



# Falkland Islands NEWSLETTER

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## All or Nothing for Argentina

Argentina first hammered out her federal constitution in 1853, just 20 years after Britain re-occupied the Falklands. She reformed this in 1860, 1866, 1878 and 1957. Neither the original nor any of the reformed constitutions claimed the Falklands. Argentina's claim to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands didn't even exist until after World War II.

On August 19th, the recent Argentine Constitutional Convention adopted a clause irrevocably claiming complete sovereignty over the Falklands, South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands and their surrounding waters. It did so, with strong government support, just when President Menem needed a diversion from personal unpopularity and from Argentina's grave economic problems, strikes and disturbances. This new constitution took effect on August 24th.

The Convention was called primarily to make the constitutional changes needed to allow President Menem to

stand again for the presidency. The delegates were elected on the basis of whether to permit this. Although the Convention could make any change it wished, the Falklands dispute was not even mentioned in the electoral campaign.

Enshrining Argentina's claim in her constitution removes any flexibility from her position. No discussions can change this now. No concessions can satisfy her. Her calls for sovereignty negotiations become quite absurd. These are not on offer, but now Argentina is calling for them when she could only settle for total cession of sovereignty by Britain! Her new constitution forbids acceptance of anything less.

Once again Argentina has escalated the Falklands dispute to resolve internal political difficulties. Common sense demands that the Falklands continue to exclude Argentina from its affairs and that Britain never discuss sovereignty with Argentina.

## Tribute to Lord Shackleton



Above: The Late Lord Shackleton. Right: His father's ship, Endurance, photographed at night by the light of flares while trapped in the ice of the Weddell Sea. *Photos Courtesy of The Hon. Mrs. Bergel and Dulwich College*



# Lincolns Inn Reception

A packed Lincolns Inn Hall saw friends old and new on Liberation Day, June 14th. Guests of honour were HRH Prince Michael of Kent and Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon. Douglas Hurd M.P., who visited the Falklands earlier this year.

Miss Sukey Cameron gave the address, her last as London Representative of the Falkland Islands Government. She began by presenting Prince Michael with a cheque for £52,000 raised for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families Association, of which he is President, by the sale of the special Falklands Liberation Stamp issue in all the South Atlantic Dependencies. She went on to review the enormous progress made by the Falklands since the Argentine invasion in 1982; the benefits produced by the fishing industry; the success of the Dependent Territories Conference organised by the Governments of the Falklands and Gibraltar; the official visit of Chilean Deputies to the Falklands, and the enormous potential of a future oil industry. She ended by thanking all who had supported and worked with her during her four years as FIG London Representative, and introduced her successor, Mr. Anton Livermore CPM.

Councillor John Cheek spoke of the award of the Freedom of Stanley to Mr. Bill Hunter-Christie and paid tribute to his support of the Falkland Islands over many years. The illuminated scroll recording the award was then presented to Mr. Hunter-Christie by Prince Michael.

In his brief speech of thanks to the Councillors and people of the Falklands, Mr. Hunter-Christie said that this was the one honour he would have preferred above all others. He then presented a gift of two inscribed silver wine coasters to the Council.

Sir Rex Hunt read the Queen's message of good wishes and proposed the loyal toast, and the Band of the Royal Marines beat retreat on the lawn.

The Crown Agents provided a display of Falklands stamps, and Miss Anna King put on a display of her photographs of the Falklands.



Councillor John Cheek addressing the Reception;  
Mr. Bill Hunter-Christie on his right.



The Rt Hon. Douglas Hurd MP with Mrs Sarah Jones



William and Lynda Anderson of San Carlos



Prince Michael holding up the cheque for SSAFA raised in all the British dependencies in the South Atlantic.



Miss Sukey Cameron and Mr. Nigel Fordham of the Crown Agents showing Falklands stamps and the Liberation Stamp display to Prince Michael.

All photographs on this page by P.J.Pepper.



## Falklands-Argentine Oil Talks

Despite Argentina's high-profile warnings to international oil companies to steer clear of participation in Falklands oil development, talks continue quietly between the Falklands and Argentina on prospects for practical co-operation.

The Falklands representative at the latest talks in Buenos Aires was the Director of Education, Mrs Phyllis Rendell. Also present was Dr. Nigel Fannin, of the British Geological Survey, who are consultants for the FIG. The purpose of the talks is to exchange information on oil development and to discuss cooperation, so there are no surprises on either side. "We're not doing anything secretly", Mrs Rendell says.

