

SWIFT ASSOCIATION

Newsletter no 1

July 1982

Secretary:

Bob Goddard,
73 Winston Avenue,
Branksome, Poole,
Dorset BH12 1PA.

Dear Swift 18 owner,

welcome to the Swift Association. Now that there are 32 of us and our numbers are growing by one a week, it is high time we made contact and shared some of our thoughts. Through our own Association we can help each other get more enjoyment out of our Swifts, but just how we do this is up to you.

Newsletters will help us communicate our ideas and experiences for mutual interest and benefit, and can provide information about coming events, such as the Micro Cup Nationals down here in Poole between July 21 - 25th. I have entered 'Aquapus' just for the fun of it, and hope to see some of you at Poole Harbour Yacht Club. There is still time to enter. Phone Peter Head on Newbury (0635) 43361 (work) or Lias (073082) 4044 (home) and/or Michael Dixey on 01-397-5266 ex 2012 (work) or Oxshott (037284) 3595.

But many of us have purchased our Swifts more for cruising than racing, and it might be fun to organise a Swift Association cruising regatta, perhaps for next Spring. If we pick a venue where weather is unlikely to spoil our sailing, like the Norfolk Broads for instance, we could trail (or sail!) our boats to arrive on Friday evening, cruise in company to another overnight stop on Saturday, then have an informal race back on Sunday.

Perhaps we could arrange a meeting during the London Boat Show to trade a few yachty yarns. Of course these and any other ideas members may have will need some organising to transform them into successful

events, and anyone who would like to help with this would be most welcome.

Hands up any volunteers!

While some of these bigger issues are being sorted, it would be nice to hear from those of you who have devised handy mods for your Swifts, so we can all benefit from your ingenuity. Has anyone invented a really neat chart table yet? Or come up with the ideal mounting position for a steering compass? Is there an electrician amongst us with advice on fitting navigation and cabin lights, battery mounting and method of charging?

And what have you called your boat? After many weeks of head scratching and no ideas I resorted to the library, where I discovered the Latin name of the European swift is *apus apus*. *Aquapus*, I thought, might be interpreted as water swift. It would be interesting to know what others have named their swifts, if only to avoid duplication.

Perhaps an extension of this would be for the Association to compile a record of all Swifts built, their names and owners, so that in years to come the whereabouts or history of a beloved Swift might be traced. What do you think?

With Swifts now residing throughout the length and breadth of Britain, Ireland and even Iceland, it will be interesting to hear from owners near and far so that views, ideas and experiences can be passed on through future Swift Association newsletters. Write to me at 73 Winston Avenue, Branksome, Poole, Dorset, BH12 9PA, or telephone 0202 671191 (work) or 0202 721786 (home) for a chat.

Happy sailing,

Bob Goddard,

Secretary,

Swift Association.