



SCANNER

NEWSLETTER of the SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY



No. 676

November 2025

Hon. Secretary: Adam Ratcliffe - Mob: 07771693424, email: adam.ratcliffe007@gmail.com.

Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088504665729>

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Future Meetings;

December 16th - A.G.M & Andy Skarstein - Solent Shipping Review 2025.

2026

January 27th - Martyn Davies - Continued views from the Ferry.

February 23rd - Mervyn Rowlinson - life of U-Boat Commander, Julius Fritz Lemp.

March 31st - *Members Evening; Alternative Transport, Trains, Planes & More!*

April 28th - Richard Jolliffe - Hamburg and the Elbe.

May 28th - Chris Dorman - Panama Canal + More!

June 30th - *Members Evening; Red Funnel, evening cruise departure 18.00pm.*

July 28th - Paul Gosling - Even more Gandabouting.

Society News;

It was good to see eight, yes EIGHT, active members of the Society at the Ocean Liner Society - Ship Show at Alton on 15th. Myself and Colin Morant had stalls of memorabilia, postcards & books, whilst others were visitors. A great day had by all!

Also I'm happy to see that evening presentations are attracting 8-12 people each time, which is good numbers! So thanks to all who come along to support meetings.

SOLENT SHIPPING NEWS - NOVEMBER

- **SHETLAND TRADER** - had a small incident on the River Mersey in Cowes on Tuesday 4th. The incident involved a yacht moored in the river. On its way in, it lost engine power, HM Coastguard said, resulting in a collision with moored yachts. No further investigation took place and no casualties reported.
- **CONDOR VOYAGER** - arrived in Poole for the last time on the 2nd and will be the last day that Condor Voyager operates from Poole under her current name, and in Condor livery. She'll return in December as Voyager in Brittany Ferries livery.
- **GRANDE AUCKLAND** - arrived in Southampton from Antwerp at end of her maiden voyage on the 6th before leaving that night heading back to Far East via La Reunion. She is the second of seven new ammonia-ready PCTC carriers for Grimaldi delivered on the 10th September from Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding in Shanghai. She is; 77,463 gross, 21,707 dwt, 200 x 38m & 9241 ceu, with four moveable decks for heavy loads up to 250 tonne loads and 6.5m height.
- After sailing 159nm from Southampton, **RED FALCON** has arrived safely at A&P Falmouth for her annual refit on Friday 7th.
- **DC OSTEND** - has spent a couple of months operating in the Itchen and Shoreham, seems to have ended. As yesterday she arrived at Frederikshavn in Denmark from Ijmuiden.
- **BYD JINAN** - departed Southampton on the 13th November. The ship is the last of eight new car carriers, with a capacity of 9,000 cars, procured by the Chinese electric vehicle maker.

NON SOLENT NEWS

- The **ROYAL DAFFODIL**, the first new Mersey Ferry to be built in 60 years has taken to the water for the first time. Confirmed in 2023, construction began last autumn on the first vessel to be built to cross the river since the 1960s. The new ferry took to water for the first time on Thursday 6th. The mayor of Liverpool said that; "Ferries will be going on long after all of us are here and hopefully we'll see a new generation of people wanting to travel on this because the spec is just outstanding and it genuinely is a bit like a cruise liner when you're going to get on it."



GRANDE AUCKLAND - arriving at SGL from Antwerp at end of maiden voyage on the 6th.

Photo: David Hornsby



GRANDE AUCLAND - arriving at SGL from Antwerp at end of maiden voyage on the 6th.

Photo: David Hornsby



During November, Dutch landing craft were operating in the Solent and Southampton. LCU L9528 was seen returning to Marchwood on 2nd November.

Photo: Chris Brooks



EMMY SCHULTE outward bound in Southampton Water on 8th November from Fawley.