She told Argentine officials how far the Falklands have progressed with seismic surveys and with legislation paving the way to exploration and exploitation of what are believed to be huge offshore oil deposits.

She explained that there is no Falklands objection to Argentine companies tendering along with other companies to take part in development of the resources, in international consortia, though an all-Argentine consortium would not be acceptable. International companies would welcome Argentine knowledge and expertise and Argentina is ideally placed and already exploits offshore oil of its own. There could be facilities in Argentina, or Chile or Brazil.

### MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Mrs Rendell told the Argentines that it was up to industry to find the best solution, that the Falklands didn't want it to be government-led and that it was up to the Argentines to sell their facilities if they wished.

"We're saying oil can benefit both countries economically if it's allowed to proceed and the Argentines are prepared to become involved, not the Government, but the people and industry".

The political shadow falling across the oil issue appears not to have blighted these practical talks, though it does make them more difficult than they would otherwise

be. One area where there is scope for maximum co-operation with no disagreement is protection of the environment. "This is one common area we all hold dear", said Mrs Rendell. "The whole area is environmentally rich and important. That message came over loud and clear in the talks. We all very much appreciate each other's concern. Great patches of floating oil do not respect national boundaries".

### UPDATE & EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Newsletter believes that Falklands willingness to allow Argentine participation in oil development, despite the invasion 12 years ago and Argentina's continuing campaign for sovereignty, is an unprecedented gesture of goodwill. The Council is known to feel that by making this, it has gone the "extra mile" for good relations. The Newsletter agrees.

This Newsletter was delayed by the death of Lord Shackleton. As it was going to press at the beginning of October there were more oil discussions with the Argentines. At this meeting the Falklands repeated its offer to allow Argentine participation, but Argentina was only willing to cooperate on its own terms. Details of this will be published in the next Newsletter.



Mrs. Phyllis Rendell Photo: Harold Briley

## Oil - Prynne Report Spells Out The Options

If, when and how are the big questions over oil exploitation. In July a major report was handed over to the FIG, entitled, "Oil Development Strategies for the Falkland Islands". Prepared by Mr. Peter Prynne, head of Environmental Resources Management, the report outlines three principle strategies for oil development.

The first, involves minimal involvement of the Islands themselves, with most of the work handled from the South American mainland. But this is not recommended because of the hostage to Argentine "goodwill" that it would create.

The second is the opposite of this, a so-called "Maximum Impact Scenario". This involves doing practically everything from the Falklands. This provides political security, as it minimises Argentine involvement, and creates enormous economic opportunities for Falkland Islanders. It also risks destroying much of what gives the Falklands its unique social, cultural and environmental character.

Mr. Prynne recommends a middle road, involving a

controlled build up of onshore activity in the Falklands, and the closest cooperation between oil companies and the FIG.

This assumes that there would be some three companies, each operating three rigs. This would mean some 900 people working on rigs, 60 crewing supply vessels, and some 300 on land working in catering, recreation, etc. Another 75 would be needed for office, emergency, warehouse and other facilities. This is about half the staffing levels of the so-called "maximum impact scenario". The environment would have to be protected too, although the report does not predict any damage to fish stocks, which do not appear to have been affected by similar activity in the North Sea.

The report stresses that Islanders must decide what sort of future they want, and follow this up with comprehensive legislation to let oil companies know how they stand. The report points out that the FIG faces initial investment costs, with no guarantee of a return, given the political and geological uncertainties of the region.



# FALKLANDS UN CHALLENGE: ACKNOWLEDGE DEMOCRACY!

by Harold Briley

The Falklands have thrown down a challenge to Argentina at the United Nations.....demonstrate your credentials as a democratic nation and acknowledge the Islanders' right to enjoy democracy.

Addressing his challenge to President Menem, the Argentine Government and people, Councillor Luxton declared: "I challenge them to show the world their maturity and show magnanimity towards a small group of people who are not their natural enemies, but who will not be subjugated or colonised by them. I challenge them to show generosity and tolerance to a small country which offers no threat whatever to their future security and in terms of the great richness of Argentina is irrelevant to them. We are but two thousand people but we are determined to go our own way.....The Falklands belong to the Falkland Islanders and what we ask -- and this is my challenge -- is that they be prepared to allow the Falkland Islands people to determine their own future without hindrance".

