The Seven Seas Tattler Issue 1.4 - September 2017



Welcome to our fourth edition of Tattler.

In this edition, we have a particularly interesting contribution from a member. Tattler thanks Nigel Holman for this and invites members to feel free to offer similar interesting snippets.

We remind members that Tattler will accept short advertisements from members. Should you wish to use this opportunity please submit your advert to the Editor.

I hope you all find something of interest herein.

Ed - jonathanagolding@gmail.com

Chairman's Report

From the SAN side SAS SPIOENKOP and SAS MANTATISI continue to conduct workup training in False Bay.

Foreign visits. HMS PROTECTOR is in Cape Town undergoing maintenance.

A Chinese Destroyer, Frigate and Replenishment ship visited Cape Town 25-28 Aug 17. The SA Navy band had a very successful concert in Gordon's Bay last weekend and received rave

reviews from all who attended.

The club committee cleared out its store rooms on Sat 19 Aug and got rid of a lot of rubbish. There are some artefacts that the club no longer wants but could be of use to the members. The Club Manager will put out a notice in this regard.

We welcome a new member John Winter and wish all those having a birthday in September well (see elsewhere).

After a reasonable response (and certainly a representative sample of member's thoughts) the committee has decided to move our monthly happy hour to the second Tuesday of each month. This will come into effect this month (September) We trust that this will please most!

From the Treasurer

At last we are in the "black"!! After 4 months of negative returns, basically as a result of unforeseen costs in these months, July ended up with a good surplus, which was significant enough to pull us out of the "red".

Even though sales in July did not reach target and the return on these sales was consequently lower, we were able to curb costs somewhat to compensate, with maintenance, water and electricity costs being well below budget.

The outlook for August is promising, with sales already showing signs that our target could be reached, or even bettered. Friday evenings have become very popular of late, probably as a result of the increasing "lucky draw" and bar takings have reached record levels. (*It would be nice if we could have such good support even if there wasn't the big carrot!!*).

We will continue to watch our costs and hopefully, with good support for the balance of the year, we will end up with a reasonable surplus.

Something else that should be brought to the attention of our members is that, after a prolonged waiting period, it looks like the Club is finally going be registered as a non-profit organisation (NPO). This is being handled by our auditors and includes an application for tax exemption. It appears however, that the Club also has to be registered with the Department of Social Welfare (for whatever reason??) and this is also being handled by our auditors. We will keep members posted.

Nothing else to report, other than the Club is financially still looking good.

'till next month......

From the Secretaries Desk......

Following an extended effort to re-establish active contact with the Stellenbosch Club, contact was finally established between your secretary and Stellenbosch's Chairman (Roelof Feenstra) and Secretary (Chris Scheepers) in January of this year. Chris and I then proceeded to finalise the details of an RPC to the Stellenbosch Club Committee for the 10th August, this date coinciding with our August Happy Hour.

The Stellenbosch Club pulled out all the stops and arranged for a "duty driver" to deliver their current Committee plus two past Chairmen to our establishment on the appointed day and hour. Unfortunately, a day or two before the event, Chris Scheepers managed to break an ankle with the requisite surgery taking place on the designated day of their visit (he has not admitted what he was doing to encounter this misfortune) So the Stellenbosch team arrived one man short in numbers but filled to the gills with bonhomie.

Prior to their arrival, one of their club members (Harold Johnson) had kindly undertaken to sponsor wines (Zevenwacht Estate) for the happy hour and the rest of the Stellenbosch team arrived bearing a gift – a wooden presentation case containing a 3 litre (double magnum) of Kanonkop wine, with the bottle additionally bearing a Stellenbosch Club label.

They arrived to a warm welcome, and following the formality of welcome speeches by the respective Chairmen, a festive gathering ensued. During the course of the evening, and bolstered by the great hamburgers produced by Gayle Gourley, it was decided that the gift bottle of wine was to be opened and consumed by those present supported by an undertaking by the Stellenbosch Club Chairman that the bottle would be replaced upon a return visit by a Seven Seas Club team to the Stellenbosch Club. All who participated in consuming this superb wine, signed the presentation case which will occupy a place of prominence in the club.