Photos: Chris Brooks

CRUISE SHIP NEWS - NOVEMBER

- **COSTA DIADEMA** - will make two calls to Southampton in May 2026.
- As previously reported Crescent Seas, a new residential cruising start up, would be chartering the **SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR** & the **OCEANIA INSIGNIA** in 2026 and 2027 respectively. However it has been announced that Crescent Seas will not be chartering the ships from Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH), the ships owners. The lease agreements signed in March 2025 for both ships was terminated on prior to 30th Sept 2025 and that the NCLH had received a nominal fee. The lease deals were 10-year charters with a buy option at the conclusion of the 10-year term. A spokesperson for Crescent Seas said: *"Through hundreds of conversations with potential buyers, it became clear that demand for larger, more customisable residences far exceeded expectations. In response, Crescent Seas is evolving its strategy — transitioning focus from existing ships to the new build as the primary vessel anchoring the brand's future. This pivot reflects both market validation and a deepened understanding of what high-net-worth (HNW) buyers want: more space, flexibility, and participation in the design of their homes."*
In a letter sent to Regent guests on Nov. 5 said, the NAVIGATOR will stay with Regent fleet. She will undergo a multi-million-dollar dry-dock that was already planned for late 2026, The 1999-built Navigator is currently deployed through to October 2026 in Europe & is the oldest and smallest ship in the Regent fleet at 490 guests. The Insignia is deployed through to November 2027 in Europe, but no mention of the ship's future as of yet. **THEN** on the 10th November, Regent announced it has ordered a third Prestige-class ship for delivery in 2033, following the debut of SEVEN SEAS PRESTIGE next year and a sister ship in 2030.
- The Cruise Line **EXPLORIS EXPEDITION & CRUISES** closed operations on the 7th November after only two years in operation. The company was founded in 2022 as a French start-up expedition line. Exploris was planning new builds and a charter of EXPLORIS ONE to Adventure Canada in 2026 for 106 days however this fell through and the company lost a potential 4 million investment to keep the company afloat, that up till then had been performing well!

CRUISE SHIP IN FOCUS - DELFIN CLIPPER - Built 1989, Rauma Yards, Finland. - 6,072gt - 14 knots.

Due to the news above, I thought this month I'd feature this ship as it has had an intriguing history over the years. Starting life in Finland in the Rauma Yards as a pair of sisters ordered by Delfin Cruises of also Finland. The idea behind Delfin Cruises was to offer passengers personalized service in a calm and unhurried environment. The ship was a new and high-class cruise ship, which only took on board 300 passengers. This proved to small and the ship was chartered to Sally Cruise. *Enjoy the rest of the ship's history below!*

Ship Name	Owner / Operator	In Service	Notes
DELFIN CLIPPER	<i>Delfin Cruises</i>	(1989-1990)	Original operator chartered to Sally Cruise when her bigger sister, DELFIN CARAVELLE was launched.
SALLY CLIPPER	<i>Charter: Sally Cruise</i>	(1990-1992)	Chartered to replace the now burnt out SALLY ALBATROSS.
BALTIC CLIPPER	<i>Charter: Baltic Link</i>	(1992)	Very short term charter from June until October 1992 running between Norrköping and Riga. Baltic Link themselves only lasted until January 93.
DELFIN STAR	<i>Ocean Trade Chartering</i>	(1992-1997)	Chartered to various operators where information is extremely sparse. She mainly did casino cruises in the Hong Kong area.
DREAM 21	<i>Samsung Heavy Industries</i>	(1997-2001)	It is very unclear what actual role this ship had. Various sources suggest she was used to understand shipbuilding, and stripped down internally to the frame and rebuilt. Others suggest she was used as a private yacht for the Samsung owner family.
WORLD DISCOVERER (2)	<i>Society Expeditions</i>	(2001-2004)	Entered service in 2002 as a replacement for WOLD DISCOVERER (1). Society went bankrupt in 2004
WORLD ADVENTURER	<i>Delta Steamship, Nassau Bahamas</i>	(2004-2008)	Not to be confused with Delta SteamBOAT Co. It seems this was the owner of the ship until sold.
PRINCE ALBERT II	<i>Silversea Expeditions</i>	(2008-2011)	SILVERSEA got into financial troubles with the purchase and rebuilding, and had been supported by credit given by the Société des Bains de mer, Monaco. When the lent money was repaid in 2011, the vessel was renamed into the SILVERSEA nomenclatur as SILVER EXPLORER.
SILVER EXPLORER	<i>Silversea Expeditions</i>	(2011-2023)	
EXPLORIS ONE	<i>Exploris Expedition & Cruises</i>	(2023-2025)	Shut down operations on the 7th November. What's next?? Who's knows.....