Without a vote, the Committee approved a resolution submitted by Latin American nations calling for resumption of Anglo-Argentine negotiations on sovereignty. Falklands' hopes that the resolution would incorporate the basic UN principle of self-determination were not realised, despite requests this year and last year by some nations on the committee that it should be included.

Councillor Luxton accepted the resolution as far as it went, urging Britain and Argentina to seek a peaceful end to their dispute but pointed out the glaring omission: "What we ask most passionately is that the resolution should include as an essential principle the right to self determination of the people of the Falkland Islands".

## OIL CO-OPERATION WELCOME

Councillor Luxton welcomed practical cooperation with Argentina. "Our fishery management and conservation is recognised as being among the best in the world and I am glad this is one area where we have been able to develop a reasonable relationship with the Argentines without compromising our sovereign rights.... One might dare to hope that this could be a pattern for the future in other fields.... If Argentina wishes to participate in the process of oil development, there is no reason why she should not do so, just as our other South American neighbours can. It may suit the major oil companies to source their supplies from South America and even build bases there. Cooperation on these terms is acceptable. What is not acceptable is that Argentina, by making claim to the Islands, should imagine that she is entitled to any special position in the development of our resources".

Councillor Luxton rejected what he called "the recent insulting and distasteful bribe" by Argentina of huge sums of money to islanders if they would agree to a transfer of sovereignty... "I believe the real motive behind this offer is to try to create dissent and division within our community. I believe every Falkland Islander will treat this devious plan with the contempt it so richly deserves... The truth is that



The Hon. Wendy Teggart

Photo: Norman Clark, Falkland Printz

over the years we have been used as a diversion to distract the Argentine people from the misery imposed on them by their own governments".

## "OVERBEARING BULLYING NEIGHBOUR"

Councillor Wendy Teggart, making her first ever speech to the UN Committee, pointed out that her grandchildren are eighth generation Falkland Islanders. Over 160 years the Islanders have created their own distinctive culture and lifestyle, which, though British in character, has its own undeniable character and charm.

She thanked the British Government for "bearing the cost of our defence. This would not be necessary if it were not for our need for protection against our overbearing, bullying neighbour. Were it not for the Argentine claim to the Islands and our reliance on the United Kingdom for military protection, we may well, by now, be looking towards independence within the framework of the United Nations. This is a Committee on Decolonisation. I ask you to accept it is Argentina, not Britain, which wishes to colonise us. It is Argentina which is stopping any move towards independence. And it is Argentina that must drop her claim to sovereignty of the Falklands. We too want the right to determine our own future".

## Delegates Criticise Argentina

Covering the Decolonisation Committee debate on the 13th July, *Clarín* reported the Papua New Guinea delegate as saying that in future the right of self-determination of the Islanders "must be taken into account". *Clarín* also said that the Fijian delegate - supported by the delegate from Sierra Leone - had gone "even further" and stated: this body "isn't a committee on sovereignty". *Clarín* referred to this as an "implied criticism of Argentina".



# INTERVIEW: VOICE OF THE FALKLANDS

## BILL LUXTON

The Hon. Bill Luxton, a member of both the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Falklands Government, won the largest proportion of any constituency vote in last year's elections. So, he can legitimately claim to be the voice of the people as well as representing the Government officially, along with Councillor Wendy Teggart, at the July meeting of the UN Decolonisation Committee, an annual event at which both Falklands and Argentine delegates argue their case on the sovereignty dispute. Returning from the UN in New York, Councillor Luxton spoke to Harold Briley.

**Bill Luxton:** I think we did slightly better than last year. Papua New Guinea implied that in future years it won't vote for a resolution that does not acknowledge the right of self-determination. It's a very short phrase we want included... reaffirming "the rights of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations". That's all we need. Then we'd be happy with the resolution.

**Harold Briley:** Why does the UN find it so hard to observe this basic principle of self-determination from its own founding Charter? Why hasn't it been there from the very beginning?

**BL:** Some of the problem is the knee-jerk anti-colonialism issue which is a bit outdated. What is right and just is not always followed, but what is politically expedient. "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours". We'll just have to keep working on them.

**HB:** What the UN don't seem to understand is that the Falklands might not be a colony without the Argentine threat. You might be independent.

**BL:** We made that point. The total block to any constitutional advance in the Falklands is Argentina's sovereignty claim.

