

THE 2018 AWARDS

In accordance with OCC tradition, the 2018 Awards were presented at the Annual Dinner, held this year at the Sport Wales National Outdoor Centre at Plas Menai in North Wales on Saturday 6th April. A capacity crowd of 90 members were present though sadly only three Award winners, plus one relative, were able to attend in person. As in previous years, Topsail Insurance provided generous support towards the cost of the event.

Past Commodore Bill McLaren was an outstanding Master of Ceremonies. His notes were invaluable when compiling the following summary, as was the information collected from Awardees by Vice Commodore and OCC PR Officer Daria Blackwell.

Photos taken at the Dinner are by Alex Blackwell, Regional RC Ireland, and by your editor (who much prefers to be behind a camera than in front of one).

Finally, thanks are due to Fiona Jones and Eoin Robson, co-chairs of the Awards Sub-committee, and to both Fiona and Chris, Regional RCs GB, for organising such an enjoyable weekend, details of which will be found in the accompanying *Newsletter*. Further details of the history and criteria for each award will be found at <https://oceancruisingclub.org/Awards>.



Master of Ceremonies Bill McLaren

THE QUALIFIER'S MUG

Presented by Admiral (then Commodore) Mary Barton and first awarded in 1993, the Qualifier's Mug recognises the most ambitious or arduous qualifying voyage published by a member in print or online, or submitted to the OCC for future publication.

*Celebrating Christmas aboard Seamogs in Lanzarote.
Left to right: James, Tyler, Emily, Guy and Lydie*



The Qualifier's Mug for 2018 went to New Zealander **James McGaughan**, skipper of *Seamogs*, for the passage described on page 27 of this issue.

Vigo to Virginia: Seamogs and the Prudent Mariners is an enjoyable account of a passage from northwest Spain to St Lucia via the Canaries by a young and inexperienced crew – none of the five had made an ocean passage before – in a family-owned Nicholson 48. They suffer the usual gear failures and malfunctions along the way, and though James is modest and good-humoured throughout, he and his crew are clearly both competent and resourceful. They also appear to be a happy crew, who work well as a team and thoroughly enjoy the whole experience – other than getting mugged in St Lucia, though even that is treated as a learning

experience. Their interaction with local children while moored off The Pitons is vividly described and will resonate with many OCC members.

On learning that he'd won the Qualifier's Mug, James wrote:

"Good evening. Unfortunately for me I am unable to join you all this evening as by the time this is read out I will most likely be bobbing along happily somewhere in the Sargasso Sea." (He later explained that he'd be sailing *Seamogs* from the Caribbean back to the US East Coast for hurricane season.)

"A big thanks goes, of course, to the crew members who joined me aboard *Seamogs* on the Vigo to Virginia trip. They contributed more than their fair share of mischief but they were also patient, strong, hardworking and fantastic shipmates. I look forward to sailing with them again. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip, I thoroughly enjoyed writing about it and I hope you all thoroughly enjoy reading it.

Reading through the exploits of others who are receiving awards tonight I feel I am in distinguished company. I am humbled to be accepting an award at the same event as such sailors – your adventures continue to inspire me."



*Emily and 'Captain' James
running the barbecue*

THE DAVID WALLIS TROPHY

Presented by the family of David Wallis, Founding Editor of *Flying Fish*, and first awarded in 1991, this silver salver recognises the ‘most outstanding, valuable or enjoyable contribution’ to that year’s issues. The winner is decided by vote among the *Flying Fish* Editorial Sub-committee.

This year’s trophy goes to **Ellen Massey Leonard** for her article *A Penchant for the Primitive: Reflections on Spending my Twenties at Sea*, which appeared in *Flying Fish* 2018/2. Notably well-written and beautifully illustrated, it struck a chord with all on the *Flying Fish* Editorial Sub-committee. Ellen and her husband Seth are now based in Hawaii, and the Awards Sub-committee are queuing up to go and present her plaque in person! Ellen wrote:

Ellen in La Paz, Mexico in May last year



“I wish I could be with you to receive this award. It’s a great honour to be singled out, especially considering the many fascinating stories related in every issue of *Flying Fish*. I’ve been very lucky to be able to sail long distances from a young age, and it’s been a joy to be able to share those

experiences through my writing and photography, first with friends and family and then with the wider sailing community through magazines and online. To be recognised for my storytelling by the OCC, a club of such exceptional ocean sailors, means a lot, as does simply being a member of the OCC. It’s always a great feeling to drop anchor in a new port and see a friendly flying fish burgee fluttering on a nearby boat!”