Some four hours later, the replete and well lubricated Stellenbosch team handed themselves into the safe hands of their "duty driver" and were ferried back across the city and safely home as confirmed by Roelof Feenstra the following morning in a very kind and effusive "thank you" email.

I am sure that all who were present agree that active contact has been well and truly reestablished between our clubs. All that now remains is for us to "gird our loins", brace our livers and make the return visit."

From the Webmaster

It has been a really interesting month with regard to The Club web page and indeed all our social media connections. Following the last AGM the committee were approached by Grant and Jackie Kipling with some great ideas to really ramp up the way we currently use social media. This all stemmed from the Chairman's comments at the AGM around membership numbers and how we go about attracting the right sort of new, younger members to the Club. With that in mind we are in the process of making some of these ideas a reality. It is a work in progress at the

moment but keep your eyes open for some new and inspirational things coming soon. The web site and our Facebook page are the focus to start with but we intend to put lots of good ideas into practice in the coming months. We think you will really enjoy what is about to happen.

Euan

http://www.sevenseasclub.co.za

September Birth	hdays
2 September	ne following members a "Happy Birthday" Capt FR Nunes
3 September	Capt JS Coetzer
10 September	Mr DG Viljoen
14 September	Lt Col RW Sproul
18 September	Mr IK Egan-Fowler
19 September	Lt Cdr GC Hammond
21 September	Mr B Ireton
22 September	Capt RB Gardner
24 September	V Adm A Grose
26 September	Mr J Leslie
30 September	Mr BP Hansen

New Member

Tattler and the Club welcome John Winter into our ranks. John was a Member of the Club previously (1987 to 1991) but left due to work commitments elsewhere. He has now retired in Seaforth and re-joined the Club. Also, a Rotarian and a Member of the FBYC. In the words of our Club Manager " he is a helleva nice chap"!

Spotlight on:

This month we have a look into our hard-working and very organised Doug Law-Brown

Personal Details

Doug was born in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia in December 1956 to South African parents (Alan and Tekla Law-Brown) who had trekked north from Port Elizabeth in search of opportunity in the tobacco and cigarette industry.

The eldest of three children. "Little" brother Clive (born in 1958) and sister Melanie (a "laat lammetjie") who gave his parents (and the two boys) a big surprise by appearing in March of 1972!

Married to Charlene (nee van Schalkwyk) in January 1993

Education

He started school 6 weeks after his 4th Birthday at St Andrews in Blantyre (Nyasaland – now Malawi) – schooling started the year one turned 5 - so was always the youngest in the class – fortunately not the smallest! Breakup of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland saw the family return to Salisbury where junior schooling was completed at Haig Park Junior School. Senior schooling at Ellis Robins Boys High kitted him out with "O", "M" and "A" levels under the old "British" system. Being sport crazy, (played rugby, hockey and received school colours in athletics, swimming and cricket) his academic results were not good enough to gain entry into the newly established Faculty of Engineering at the University of Rhodesia (Plan A)

Plan B involved him joining the Rhodesian Telecom (then known as the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation or more simply The "PTC") and qualifying as a telecoms technician (Full technological certificate (T4) with the City and Guilds of London). Despite a 2-year stint to complete his national service, where fortunately his technical skills were put to good use in active service all around the country and occasionally beyond, his efforts in the PTC were rewarded with a bursary to study for an electronics engineering degree, this being completed at the University of Natal in Durban in 1983 at the grand "old" age of 27.

Career

1984 to 1988 – Design, manufacture, commissioning and maintenance of communications systems all over the country. In 1986, promoted to Manager of the Development Laboratory leading a team of 15 engineers and technicians designing communications equipment suited to local conditions, performing technical oversight of the manufacturing of this equipment at the PTC factory employing over 400 people and monitoring the deployment and maintenance of our products around the country.