**HB:** And better relations with Argentina?

**BL:** Absolutely. If Argentina acknowledges our right to determine our own future, then the whole situation will change, not least our present stance of refusing to admit any Argentines to the Islands. I challenged the Argentines to show how politically mature they are and that they are no longer a third-rate, third-world country.

**HB:** Because.....

**BL:** Because we are not Argentina. We are not of the same extraction. We have a different culture, a different language, a different way of doing things, a different way of looking at things. We wish to go our own way.

**HB:** But you are willing to co-operate?

**BL:** Yes, we are willing to co-operate with them, providing it does not compromise our sovereignty. On fishing and conservation, we have provided them with a great deal of information they were not able to collect themselves.

**HB:** The multi-million dollar question now is oil. If the Falklands has vast quantities of oil, as seismic tests indicate, that would be a big issue involving Argentina. How far would you be prepared to co-operate on the exploitation of oil?

**BL:** We have decided we would not object to Argentine companies participating in a consortium, provided it isn't

majority-owned or controlled by Argentina and doesn't involve Argentines landing in the Falklands, until they drop their sovereignty claim or recognise our right to self-determination. It may make commercial sense for oil to be exported via Argentina. But don't forget the Chileans, and Brazil probably has more expertise in deep-water offshore drilling than any other country in the world. We'd be very happy to co-operate with them. I would guess that tankers would be loaded at the oil platforms and then go direct to their destination anywhere in the world.

**HB:** What about environmental damage to your wonderful wildlife?

**BL:** We are less at risk from our own industry, which we can control, than we are from the totally unexpected and uncontrollable. Don't forget that the disaster off the Shetlands was nothing to do with North Sea oil. It was a total outsider sailing among the islands. We already have huge oil tankers coming round the Horn very close to the Falklands, and at times medical cases are dropped off in the Falklands. If one of those lost its engines or blew up and it drifted onshore on the Falklands, that would be really difficult to deal with. No matter what legislation we pass, we can't stop that.

**HB:** You'd be ready to go it alone with Britain's expertise and help?

**BL:** And other international oil companies. We are prepared to award licences to whoever is willing to take them up. That may mean oil multi-nationals not involved in Argentina. We are determined to put the exploitation of this resource under way. We would be happy to do it with co-operation with the Argentines.

**HB:** How in your opinion do your lifestyles compare?

**BL:** You are probably the expert on that. I think in most fields we are way ahead of them and have a better lifestyle. There are no slums around Port Stanley as there are around Buenos Aires with miserable, grinding poverty. I'm sure the health of our nation is infinitely better than the health of the Argentine population. We have an excellent education system. We've just spent fourteen-million pounds on the new community school and centre. We are extending the primary school. Our children can study in Britain at schools and universities, at Falklands Government expense. Falkland Islands children, not least my own, are extremely well looked after. We put no limit on the amount of training we are prepared to give to young Falkland Islanders in the hope they will come back to work, in all the professions. And we do have 160 years of unbroken democratic rule under our belt, which is another plus factor.

**HB:** A final message to Argentina. Will they ever get sovereignty of the Falklands?

**BL:** No, never, provided the British Governments backs us up as they have done. We don't regard ourselves as an oppressed colonial people. All over the world, more and more, oppressed people are gaining their freedom. It just goes against that whole pattern of events to remove the freedom of one section of the world's community and hand it over to a hostile government.



## Mr. ANTON LIVERMORE: From Policeman to Ambassador

A former policeman, awarded the Colonial Police Medal for his part in dealing with the Argentines in 1982, has been appointed the new Falklands Government Representative in London. Anton Livermore, 32, succeeds Sukey Cameron in January 1995. He comes from a Falklands family, but was born in Auckland, New Zealand.

Anton takes over at a challenging time, when it's essential to maintain support for the Falklands against Argentina's sovereignty claim. He sees his job as "selling" the Falklands and presenting its case to the British public, the media and politicians. He takes over amid increasing speculation that the Labour Party under its new leadership may win the next election with a Falklands policy that is not as clear-cut as the Conservatives' unconditional support. He's attending the party political conferences this year, as he did last year, to lobby British politicians.

The Falklands, he points out, has a lot to offer Britain with the prospect of an oil industry and unprecedented riches to be shared, and has no objection to oil co-operation with Argentine companies so long as it's absolutely clear there can be no compromise on Falklands sovereignty.