In addition to back numbers of *Flying Fish* being readily available on the Club’s website, Ellen and Seth maintain an impressive blog at <https://gonefloatabout.com/>.



THE PORT OFFICER SERVICE AWARD

Introduced at the suggestion of then Rear Commodore Mark Holbrook and first presented in 2008, this award is made to one or more OCC Port Officers or Port Officer Representatives who have provided outstanding service to both local and visiting members, as well as to the wider sailing community.

The Port Officer network has rightly been described as one of the jewels in the OCC's crown and three awards were made for 2018. These went to **Mary Schempp-Berg**, Port Officer for Whangarei, New Zealand; **Dianne Tetreault**, Port Officer Representative for Beaufort, North Carolina; and **Agustín Martín**, Port Officer Representative for Las Palmas, Gran Canaria.



Mary Schempp-Berg, Port Officer for Whangarei, New Zealand

Mary has been PO in Whangarei since 2009, and her nominators praised the friendly, welcoming service she has provided to visiting cruisers over the past ten years. She and her husband David, a professional delivery skipper, live aboard their 45ft *Kismet*, and have helped many members with their practical, sensible advice and comprehensive knowledge of local services. Mary also organises an annual OCC Party, usually in April, to complement the arrival party in Opua in November and is, in their words, 'our idea of exactly what a Port Officer should be'. Mary wrote that:

"I am honoured to receive the Port Officer Service Award here in New Zealand. We are such a small country and it is great to see so

many OCC overseas boats come in. I work in the marine industry, in a chandlery in Whangarei, so I have a chance to meet people either while working or in a social environment here at Riverside Drive Marina."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Second awardee was **Dianne Tetreault**, POR for Beaufort, North Carolina. Her nominations stressed her enthusiasm for both Beaufort and the OCC, the warmth of her welcome to new arrivals, her expertise at securing scarce berths for visiting OCC members, her offers of transport and other assistance, and the way she organises impromptu get-togethers to introduce visitors to local members. Very well-known locally, she is involved with the maritime museum and the Christmas decorated boat parade and, most importantly, is known to the staff of all the marinas she recommends. She was summed up by different nominators as offering 'All the things you need of a



Dianne Tetreault, POR for Beaufort, North Carolina

PO – and a lot more besides!’, and as one who has indeed ‘provided outstanding service to both local and visiting members, as well as to the wider sailing community’.

When she learned of her win Dianne wrote:

“First I want to thank the OCC members who back in early 2017 found me in Beaufort, North Carolina and then gave me the amazing opportunity to be a small part of this awesome organisation. What a thrill it has been! It has been a true honour and privilege to serve as a Port Officer Representative and to connect with your members who chose – for whatever reason – to stop in my little corner of the world.

I love being able to reconnect with my past sailing life and at the same time provide a service to cruisers – whether as simple as a ride to the store, finding the right marina or anchorage, or introducing them to Southern Hospitality. I have to say that this is the best job I have ever had! To all my new friends who have passed through Beaufort, I thank you for this award. I look forward to seeing the flying fish on the horizon and handing out my jars of local Beaufort peanuts to all who pass through in the future.”



The winner of the third Port Officer Services Award is **Agustín Martin**, POR for Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. Agustín previously won the Award for 2016, and plainly his standards have not slipped since then as despite living on the opposite side of

the island he goes out of his way to contact every OCC boat passing through, and many non-members join after their first contact with him.

In addition to recommending all kinds of services, from medical to rug cleaning to local restaurants – and frequently



Agustín Martin, POR for Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, receives his Port Officer Service Award plaque from Commodore Simon Currin

offering transport where necessary – he invites members to his home and throws an annual party for visiting cruisers. He assisted one boat by standing in for a crewmember who was injured, and was summed up by his nominator as ‘a superb ambassador for his island, his country and the OCC’. We were very pleased that he could join us at the Annual Dinner to receive his award in person.



THE OCC EVENTS AND RALLIES AWARD

This award, open to all members, recognises any Member, Port Officer or Port Officer Representative who has organised and run an exceptional rally or other event.