In 1988, having completed his bursary "work-back" obligation, he left Zimbabwe and started a new life in Durban under the employ of UEC Projects a Hi-Tech engineering company providing equipment to the South African Navy (Joined UEC on the same day as Jules Gilman and with whom he became close friends and allies. Jules was a staunch member of the club who sadly is no longer with us) Initial tasking was in the submarine field and included an exciting and stillclassified submarine programme which unfortunately was suspended and working on the life extension programme for the mission system on the Daphne submarines (Project Nickles) as part of the Navy's fight to keep its submarine capability alive. Life extension programmes became the order of the day and saw his switch to working with the surface Navy where he led the life extension programme for the Strike Craft (Project Caliban) delivering the first Caliban boat into the hands of then Commander Guy Jamieson (now the deputy chief of the Navy). In 1993 he was put in charge of the company's efforts on the frigate replacement programme (Project Sitron). Six years later having suffered the drawn-out process of the rewriting of the Defence White Paper including a revisit of the SANDF "force design" which resulted in a desperate period of two years of "technology/capability retention", a contract was signed in 1999 for the delivery of 4 very capable patrol corvettes (frigates). He was placed in charge of the execution of the work associated with turning the hull and propulsion systems delivered from Germany (the float and move functions) into warships (the addition of the fight function). Delivery of the 4th and final frigate was successfully completed in 2007 marking the end of more than 14 years of sustained effort by all involved (for most, this is almost half a career!).

Soon after the signing of the contract, and as a consequence of the importance and size (in excess of a billion rand in 1999!) of the frigate contract to the company, he was appointed to the Executive Committee and following the programme's successful completion in 2007, he was

relocated to Company HQ in Midrand and put in charge of the Naval Division. A year later and following sustained downsizing of the local defence business and the resulting restructuring of the company, he took charge of all programmes (local and export) being undertaken by the company.

In 2010, the sustained stress of working in a foreign-owned multinational company and the fight to retain strategic viability of local products, capabilities and resources caught up with him and, following a health scare, he "retired". He and Charlene moved back to the Cape (Fishhoek) at the end of 2010. Since then he has kept his hand in by providing consultancy services to the industry. Tattler is most impressed - both by the activities and being able to remember it so well!

(Seven Seas) Club Activities

He has been a member for 17 years having joined the Club in 2000. Elected onto the Committee in 2014 and appointed as Honorary Secretary in 2015, a position he still holds (Ed- the role of a club secretary is often under-valued and the work done not fully appreciated. My limited experience with Doug has revealed that he is highly competent and a great asset.)

Sports/Extra-curricular activities

Played every conceivable sport at school (Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Squash) and achieved provincial colours for athletics (Javelin) and swimming (backstroke)

Enjoyed the benefits of the excellent Rhodesian Junior Golfing Programme and achieved a single-figure handicap. (Claim to fame is beating Nicky Price in a competition as a 10-year-old junior!). Member at Warren Hills GC (Salisbury/Harare) for 22 years, Bonnievale GC and Zwartkops GC (Pretoria). Tattler - the honourable Nick was not available to confirm this, but no reason to doubt Doug!)

"Discovered" volleyball after school and went on to be awarded a full University Blue for volleyball, South African University colours (1979 to 1983), provincial colours for Natal (1979 to 1983 and 1988 to 1990) and Springbok colours in 1983. National volleyball coach of Zimbabwe (1984/85). Played professional beach volleyball from 1989 to 1992. Awesome achievements!

Got involved in sports administration during his university days and went on to become the University of Natal Sports Union secretary, Vice Chairman of the Natal Volleyball Association and Vice Chairman of the South African Volleyball Referees Association

Proudest Moments

Charlene agreeing to marry him!

Obtaining his BSc Engineering Degree, being accepted as a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineering in the UK and becoming a Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council in the UK.

Presenting a research paper on "Lightning and the protection of electronic equipment" to the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers and the Society of Licenced Aeronautical Engineers and having the paper published in the Zimbabwe Science News in 1987.

Earning his Springbok colours for volleyball and representing South Africa on-tour in Europe.

Being appointed onto the Executive Committee of ADS/Thales South Africa and serving there for 10 years.

No mention of being a Tattler victim?

Most Frustrating Experience

The "burial" in a mire of political intrigue of the successful delivery of 4 very capable frigates and their support systems into operational service with the South African Navy with no knowledge of or recognition by the South African public of neither the incredible "bang for buck" delivered nor the huge amount of local (South African) content (equipment and services) in these vessels. This primary frustration is further exacerbated by the inevitable consequence of the subsequent inadequate funding of the maintenance of these vessels which has left them in the state that they are in today.

Most Embarrassing Situations

Discovering at the age of 16 that his "little" brother was stronger than him (at least he also found out at the same time that he was faster)

Hearing my sister's junior school friends ask her why she had 3 "Dads"!