Southampton NOVEMBER Visitors;

VENTURA [1, 15, 19], IONA [1, 8, 22], DISNEY FANTASY [1, 3], QUEEN ANNE [2, 16, 26, 30], SKY PRINCESS [2, 14], AURORA [2, 26], QUEEN VICTORIA [6, 10, 22], MSC POESIA [7, 14, 21, 28], QUEEN MARY 2 [7, 19], AIDA NOVA [13, 27], BALMORAL [13, 27], ARCADIA [17], MSC VIRTUOSA [20].

Portsmouth NOVEMBER Visitors;

HAMBURG [3], BOREALIS [7, 12, 26], SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE [8, 22], AMEDEA [13], SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY [29]

CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS

*****Maiden Call***



ONE RELIABILITY - arriving at Southampton for berth SCT 3/4 on 21st November.

Photo: Chris Brooks



BG GREEN outward in Southampton Water, departed from berth SCT4, bound for London.

Photo: Chris Brooks



BYD JINAN - departing Southampton on the 13th November, on her maiden arrival. Photo: Richard Jolliffe



TAGANROGSKIY ZALIV - An unusual caller to Portsmouth on 20th for a 2.5 hour stay! Photo: Chris Brooks



LIBERTY ACE, passing Cowes, for berth 40/41, having arrived from Hamburg on 2nd. Photo: Chris Brooks



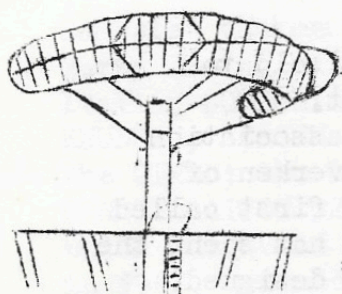
EMS HIGHWAY - inward bound in Southampton Water on 8th November for 105 berth. Photo: Chris Brooks

A MEMORY FROM RICHARD JOLLIFFE

On 8th July 2010, a very unusual event happened at Southampton just before darkness fell. The CMA CGM Christophe Colomb was supposed to be the ONLY large container ship to ever visit the port, so it was a special occasion with lots of photographers viewing the arrival at Calshot. I first watched it from Southsea then drove to Calshot to see it passing the buoy. So it appeared with the tug Svitzer Sarah shooting water in celebration and all containers on deck with CMA CGM markings. The tug had come from the Bristol area for the welcome, arriving at the same time as the container ship. We thought we would never see a container ship here like this again. However, within a few years, this size ship was regular at Southampton! Completed 10th November 2009 of 153,022 gt in Korea. A standard type Daewoo 14200 ship. *Photos: Richard Jolliffe.*



THE FIRST EVER SCANNER, some will have seen this before! But this will now be regular on the last page starting with No.1. Onwards.....



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NEWSLETTER

OF

SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: Bert Moody, 5 Avon Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton. SO2 4FR.
Telephone: Southampton 54316.

No.1.

November, 1969.

SOLENT MARITIME SOCIETY

The Society was formed at a meeting held at the Missions to Seamen, Queen's Terrace, Southampton on Tuesday 28th October. The following officers were then elected :-

Chairman : Mr.R.W.Brown.

Vice Chairman : Mr.J.S.Havers.

Secretary/Treasurer : Bert Moody.

Committee Members : Mr.F.Harding. Mr.A.R.Sensier.

The main object of the Society is to foster an interest in ships and shipping so that members may meet in a friendly atmosphere. The Society is entirely locally controlled and all members over 16 years of age have equal voting rights.

It was decided at the meeting held on 28th October that monthly meetings would be held normally on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Lounge at the Missions to Seamen, Queen's Terrace, Southampton.

It is proposed to produce a monthly newsletter and it is hoped that this edition will be the first of many. Members are asked to supply any miscellaneous items of news, particularly of local interest. Short articles on any subject having a maritime connection will also be very welcome.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 25th. - 7.30p.m. Missions to Seamen, Queen's Terrace, Southampton. Members Slide Evening. Members are invited to bring their colour transparencies along for showing.

DECEMBER 30th. - (Please note this is the 5th Tuesday of the month).
7.30p.m. Missions to Seamen. Informal evening with novelty shipping quiz. Members are invited to bring along anything of maritime interest including models of ships.

JANUARY 27th. - 7.30p.m. Bert Moody - illustrated review of Southampton Shipping during 1969.

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