor to "Go f\*ck herself."

Wrap

Well, that is our first edition. The Honorary and honourable Chairman suggests that you register all complaints with one of our friendly barman who will reward you with one drink for the price of two. However, any Bravo Zulus he would like to receive personally On a more serious note, we will value any constructive criticism which can be sent directly to me ([jonathanagolding@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanagolding@gmail.com)).

To those of the sea-faring variety we wish you all fair weather and small swells. To the land-lubbers, may you have plenty of happiness and, if in the Cape, a lot of steady rain.

Cheers

Editor