Greatest Influence

The "motto" on the badge of his high school cap and blazer - "Esse Quam Videre" - which translates most colloquially to "To be rather than to appear to be" (With apologies to the Latin purists amongst us)

<u>Dislikes</u>

Politicians, Minibus Taxi Drivers, Dishonesty, Criminals, Negative People

Did I mention Politicians? – If not, Politicians!!!

<u>Likes</u>

Real friends, uplifting social engagements, my team winning, positive people.

Well, there you have it. A man of many talents. I am not sure of how much (female) beach volley-ball was around at the time, but that would have been a pretty good reason to stay involved! (Stop Press - Doug informs me that his wife was a provincial player. So, we are on the right track then Doug?)

Thanks Doug, for your contributions, both to the club and to Tattler.



From Glen Marlow, our Club Manager

****Please be advised of the following Club notices:**

Happy Hour and 100 Club Draw. As a result of the recent Member's opinion poll held to determine the most suitable day of the week to hold the Happy Hour and 100 Club Draw function, the Committee has decided to change the date of the function to <u>every 2nd Tuesday of the month</u>. Thus, the next Happy Hour and 100 Club Draw will take place in the Club on <u>Tuesday the 12th of September 2017</u> at 17h00. Boerewors Rolls will be on sale at R25 each and the normal attendance prizes will be up for grabs.

<u>Member's Lucky Draw</u>. Congratulations to Mandy Dilley on winning the draw on Friday the 25th of August. Mandy has announced that she will donate her winnings of R5000 to TEARS. Well done Mandy. The next Draw will take place in the Club on Friday the 1st of September 2017 between 17h30 and 18h30, the exact time to be determined by the Chairman and Members need to "be in it (the Club) to win it!" Hope to see you all there: Draw R200.

Recently, a retired Warrant Officer from the South African Navy, Mark Tomlinson, visited his daughter and son-in-law in Adelaide, Australia. Whilst there, he was introduced to a friend of his son-in-law who happened to be a Member of our Sister Club, Seven Seas Club Adelaide. He was subsequently invited to a function at their Club and indicated to their Committee that although he was not a commissioned officer in the SAN, he had visited the Seven Seas Club Simon's Town annually for a number of years at the "Home to the Warrant Officers Function". The Committee subsequently gave Mark their Club Crest and asked him to kindly present it to the Seven Seas Club.



A father texts his son: "My Dear Son, Today is a day you will treasure for all the days of your life. My best love and good wishes. Your Father. "His Son texts back: "Thanks Dad. But the wedding isn't actually until tomorrow!"

His Father replies: "I know."

The clean-out of the storerooms unearthed a few old items. This made Tattler think that looking back at our Ensigns over the years may be of interest to some:

1922–1946	1946–1951	1951–1952	1952-1959
1959–1981	1981–1994	27 April 1994 - 11 November 1994	1994–present

The Month of September in Military History

September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe

September 2, 31 B.C. - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Anthony's naval force at Actium.

September 2, 1870 - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.

September 2, 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

September 2, 1962 - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, leading to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.

September 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.

September 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

September 4, 1941 -The US destroyer Greer is attacked by a German U-boat while tracking and harassing it.

September 6, 1776 - Turtle was launched (a one-man submarine), and with much effort was manoeuvred under HMS Eagle, the 64-gun, British flagship. However, the drill screw designed to attach the explosive charge failed to penetrate. Subsequent attempts were abandoned when dawn intervened, and although spotted by a British guard-boat, the pilot was able to get away with the help of the tide and the explosive charge, which he detonated in the path of his pursuers. Tattler would like to know how many of our naval members knew this!

September 7, 1940 - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.

Sep**tember 8, 1941** - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

September 8, 1944 - The first supersonic V-2 rockets are launched against London and other cities from mobile bases in Holland. Bulgaria declares war on Germany.

September 9, 1943 - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.

September 12, 1943 - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.

September 14, 1812 - Napoleon and his troops first entered Moscow as the retreating Russians set the city on fire. Napoleon found it was impossible to stay through the winter in the ruined city. He then began a retreat from Moscow which became one of the great disasters of military history. Fewer than 20,000 of the original 500,000 men with him survived the Russian campaign.

