

TABLE TALK / TO THE POINT :

FEBRUARY 2010

The year 2010 will be year of anniversaries; quite apart from Valentine's Day, 14 February, which we men neglect at our peril. The Union of South Africa, uniting Boers and the Brits, was established on 31 May 1910. Captain Robert Falcon Scott, the famous Antarctic Explorer, visited Simon's Town aboard the *Terra Nova* in September 1910; Simon's Town Dockyard's Selborne Graving Dock, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere at that time, was opened by HRH the Duke of Connaught on 3 November 1910 and William Froude, the renowned Scientist and Engineer who lies buried in Simon's Town, was born in Devon on 28 November, two centuries ago in 1810.

*Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls....
A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.
Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.
That means that, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon – almost as good as a hybrid car.*

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BOATBUILDING ACADEMY: The Academy opened its doors to a new group of learners on the 18th of January. A rigorous new selection process and higher entrance requirements will ensure that the Academy is training young people with potential to make a long term difference in the boat building sector. Work placement for their level 3 learners also started in January and they Academy staff are delighted to have a 100% placement record. The Academy thanks the following companies for their support and involvement: *Southern Wind, Eraco, Jacob Bros, Two Oceans Marine, Maverick Yachts, Southern Spar* and *Knysna Yacht Co.* – **CTBi Newsletter.**

His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, 'Let's go'. The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.

Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'

'Why?' asked the pilot.

'Because I'm a photographer for CNN,' he responded, 'and I need to get some close up shots.'

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me, is ... you're NOT my flying instructor?'

S.A. NAVY FESTIVAL: The S. A. Navy Festival, during which the East Dockyard and some of the ships will be open to the Public, will be held on the fourth, fifth and sixth of March this year. The event will be particularly interesting as units of the German

Navy, which will be exercising with the SAN, will be alongside. The German Naval tanker *Westerwald* arrives today (4 February) and the frigates and support ship on the fifteenth. The dry dock concert should be particularly enjoyable this year as a German Naval band will be participating. – **Brian Ingpen : Cape Times : 3 February.**

Conversation was a little subdued in the barber shop just outside the gates to the Naval Base as the local Flag Officer was ‘in the chair’ and not overly responsive to the chatting barber. After the final snips, the barber whipped off the covering towel and politely asked “Would you like me to rub some cologne on Sir?” This was met by an explosive response from the rising Vice Admiral - “Good God no! Do you want my wife to think I have been in a whorehouse?”

In the ensuing silence, the barber at the next chair looked down at its incumbent and said “I guess you won’t be wanting cologne then, Chief?” to which the recumbent Chief Stoker responded “Of course I do; slap it on! My wife wouldn’t know what a whorehouse smelt like!” - Spindrift/Spunyarn.

PHOENICIA UPDATE : The replica of a 2900 year old Phoenician galley has arrived in Richards Bay after an epic voyage down the East African coast, having started out in the Mediterranean. The unusual craft was met outside port and escorted into the harbour by more than twenty yachts and power boats. *Phoenicia*, which is manned by a team of volunteers, was built in Syria using materials similar to those used in the days of the Phoenicians; then the leading maritime nation of the Mediterranean. The expedition hopes to circumnavigate the continent of Africa to demonstrate that the story of a similar navigation recorded by the Greek historian Herodotus of a voyage made at the behest of Pharaoh Necho was feasible. The galley leaves the Zululand port for Cape Town on Wednesday 3 February and does not intend making other calls along the coast. –

Phoenecia website

Life is short. Drink the good wine first. – Anonymous.

NEW NAME : The British warship-building group ***BVT Surface Fleet*** has changed its name to ***BAE Systems Surface Fleet***, effectively removing the renowned names “Vosper” and “Thornycroft” from the shipbuilding scene and establishing the fact that warship design and construction is just part of the Aerospace Industry. Sad indeed, but considering that the bulk of the cost of a warship involves the provision of weapons systems (including costly software to make them work) and aero-engine-derived gas turbines, this move, no doubt, reflects the reality of the situation.

The old order changeth, yielding place to new. – Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892).

R.N. CUTBACKS: In order to make more money available for the war in Afghanistan, the Royal Navy has to accept cut-backs and is to lose two more ships, the Survey Vessel H.M.S. *Roebuck* and the grp Minehunter H.M.S. *Walney*. – ***Navy News : February 2010.***

Money is the sinews of love, as of war. – George Farquhar (1678 – 1707).

NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIERS : Work is progressing on Britain's two 65 000 tonne Aircraft carriers *Queen Elizabeth* and *Prince of Wales*. Contracts worth £ 333 million were placed in January bringing the total committed to date to almost £ 1,1 billion. – *Navy News : February 2010.*

It will be a brave Prime Minister indeed who is prepared to cancel this contract and face charges of “Fruitless Expenditure!!”

A BLAST FROM THE PAST : - *M. V. Resolution Bay* was launched and delivered to Overseas Container Lines (OCL) in 1977, and was one of two identical sisters built by the Bremer Vulkan Shipyard in West Germany; the other being *M. V. Mairangi Bay*. A third ship, *M. V. New Zealand Pacific* - operated by The New Zealand Shipping Company, was, apart from minor details, identical to the two *Bay* ships. The group was known collectively as the “Cape Runners.”



M. V. RESOLUTION BAY AT THE CONTAINER TERMINAL IN FREEMANTLE IN 2002. – PHOTO : JAMES FULTON LECKIE.

Owners OCL were to become P & O Containers Ltd., which merged with Nedlloyd Lines to form P & O Nedlloyd. *Resolution Bay* operated for all three entities, mainly on the service from UK and Continental ports to Australia and New Zealand via the Cape. *Resolution Bay* had a tonnage of 43,995 grt and a top speed of 23 knots. Length was 248.6m, and beam 32.3m. She was propelled by two 8 cylinder two stroke slow speed crosshead diesel engines with a total power output of 53,280 BHP. The MAN model KS8Z90/160A diesels had a 900 mm bore and 1600 mm stroke and were directly coupled to the propeller shafts, turning them at a maximum 122 rpm. Auxiliary power was provided by five 1,500 kW MaK medium speed diesel alternators. Container capacity was 2,344 TEU of which 1,223 TEU were refrigerated containers, carried in the holds. The reefer capacity was one of the largest of any class of ship at the time, and the containers when loaded in the holds were connected to the ship's brine circulation system, cooled by a large chilling plant located in the engine room. *Resolution Bay* was sold for scrap in 2002. – *Wikipedia.*

An Irishman goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Church for some years. He is amazed to find a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the wall is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. Then the priest comes in.

Excitedly, the Irishman begins... "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be."

The priest replies "Get out. You're on my side!"