

More Letters

Please send your Letters to the editor c/o Stour Sailing Club or email: BowspritSSC@hotmail.com

AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES

Dear Editor,

I am not particularly well versed in modern artists but I do know that two stand out as giants in their field – Picasso and Dali. However I would be pleased to argue, in any gathering of experts, that these two names should be added a third – Graham Ponteh – and perhaps place it at the top.

I can advance this belief with the confidence that comes from witnessing some of Graham's futuristic works, and from a study of the framed Zeppelin, present on the wall of the clubhouse bar. For, unlike the other painters mentioned, Graham combines inventiveness with his prowess with brush or pen. Surely his airship design, combining simplicity with economy, air propulsion, with attention to comfort and safety allows our club to trumpet the chasm we have, in this member, a genius not only of the palette, but the drawing board as well.

The framed print of the Zeppelin is accompanied by Graham's own careful notes. It would be pointless to repeat them, save to mention the skill with which they are penned. But I will, from my close study, draw attention to a few of the cleverer factors. Firstly of course, the actual concept. Who else than a designer of awesome imagination would conceive an airship with sails? But progressing from there, observe the wealth of little touches – the walkways between the masts, the generous balustrades and even the street lamp complete with weather cock to show direction of travel. I particularly like the crew salvation system whereby a choice is given either to drink the wine barrels dry and save the ship or go with it to sweet oblivion. Perhaps above all, is the emphasis upon comfort – the well equipped bar in the wheelhouse, the spacious walkways and cosy suspended homes. The airship could transport whole families in comfort,

gently girdling the globe at no cost whatsoever!

In fact, now I think of it, this design is too clever just to entertain members of the club. Perhaps Graham has added commercial acumen to his skill with a draughtsmans pen? Maybe he has spotted a hole in the housing market? For with the pressure on land, a developer with the connivance of a grasping Government maybe persuaded to buy up chunks of prime air space. The sites would be state licensed. The highest rents would command the best views.

A showpiece airship could be constructed and moored over the visitors buoy. After all, is not 'location, location, location' the name of the game? Will not any estate agent tell you that, when selling a plot, position is everything? And what better location could there be than a home commanding magnificent views over The Stour? Come to think about it, I think I'll reserve my plot while prime air space is still available!

Yours

RICHARD ROADNIGHT

Brantham

Postscript

Impressive though this airship is, my spies tell me an even more breathtaking machine is on Graham's drawing board – a gaff-rigged submarine. Just think of it – a choice of sailing above the seas or below them!

SEE ABOVE

Dear Editor,

I was wondering whether you could show that pretty young lady taking out your rubbish from the club office?

Yours

BEN DOVER

Via email



SNILER

Many thanks for the extremely useful Guide to Essex English. When we lived in Dedham at the end of the war (1939-1945), my mother, Mrs Naylor, was always known as Sniler because that is what the locals quite respectfully called her.

Best wishes

HEW NAYLOR

Via email

The full Guide to Essex English can be found on our website:

www.stoursailingclub.co.uk

in the meantime, enjoy this example:

ARIJARBA Is not in the Arabian Gulf. It lies at the end of this very estuary, opposite Felixstowe.

Notice

Film Night 26 April 2005

Red Lion, Manningtree

The sailing club is organising a historic films night featuring archival films of the local area, River Stour and a 1970's Stour Sailing Club Regatta.

Contact Tim Goodwin for details on: 01206 395114.

Watch out for posters in the club.

Checklist

Items that should be in this posting along with *Bowsprit*:

- A nomination form for Office or Committee
- An invoice for subscriptions and fees. Please follow the instructions and either bring the whole form and fee to the AGM or post them to the clubhouse. The receipt portion will be returned. Cheques are preferred rather than cash. You are asked on the invoice for information on occupation if it has changed from last year. This will not be published and will be held confidentially for advice.