The OCC Events and Rallies Award for 2018 went to **José Henrique Azevedo**, for his pivotal role as owner of Peter Café Sport in initiating and facilitating last June’s Azores Pursuit Rally to Horta on the island of Faial. José put his heart and soul into the event and throughout the entire week was never seen without a smile on his face – the perfect host! Our Port Officer Representative for Horta since 2007, he was elected to Honorary Membership at the 2019 AGM.

The Rally was held as part of the centenary celebrations of the famous Café, opened by José’s grandfather in 1918 and run for many years by his father ‘Peter’, a great friend of our Founder Humphrey Barton. It attracted some 44 OCC yachts and upwards of 180 members and their guests, making it one of the largest gatherings of members in the history of our Club. Detailed and



José Henrique Azevedo receives his plaque for the OCC Events and Rallies Award from Commodore Simon Currin

enthusiastic reports of the event – which featured walks, cycle rides, tours, whale watching, visits to the neighbouring island of Pico, barbecues and dinners – featured in last September’s Newsletter. Visit the Peter Café Sport website at <https://petercafesport.com/>.

We were delighted that José and his wife Maria were able to be with us for the weekend so that he could receive his award in person.



José behind his ‘desk’ in Peter Café Sport, Horta

THE WATER MUSIC TROPHY

Presented by Past Commodore John Foot and named after his succession of yachts all called *Water Music*, this set of meteorological instruments set into a wooden cube was first awarded in 1986. It recognises a significant contribution to the Club in terms of providing cruising, navigation or pilotage information, and is open to members only.



Helen Norris receives Mike's Water Music Trophy plaque from Commodore Simon Currin

2018/2 and on page of this issue. Further practical information and many more photos are to be found in their blogs – <https://islanddriftermediterranean2017.blogspot.com/>, www.islanddriftergreece2018.blogspot.com – followed this year by www.islanddriftergreece2019.blogspot.com as they head for the Cyclades Islands. A brief dip into any of their blogs will show how the neat layout makes it easy to check out a particular harbour, while their hand-drawn chartlets are very helpful to those unfamiliar with the area.

Mike had already returned to Greece to prepare *Island Drifter* for her next cruise, but we were delighted that Helen was still in the UK and able to accept the award on his behalf.

Mike Norris enjoying a moussaka at a bakaliko in Leros

The 2018 Water Music Trophy was awarded to **Mike Norris** of *Island Drifter* for the reports that he and Helen have produced about their explorations of the Greek coastline and islands. It would have gone to both Mike and Helen, but she was not a member at the time of the award. That technicality has now been resolved, however, and she has since joined.

In early 2017 Mike and Helen set off east across the Mediterranean via the Balearics, Sicily, Malta, Crete and the Greek islands. They wrote up their passage, including brief descriptions of the places visited en route and some useful pilotage information, in *Flying Fish* 2017/2 under the title *Our Greek Odyssey*. Since then they have cruised many of the islands fringing the Aegean Sea as well as Greece's northern coast, as described in *Flying Fish*



THE VASEY VASE

Donated by past Commodore Tony Vasey and his wife Jill, and first awarded in 1997, this handsome trophy recognises an unusual or exploratory voyage made by an OCC member or members.

Roving Rear Commodores **Andy and Sue Warman** left the UK in 2009 to embark on a slow circumnavigation, initially in an Ohlson 38 before upsizing to a Hallberg Rassy 42,



*Sue and Andy in Yap in March 2018.
The flower head-dresses – known as
nunus – were a gift from a local woman*

both yachts called *Spruce*. In 2017 they sailed from Malaysia via Borneo and West Papua to Micronesia, as described on page 93 of this issue under the title *Sailing The Ring Of Fire, Part 1. Part 2*, covering the Japanese coast and north to the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, is promised for *Flying Fish* 2019/2.

Further details of this unusual route will be found on their blog at www.sailblogs.com/member/littlegreenboat as well as in their Roving RC reports for the *Newsletter* and in the Cruising Information part of the OCC Forum. Full time liveaboards, they had already begun their 2019 cruise by the time of the Annual Dinner, but sent a message to be read out:

“Thank you for this award of the Vasey Vase. We were most pleasantly surprised to be contacted by Anne and advised of the unexpected honour.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to be here with you.

We have already recommenced cruising and will be somewhere in British Columbia by now. Towards the end of the summer we shall point our bow southwards towards Mexico and Central America.

We wish you all an enjoyable event, and our congratulations go to the evening’s other award winners.”