### DANGEROUS LIAISON

He has the advantage of having dealt with Argentines before, during their disastrous invasion, when he was a young police constable. Forced to liaise with the Argentine military police then, where his knowledge of Spanish was a great help, his role was to assist the Islanders as much as he could. It was a dangerous period, and Anton says he derived much satisfaction from what he was able to do. As a boy he'd been educated not just in Stanley, but also for a while, in Argentina, as a number of Falklands children were then.

After the liberation came new challenges - the dangerous aftermath of the occupation, warning the civilian population, not least the children, of the danger of mines and other munitions left lying around; increased crime as the population swelled with incoming workers developing the islands. Having trained with the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Anton was promoted to sergeant. Later, he supervised the newly created Immigration Department, checking on all newcomers, and making sure Argentines were kept out, in accordance with Falklands Government policy.



Mr. Anton Livermore, with Miss Sukey Cameron

*Photo: Harold Briley*

His first close contact with Falklands politics came when he was appointed Clerk of the Falklands Legislative and Executive Councils in 1990. In that job, he met many other legislators from abroad while attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cyprus last year.

Anton moved to London in June, and assumes in the interim the position of Deputy Representative vacated by Graham Bound.

**Harold Briley**

## Falklands Wool and Stamps Aid

WPC Su Howes-Mitchell and Falklands farmers have managed to send yet more aid to Croatia. This time it is 7 boxes of wool, totalling 400 Kilos! This is particularly valuable to the many refugees in camps there, where it will provide both occupational therapy and warm clothing for the coming winter. Hogg Robinson has kindly shipped the wool to the UK free of charge.

Su Howes-Mitchell and Islanders are also producing philatelic covers. The first depicts a Tornado, based at Mount Pleasant, endorsed with a minimum of 20 cachets from farms and settlements around the Islands. The proceeds will go to

the RAF Benevolent Fund, Caritas (for Croatia and Bosnia) and CAFOD (for Rwanda). There will be 500 of these, available at the end of August, at a cost of £3.50 each.

A second edition is to be released shortly. This will be of Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, the hills behind Stanley and two well known ships, the *Samson* and the *Lady Elizabeth*. There will be 500 of these with a 9p stamp from the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of Stanley issue. Each will be endorsed with a minimum of 10 local Stanley cachets. These will also cost £3.50 each and all proceeds will go to Caritas (Croatia and Bosnia) and CAFOD (Rwanda).



# NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ANDREW "GO FOR IT" GURR

Three short words led Andrew Gurr to apply for the post of Chief Executive of the Falklands. When he spotted the advertisement in *The Times*, he turned to his wife and asked: "What do you think?" Her immediate reply: "Go for it!" As the first line of his CV says: "... married to a highly supportive wife". He got the job in competition with over 250 applicants and, at the age of 49, embarks on an entirely new phase of his career. Not only had he never had anything to do with the Falklands; he'd never even been south of the Equator. Now all that changes and he'll spend the next few years living in and working for the Falklands, with his wife, Jean, beside him!

In a rapidly evolving economy and society, Mr Gurr will be a key figure in promoting prosperity and development, will head the civil service, and act as Governor in the Governor's absence. He replaces Mr Ronald Sampson who has served for five years.

Most of his career has been spent in business. So what changed his mind? He told the "Newsletter": "The job looked so different and exciting. It had a very appealing feel to it. But in terms of what the job needed, it's close to what I've been doing in the past two years as Chief Executive of the North and Mid-Cheshire Training and Enterprise Council. That's involved economic regeneration, training, education, and working the public and private sector together. In the Falklands the task is to run the government as a business, stimulating local entrepreneurs and ensuring sustainable growth".

What about first impressions? Initially, not good! "I thought it was a bit drab, I must admit. When we arrived, it was not a particularly good day. The road from Mount Pleasant to Stanley is not the most appealing. But the longer my wife and I were there, three whole days, the more we found there is a unique beauty to the scenery, and we very much enjoyed meeting the people. We found them friendly, honest, open and lively. The children particularly impressed us with their liveliness".

Mr Gurr hopes to stimulate the talents of the people, especially the younger Islanders, now benefitting from unprecedented educational opportunities. He has two children of his own at university.

Mr Gurr was educated at three grammar schools - in



Mr. Andrew Gurr Photo: P.J. Pepper

Belfast, Barking and Hull - and two universities, gaining a B.Sc. honours degree in geography at Hull, where he was President of the Students' Union, and an M.Sc. in management and business studies at Warwick. He's been chief executive of several building supplies and timber companies.

