

# ASMY

## The Association of Square Metre Yachts (German Rules / Seefahrtkreuser)

### Newsletter

February 2009.

This is the first ASMY newsletter since the Association was reformed. Our aim is to enable owners of Square Metre Yachts to keep in touch with one another and be the means by which news and information can be exchanged. The Association is open to anyone with an interest in Square Metre Yachts built to the German Rules, whether or not they own a yacht. These yachts are known as Seefahrtkreuser in Germany and form the majority of a group of yachts referred to as “Windfalls” in the UK.

We have been building up an address list of current Square Metre owners, and of other people who have expressed an interest in ASMY, and this newsletter is being sent to those on that list. If you know of anyone else who owns one of the boats, or who is interested in receiving news about them, please ask them to get in touch with us – even better, send us their contact details!

#### Michael Cudmore

Interest in the Square Metre Yachts has been greatly stimulated by Michael Cudmore’s book, “The Windfall Yachts: a Legacy of Goodwill”, which was published in October 2007. We are extremely sad to report that Michael Cudmore died of leukaemia in October last year. All his papers about the yachts have gone to George Hogg, who is a trustee of the National Maritime Museum in Cornwall. George Hogg is an old friend Michael Cudmore’s, and has had a long interest in the Windfall project. He intends to carry on where Michael Cudmore left off, and he is developing a database of windfall yachts.

George Hogg writes:

*“Mike and I first met as young officers at the Royal Naval Engineering College more than 50 years ago. Our careers ran along roughly the same course, except that he was a yachtsman and I am not.*

*Yes and No were too simple for Mike – I don’t ever remember him simply saying yes - it was always “Yes of course”, which included an implicit understanding that he would go the extra mile and really put himself out to help. In the same way I know that No was often the beginning of a challenge.*

*Mike’s organising ability and enthusiasm served him well in the Navy and also as an offshore yachtsman. He was a longstanding member of RNSA and was the Naval Air Command Branch Chairman from 1981 to 1986. He competed in at least three Fastnet Races  
Mike could be considered to have been the embodiment of that most loved character from the Wind in the Willows; Ratty, busy, organising, encouraging, generous, he just loved messing about in Boats.”*

Copies of Michael Cudmore's book are still obtainable. It can be ordered online at [www.windfallyachts.com](http://www.windfallyachts.com)

### **A Reunion of Windfalls in July 2010**

You probably know that Cowes Classic Week, the annual regatta at Cowes which has evolved from the *British Classic Yacht Club Regatta* (BCYC), has grown into one of the major classic boating events of the season. It now incorporates *The Metre and Classic Keelboat Regatta*, an event specifically aimed at classic racing yachts such as the International Metre classes and offering both class and IRC racing. David Elliott, the regatta's organiser, has proposed that there should be a special event for Square Metre Yachts at the **2010 Regatta**, and that we should try to get as many of the boats as possible, that are in commission, to attend. 2010 is approximately 75 years since the first boats were built, so this is a major landmark worth celebrating – and we aim to celebrate!

This is a marvellous opportunity to get the Square Metre fleet together for an historic re-union at a renowned location. It will be an opportunity to sail the yachts in company, race them against each other with our **own class start** off the famous Royal Yacht Squadron line, and of course to socialise at length! There will, of course, also be a lot of other fantastic classic yachts there to see.

If you would like to get a flavour of the regatta, details are at [www.cowesclassicweek.org](http://www.cowesclassicweek.org).

The **2010 Metre and Classic Keelboat Regatta** will be held at Cowes from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The clubs that own the 100 square metre "*Overlord*" and the 50 square metre "*Sea Scamp*" have already made a commitment to take part in the regatta and they would be delighted to have the company of some other yachts! At present we are asking for expressions of interest so that we can gauge the number of boats that are likely to attend - formal invitations will be sent out later. So, if you own a Square Metre, then please let us know whether you would like to bring your yacht to the event.

We are aware that, for those with yachts in the Netherlands, Germany and maybe further afield, just getting your yachts to Cowes is a major undertaking. If you would like to come but think you need assistance then please remember that the Offshore Cruising Club ("*Overlord*") and Sea Scamp Syndicate have around 300 experienced members between them who would be pleased to help crew. Amongst these members are over 30 RYA qualified and club approved skippers used to taking great care of these lovely yachts, so organising a delivery might even be feasible.

### **News, please!**

We hope to send out another newsletter in the autumn, and we would like to include news of any – if not all - of the Square Metre Yachts. So please write to us and let us know about your yacht – where it is based, where you have been cruising or intend to cruise, how any restoration programme is going, and any other information you think may be of interest.

***We look forward to hearing from you!***

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