Sue and Andy in North West Fjord, Alaska in July 2018 – four months and 6000 miles after balmy, tropical Yap



THE AUSTRALIAN TROPHY

First awarded in 1990, the Australian Trophy was donated by Sid Jaffe, twice Rear Commodore Australia. Carved from a solid piece of teak by Wally Brandis, it is awarded for a voyage made by an Australian member or members which starts or finishes in Australia. The winner is decided by vote of the Australian membership.

The 2018 Australian Trophy was presented at the South Eastern Australian quarterly gathering, held at the Sydney Flying Squadron on 18th December 2018. The very worthy recipient was **John Vallentine**, in recognition of his lifetime of adventure sailing, mainly aboard his Formosa 46 *Tainui*, in all parts of the globe including the Antarctic, Arctic and the Russian river system (see *Following the Volga Vikings* in *Flying Fish* 2013/2). This passage, from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea via the Rivers Volga and Don, gave rise to a book co-authored with Maxine Maters which is both a cruising guide and travel tale. Entitled *Sailing through Russia – From the Arctic to the Black Sea*, it was very favourably reviewed in *Flying Fish* 2016/2.

John first went to sea as a cabin boy in a Norwegian coal ship after second year medicine, and has never been far away from the water since. His love of the ocean and sailing has seen many forms from ocean racing to cruising remote areas. He continues a strong connection with the seas by providing services to ships engaged in the refugee situation in Europe.

More details of both the event and the presentation will be found in the March 2019 *Newsletter*.

John Maddox, RRC SE Australia Paul Furniss, and recipient John Vallentine with the Australian Trophy



THE VERTUE AWARD

The Vertue Award is presented to a member in North America for an outstanding voyage or for service to the Club. Named after *Vertue XXXV*, in which OCC Founder Humphrey Barton crossed the North Atlantic in 1950, it was created in 2014 to commemorate the Club's 60th anniversary. Awardees are selected by North American Regional Rear Commodores.

The 2018 Vertue Award was presented to **Tony Gooch** in September 2018 during a dinner at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club during the British Columbia Rally, as reported in the December *Newsletter*.

Tony is an internationally known and respected yachtsman, who with his wife Coryn has served the OCC in a variety of capacities for nearly 20 years, beginning in 2000 when they volunteered to become Port Officers for Victoria, BC, later becoming Regional Rear Commodores for West Coast North America. He was elected to the Committee in 2013 and to the Board as Vice Commodore two years later, finishing his three-year term in April 2018.

During the 51 years that Tony and Coryn have been married they have been boatless for a total of only 18 months. Their first boat was *Mistral*, an Arpege 29, in which they covered some 60,000 miles, while their current vessel is a 32ft powerboat, *Nordic Saga*. By far the best known, however, is the 42ft aluminium sloop *Taonui* which they owned from 1996 until six or seven years ago. Having covered many miles in her together, in 2002/3 Tony made the first solo non-stop circumnavigation from the West Coast of North America – written up for *Flying Fish* 2003/2, when *Taonui* also featured on the cover, and for which he received the Barton Cup. Tony and Coryn reckon to have covered some 220,000 miles at sea over the years.



Coryn and Tony Gooch, with Tony's Vertue Award



THE OCC AWARD

The Club's oldest award, dating back to 1960, the OCC Award recognises valuable service to the OCC or to the ocean cruising community as a whole. It was decided in 2018 that two awards should normally be made each year – one to a member, for service to the OCC; the other, open to both members and non-members, for service to the ocean cruising community as a whole.

The 2018 OCC Award (member) went to **Dick Guckel** in recognition of his 25 years' service to the OCC, primarily for founding the e-Bulletin way back in 1994 – only two years after the World Wide Web was introduced in the UK and before it became widespread in the US. Having created the e-Bulletin – and in passing compiled the first list of OCC members' e-mail addresses – he continued to produce it every month without fail until his retirement in December last year. The only time it was delayed was when our previous website went down and took days to resurrect. Throughout this time he achieved an enviable 'opening rate' in comparison with comparable mailings. Where most association newsletters get an opening rate of around 20%, the e-Bulletin has consistently achieved 60% or more, the envy of industry professionals. Dick joined the Committee in 2010 as soon as virtual attendance was introduced, going on to serve for seven years on the Committee and as a Rear Commodore. In addition to receiving the OCC Award he was elected to Honorary Membership at the 2019 AGM.