One feature that impressed him was the cleanliness of the environment in the Falklands. "The clean air was beautiful to breathe. I want to preserve that environment. Oil and other developments are a matter of balance between economic and environmental interest. It would be horrendous to sacrifice a beautiful environment for material gain".

On Argentina, he says there's no point in pursuing the sovereignty claim against the principle of self-determination and the wish of the islanders to remain allied with Britain.

Mr Gurr, Conservative by politics, has been a district councillor, on housing and highways committees, a church treasurer, and says he's fit and healthy; listing his sports as badminton, cricket, golf, fell-walking and jogging. He'll find plenty of scope in the Falklands.

Harold Briley

## Island Holidays

Penguins - lots of them! Black-browed Albatross Colonies!

Elephant Seals! Perhaps even Killer Whales!

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## Mine Clearance

In his report to EXCO on September 23rd, Governor Tatham said the American Government had informed both Argentine and British Governments that the United States would be willing to supervise mine clearance in the Falklands. A feasibility study will be carried out by an American contractor and the work itself will be carried out by commercial companies.

Argentina offered to fund the mine clearance last January. The idea of doing this is known to have originally come from Lucio Garcia del Solar, the Argentine diplomat who negotiated for Argentina during the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Britain in 1990.



# PENGUIN PARADISE IN SOUTH ATLANTIC WARM WELCOME FOR TOURISTS

by Harold Briley

Visit the Falkland Islands! Three-million penguins can't be wrong! It could be a slogan for tourists to the Falklands, where, as the Islanders say, "nature is still in charge". How do you count three million penguins? I don't know, but I'm willing to accept the word of the eminent naturalist and broadcaster, Sir David Attenborough, who recently launched a campaign to help Falklands Conservation protect penguins. His spectacular television series "Life in the Freezer" has stimulated interest in the prolific wildlife of the Antarctic and in the Falklands as a gateway for Antarctic tourism as well as a tourist destination in its own right.

The famous naturalist Charles Darwin, an early visitor in 1833 and 1834, marvelled at the abundance of wildlife, even if he was put off at first by what he called the desolate aspect of the islands. If only he could go back now with a growing number of discerning tourists, he'd be astonished at the changes made to make visitors welcome.

Instead of weeks at sea, you travel now in comfortable Tristar airliners, courtesy of the RAF, flying from Brize Norton via Ascension Island. When you get there, you have a choice of comfortable hotels like the Upland Goose and Malvina House, or boarding houses in Stanley. In the Camp, as it's called, short for the Spanish word "campo", meaning countryside, you can stay at modern tourist lodges in some of the best wildlife areas, Sea Lion and Pebble Islands, Port Howard and at San Carlos where the British Task Force landed in 1982. Having been there five times myself, I assure you you'll find some of the friendliest people and one of the warmest welcomes anywhere in the world.

## WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE

Why do tourists go to the Falklands? One recent visitor an expert on wildlife, had this to say: "For intrepid people with a taste for utterly remote, oceanic islands, where wildlife is more important than anything else, the Falklands are akin to paradise. The Falklands represent true wilderness and form one of the last natural refuges for wildlife. Incredible clarity of air...magnificent coastline...pure white sandy beaches...rocky headlands... spectacular cliffs... home to an assemblage of fascinating species more approachable than almost anywhere on earth".

Well, yes, I noticed that too. Much of the wildlife is as friendly as the people. I've watched rockhopper penguins



Elephant Seals on Sea Lion Island Photo: P.J.Pepper



Sea Lion on Kidney Island.

Photo: P.J.Pepper

bounding out of the sea and up the cliffs, then playing around my feet and falling over them. They come that close. They're curious and lack any fear of humans. The giant King Penguins remain aloof and unmoved even when you get to within a few feet of them. There are three other kinds of penguin as well. In the giant tussock grass, growing ten feet tall, you can come face to face with a sea lion. You can get near giant fearsome-looking bull elephant seals basking in the sun, guarding their harems and doe-eyed babies.

Did I say sun? After watching all those television images of British troops yomping through the peat bogs lashed by horizontal rain, you must remember that was winter. I've sat outside in blazing sunshine, eating strawberries grown in the open. The statistics show it's warmer in winter (April to October) than in Britain if slightly cooler in summer (November to March) with less rain. Some of the construction workers who built Mount Pleasant airport got so sunburned they had to be treated in hospital.