September 15, 1940 - The height of the Battle of Britain occurred as massive German air raids took place against London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. The British claimed 185 German planes were shot down.

September 15, 1941 - The US Navy begins to take over the convoying of British ships as far as Iceland, seen as an unneutral act by the German government.

September 17, 1862 - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history occurred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.

September 18, 1939 - U-29 (Kapitanleutnant Schuhart) sinks the British aircraft carrier Courageous.

September 22, 1828 - Shaka, chief of the Zulus and founder of the Zulu empire, was killed by his two half-brothers.

September 24, 1980 - War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery

September 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.

September 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

In **September/October 1988**, the Navy's largest and most successful peacetime exercise, Exercise Magersfontein, was held at Walvis Bay. The Navy demonstrated its ability to conduct operations far from its normal bases and revealed its amphibious capability by landing marines in Delta boats from SAS *Tafelberg*

General comment that some may find of interest - Tattler did! (From Journal of the South African Military History Society)):

It must be noted that, on the eve of the war (WW 2), there had been, for all intents and purposes, no armaments industry in South Africa. Within a remarkable short space of time, a formidable armaments industry had been built up and, by the end of the war, the following arms and ammunition had been produced in the country: 5 770 armoured cars, about 300 3,7-inch ordinary and pack howitzers, at least 300 6-pdr and 100 2-pdr anti-tank guns, 11 323 3-inch mortars, 4 970 502 hand-grenades, 768 314 966 rounds of .303 rifle ammunition, 2 568 652 mortar bombs, more than four million shell bodies, and 3 660 216 aerial bombs, including 3 057 717 practice bombs. Although the country's armaments industry was never specifically geared towards the struggle against Japan, certain locally manufactured items found their way to the East. For example, most of the 3,7-inch howitzers were exported to India, some of the 6-pdr anti-tank guns were exported to Burma, and many 3-inch mortars, armoured cars and hand-grenades went to India. (62)

Sixteen Fairmile 'B' motor launches were built at Cape Town and Knysna in 1942 and early 1943, all for the Royal Navy and, although these boats were not built for South Africa, they were crewed mainly by South Africans who were originally recruited by the RNVR (S A). These Fairmiles first served in the Persian Gulf and later in the Burmese Arakan front campaign against the Japanese. Thereafter, they were handed over to the Indian Navy. (63)

BIBLICAL STORY

A beautiful blonde woman runs a red traffic light and crashes into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly, neither of them are hurt.

After they crawl out of their cars, the woman says; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days. The man replies, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continues, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." She then hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman. The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?" The woman replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Adam ate the apple, too. Men will never learn...

Catholic Education

A boy named Zachary was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything: tutors, mentors, flash cards, special learning centers.

In short, everything they could think of to help his math. Finally, in a last ditch effort, they took Zachary down and enrolled him in the local Catholic school.

After the first day, little Zachary came home with a very serious look on his face. He didn't even kiss his mother hello. Instead, he went straight to his room and started studying. Books and papers were spread out all over the room and little Zachary was hard at work. His mother was amazed.

She called him down to dinner. To her shock, the minute he was done, he marched back to his room without a word, and in no time, he was back hitting the books as hard as before. This went on for some time, day after day, while the mother tried to understand what made all the difference.

Finally, little Zachary brought home his report card. He quietly laid it on the table, went up to his room and hit the books. With great trepidation, his Mom looked at it and to her great surprise, little Zachary got an "A" in math.

She could no longer hold her curiosity. She went to his room and said, "Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?" Little Zachary looked at her and shook his head, no. "Well, then," she replied, "Was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms? WHAT WAS IT?" Little Zachary looked at

her and said, "Well, on the first day of school when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around!"

The following was submitted to Tattler by Nigel Holman. Thanks for a fascinating piece Nigel.

SS Warrimoo

A FASCINATING SHORT SEA STORY

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought the master, Captain John Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0º 31' N and LON 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899.

"Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ships position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour.

At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in:

Two different days,

Two different months,

Two different years,

Two different seasons

But in two different centuries - all at the same time.

Just a thought: 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

Tattler wishes all Club Members a happy September replete with a lovely spring, but plenty of rain, particularly over the catchment areas.