Dick began sailing in Boston Harbor in 1983, but two years later was transferred to Dublin by his employer, IBM. While there he commissioned a Vancouver 32, *Charles Ogalin*, from a company in the UK, and being relatively inexperienced hired a professional skipper with whom to sail her back to the US. He says that he learned a lot from his skipper during the 26-day passage, which stood him in good stead when



*Dick and Suzi Guckel
in Alaska*

cruising the Massachusetts and Maine coasts and taking part in events such as the Marion, Massachusetts to Bermuda race. A few years later he and his wife Suzi took *Charles Ogalin* south down the Intracoastal Waterway, visiting the Bahamas several times as well as Cuba. In 2001 they headed back north to Maine, finally selling *Charles Ogalin* after 20 years of ownership and replacing her with a 36ft trawler yacht which they named *Cerca Trova* (seek and find). They sailed her in Maine for 11 years, but in 2018 'swallowed the anchor' and are now enjoying a maintenance-free life.

On learning that he was to receive the OCC Award Dick wrote to tell us that:

"I am sorry that I am unable to attend the 2019 Annual General Meeting. It would have been wonderful to revisit my OCC friends and to see Wales.

I am very appreciative that the OCC has decided to present me with the OCC Award for 2018. I have very much enjoyed being e-Bulletin editor as well as being part of the Board and Committee. Although Suzi and I have sold our boat, we will continue to be OCC members."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The 2018 OCC Award (open) went to non-member **Des Cason**, a 'retired' ocean cruiser based in Kloof, some 20 miles inland from Durban, who has sailed the east coast of South Africa, the Mozambique Channel and the coasts of Madagascar and Tanzania extensively. Now he offers invaluable weather and routing advice to all who wish to use his services while crossing the Indian Ocean or rounding the Cape of Good Hope – famously difficult waters where many yachts have got into trouble over the years. And this is a free service – he does it because he cares.

Des's plaque was presented to him in South Africa, but he sent a message to be read out at the Dinner:

"Being honoured by this prestigious and respected organisation with an award ranks as the biggest surprise in a life which has not been devoid of surprises.

The most common question I have to contend with is why I spend a minimum of five hours each morning – usually over a nine month period – with weather forecasts and route planning without compensation for people I don't know and quite often I never get to meet. My normal response is that it keeps me out of mischief (at my age that is only a vague memory!) and dispels boredom. Both are just conversation stoppers, as in fact I do this as 'pay back' to the cruising community for the friendship, assistance and generosity



my wife Nell and I experienced over a 13 year period and 40,000 miles while cruising *Gambit*, our 31ft Muira monohull.

I am of the opinion that the sailing/cruising community, regardless of nationality, are the only sane people left on earth and as I can't change the world the least I can do is make a positive contribution to these very special people who I am privileged to share a very brief relationship with whilst they transit our notoriously dangerous coastline. If I can prevent one sailor from getting in harm's way then I have served my purpose, hence I will under no circumstances attempt to monetize this service as I know this would reduce the participation by at least 95% which is contrary to the objective. As we all know, sailors – and especially cruisers – love FREE STUFF!

Thank you for the honour bestowed on me, and I would like to assure you and the cruising community that as long as I am able I will continue in this endeavour. Luckily I can't be fired, as slaves are sold! As I am pretty advanced in years, I am desperately looking for a successor who has done his or her time in this area, as it would be pretty stupid and presumptuous to assume I am blessed (or cursed) with immortality."



THE OCC JESTER AWARD

Donated by the Jester Trust as a way to perpetuate the spirit and ideals epitomised by Blondie Hasler and Mike Richey aboard the junk-rigged Folkboat *Jester*, this award recognises a noteworthy singlehanded voyage or series of voyages made in a vessel of 30ft or less overall, or a contribution to the art of singlehanded ocean sailing. It was first presented in 2006 and is open to both members and non-members.



The 2018 OCC Jester Award went to 38 year old **Szymon Kuczyński**, the Polish skipper of *Atlantic Puffin*, for his 270-day non-stop singlehanded circumnavigation via the three Great Capes with no outside

Szymon Kuczyński
with stores for
the voyage

Below in Atlantic Puffin

assistance. Szymon left from the Mayflower Marina in Plymouth, UK late on Saturday 19th August 2017 and returned there on Thursday 17th May 2018. It is jaw-

dropping to learn that *Atlantic Puffin*, a Maxus 22, is just 6.36m (just under 21ft) overall, and has no engine – no wonder it was a new world record.

In 2013 Szymon sailed his 5m, home-built *Lilla My* across the Atlantic and back, and between 2014 and 2016 completed a circumnavigation aboard *Atlantic Puffin* but making several stops en route. The boat, built at Poland's Northman shipyard, was modified for the challenges of ocean sailing with additional strengthening of the hull and rigging, and minimal interior fittings. She is claimed to retain buoyancy even if damaged and completely flooded.

When Szymon was told of the award he replied:

"I am incredibly honoured that such a respected association as the Ocean Cruising Club has noticed and admired my cruise. Unfortunately, despite



my sincere wishes, my professional obligations will not allow me to come to Plas Menai on 6th April. It is very sad that I will not be able to collect the prize personally but it is unfortunately due to arrangements I had made long before I was informed about the trophy. Most likely the soonest I will be visiting UK is for the Rolex Fastnet start."

He adds that he is "well-known for my weakness for tasty sweets, reading books and peace of mind".

Visit his website at <http://www.zewoceanu.pl/> (only a small part of it in English, sadly) and photo gallery at photos.app.goo.gl/iMO5DfXcCkFWzPTt2.

THE OCC SEAMANSHIP AWARD

Donated by Past Commodore John Franklin and first presented in 2013, this award recognises feats of exceptional seamanship and/or bravery at sea. It is open to both members and non-members.

Recipient of the OCC Seamanship Award for 2018 was **Dustin Reynolds**, recognised for his outstanding courage and tenacity as a double amputee in setting out to circumnavigate alone, so far making it more than halfway around the globe in his 35ft Alberg sloop *Tiama*.

In 2008 Dustin became a double amputee, losing an arm and a leg in a motorcycle accident. He did not allow this to become a catastrophe, however, but instead used it as a defining moment to create change in his life ... by learning to sail. In June 2014 he left from Hawaii aboard *Tiama* – built in 1968 and acquired for just US \$12,000 – and headed for Thailand, where he spent two years. By November 2018 he had crossed the Indian Ocean to South Africa and, after a side-trip to Antarctica aboard another yacht, left to cross the South Atlantic, making landfall in St Helena on 18th April 2019.

Dustin's spirit, determination and seamanship prove that any obstacle can be overcome with attitude and perseverance. Anyone who uses his teeth to tail his main halyard due to the fact he has only one arm and his boat doesn't have self-tailing winches shows an incredibly high level of commitment! Handling a small, unsophisticated boat in the Indian Ocean takes skill and bravery, but to choose to do so as a double amputee demonstrates Dustin's determination to follow his dream in the face of adversity. His aim was to seek a different way of life and the life he has chosen is inspirational.

Dustin's plaque was presented to him in March, at an event in Cape Town attended by some 70 ocean cruisers, but he sent a few words to be read out at the Annual Dinner:

"I am truly honoured to be receiving this award from the OCC,



because it is a club of sailors that have crossed oceans. I am also humbled to receive an award previously presented to Lisa Blair and Gavin Reid. Being part of a fraternity of explorers and adventurers has been a lifelong dream that I feel has come true with becoming part of the world cruising community.

Thank you again. Aloha.”

*Masthead
selfie...*

Visit Dustin’s website at
<http://www.thesinglehandedsailor.com/>.



THE OCC LIFETIME CRUISING AWARD

First presented in 2018 and open to both members and non-members, the OCC Lifetime Cruising Award recognises a lifetime of noteworthy ocean voyaging.

The 2018 OCC Lifetime Cruising Award went to **Lin Pardey** (a member since 1977) and her husband **Larry** (non-member), for their 50+ years of ocean cruising, two engineless circumnavigations and many inspirational books and DVDs.

Among the world’s best-known and most experienced cruising sailors, having

covered more than 200,000 miles at sea, the Pardeys have inspired countless thousands of sailors to go cruising as a lifestyle. By the time they met in 1965, Larry was already an experienced bluewater sailor, but it was a new world for Lin. They were aged 26 and 21 respectively. Almost immediately they set to work building their first boat, an engineless 24ft 7in cutter to a design by Lyle Hess, which they named *Seraffyn*. She was launched in October 1968 and they headed out with two guiding principles – they would ‘go



*Larry and Lin on
board Seraffyn in 1970.
Photo Waldon Jones*

small, go simple, go now' and keep going 'as long as it's fun'. Over the following 11 years they sailed *Seraffyn* some 45,000 miles on a slow eastabout circumnavigation which included a detour to the Baltic, three years

in the Mediterranean, and across the Indian and Pacific Oceans back to her home port of Newport Beach, California.

Taleisin was commissioned from the same designer in 1977 and built by Larry and Lin halfway up a mountainside in California. Launched in October 1983, she is 29ft 6in on deck, with teak planking and bronze floors and hanging knees. Immensely strong, Lin described her some years ago as a 'seagoing tractor' – though a remarkably fast one.

Following a number of Pacific passages while putting shoreside roots down in New Zealand, they set off to circumnavigate westabout via South Africa, northern Europe, the US East Coast, and then south to round Cape Horn and through the Beagle Channel – some 80,000 miles in all, again without an engine or sophisticated electronics. Between times, and to help pay the cruising bills, they delivered yachts all over the world, covering another 60,000 or so ocean miles.

Seraffyn



Taleisin of Victoria in 2005. Photo Darren Emmens



Between – or perhaps during – long ocean passages they found time to write a dozen books and create five videos and another five DVDs, which have provided inspiration and instruction to a whole generation of cruising sailors. All their advice is based on solid, first-hand knowledge, generally melding practicality with economy, unlike all too much cruising advice which assumes a bottomless purse.

Apologising that she was unable to travel to the Annual Dinner from her home in New Zealand, Lin sent an acceptance video in which she described her and Larry's first meeting with OCC Founder Hum Barton and his wife Mary aboard *Rose Rambler* in Malta in 1976, and how they had become friends almost instantly. At that time she and Larry were part-way

through their first circumnavigation and Hum naturally encouraged them to join. With no joint membership back then, and being on a tight budget, only Lin took up the offer, but they never regretted it and felt as though they had friends wherever they went, as well as being helped out by various POs and making friends whom Lin is still close to.

She finished by telling us that although Larry was now in residential care, no longer able to communicate or to remember their sailing days, if he had known of this joint award he would have been glowing with pride. For herself she was a little concerned, however – the name of the award could imply that her cruising life is over, which it is not. She is back out sailing, and looks forward to meeting more OCC members and sailing into new anchorages with the OCC burgee flying.

Visit the Pardey's website at <http://www.landlpardey.com> and Lin's podcast at <http://landlpardey.com/POD.html>.



Lin and Larry aboard Taleisin in 2012. Photo Nic Compton

THE OCC BARTON CUP

The Club's premier award, named after OCC Founder Humphrey Barton and donated by his adult children, twins Peter Barton and Pat Pocock, the Barton Cup was first presented in 1981. It recognises an exceptional or challenging voyage or series of voyages made by an OCC member or members.

Australian member and veteran voyager **Bill Hatfield** received the 2018 Barton Cup for his recently-completed westabout circumnavigation south of the three Great Capes in his Northshore 38 *L'Eau Commotion*, which included a particularly difficult and protracted passage around Cape Horn.

Setting off on 23rd July 2017 from Scarborough Marina in Queensland, Australia, Bill set a course west across the Southern Indian Ocean, past the Cape of Good Hope, and north to within 10 miles of El Hierro in the Canary Islands. He then returned south to round Cape Horn, where *L'Eau Commotion* sustained



*Bill on 27th January 2018,
with Cape Horn in the
background*



damage, first to her rig and then to her steering. The storm-damaged rig seriously slowed progress to windward, and yet he persevered for weeks in the frigid waters of Drake's Passage before steering failure forced him to return to Port Stanley for repairs. This was not the first time that Bill had made the Falklands his retreat – he had been forced to do the same in the voyage for which he won the Australian Award in 2016.

*L'Eau Commotion and Bill's
previous boat, Katherine Ann,
in Port Stanley, April 2018*

*Bill Hatfield
is presented
with the
Barton Cup
for 2018 by
Commodore
Simon Currin*

*L'Eau
Commotion
under emergency
steering while
heading back to
the Falklands*



With *L'Eau Commotion* repaired, Bill left Stanley to complete a less eventful, late season, rounding of Cape Horn and a passage across the Pacific to end his circumnavigation back in Scarborough Marina on 12th September 2018 nearly 14 months after departure.

Bill's ambition and determination would be remarkable at any age, but is extraordinary for a man in his late 70s. Every twist and turn of his epic voyage is told in his beautifully written blog at <https://www.sailblogs.com/member/leaucommotion/407102/>.

We were honoured that Bill had flown in from Australia to attend the Annual Dinner and receive his award.