As well as all those penguins, there are sixty other species of birds on the Falklands. They include 75 per cent of the world's black-browed albatrosses. I've watched them and King Cormorants flocking back to their nests after a day of fishing at sea, so many of them that they darkened the sky. There are rock wrens and upland geese, the unique flightless steamer duck, and a rare bird of prey with a wonderful sounding name, the striated caracara. Photographers can't go wrong. You don't even need telephoto lenses. The penguins will pose for you!

Go fishing and you won't be disappointed, and you'll be in good company. Prince Philip and other eminent visitors have fished here. There are excellent rivers for trout - the Murrell, the Warrah, Chartres, and San Carlos which claims the British sea trout record of 22 lbs. Horse-riding is another popular pastime. As well as working horses, still used by some shepherds (the younger ones use motorbikes), there are thoroughbreds too. The Islanders are skillful riders and like to race. At their annual sports in December and February, they'll try to get you to join them steer-riding. My advice is: Don't! While you're still intact, go for a walk instead. The wide-open spaces make it wonderful walking country.



## FEAST ON FOOD AND MARITIME HISTORY

The Falkland Islanders eat abundantly and expect their visitors to do the same. Go into any farmhouse and you'll find the tables laden. At one time they used to call mutton "365" because they had it every day of the year! Now there's a much greater variety of meat. And Falklands housewives are expert at home-cooking. They've had to be. At one time they didn't even have a bakery in the islands. There's always a cup of tea and a variety of cakes to welcome you. One American food gourmet described it as the best home-cooking he's ever encountered.

Stanley is one of the world's smallest capitals, with colourful houses -- and pubs! -- and fewer than 1600 inhabitants, out of a total population of 2200. It boasts the most southerly Anglican cathedral in the world - Christ Church, which recently celebrated its centenary. In the Cathedral are memorials to the men who died in 1982 and in previous wars, and battle flags from warships.

The Islands boast a fascinating maritime heritage. Stanley Harbour is probably the greatest graveyard of nineteenth century shipping in the world. The Islands were an important staging post on world shipping routes before the Panama Canal opened in 1914. Old wooden vessels battered by storms rounding Cape Horn sought haven in the Falklands. Many of these wrecks survive to this day, and Falklands Conservation is carrying out a comprehensive survey. They are of great interest to divers, marine archeologists and students of maritime history.

This maritime legacy and other aspects of Falklands history is captured in Stanley's excellent museum, much expanded since 1982, thanks to the expertise and enthusiasm of its director, Mr John Smith. Its big project at present is a World War Two exhibition.

## BATTLES OF THE FALKLANDS

The Falklands was strategically placed to play a significant part in both world wars, enabling the Royal Navy to retain mastery over the South Atlantic. In the first world war, British warships destroyed a powerful German squadron in the Battle of the Falklands in December 1914, killing two thousand Germans, including Admiral Graf Von Spee. By coincidence, 25 years later, in December 1939, the German battleship named after him, was outfought and forced to scuttle by the Falklands flotilla in the first naval clash of Second World War. More recently, the Falklands were themselves the focus of conflict in Argentina's 1982 invasion and subsequent defeat by the British Task Force.

So, it's a fertile region for students of military activity. Appropriately, agencies taking tourists to the Falklands



Cormorant Colony on Sea Lion Island Photo: P.J. Pepper



King Penguins at Volunteer Point

Photo: Harold Briley

include Holt's Battlefield Tours, based in Sandwich in Kent, specialists in battlefields and history. They take clients to places that became familiar in the 1982 Conflict -- San Carlos, Goose Green, Pebble Island, Fitzroy and Bluff Cove.

One firm specialising in wildlife and photography is Hosking Tours, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, whose high quality holidays regularly take parties of tourists interested in natural history. They have a tradition of getting their clients together for a pre-tour briefing, and renewing friendships afterwards to display their many photographs. Another is Island Holidays of Comrie, Scotland. They specialise in small groups and will tailor-make a holiday for you!

The Falklands are world famous for philately. Their outstanding postage stamps have long been sought by avid collectors, proving a valuable export for the Philatelic Bureau. There's no more knowledgeable expert in this field than Major Ronnie Spafford of Weston-Super-Mare, who, this coming Southern summer, as in several past years, is escorting a party of enthusiasts to the Falklands, with a special itinerary for philatelists and an alternative programme for non-stamp collectors.

Getting around in the Falklands you have to rely on the ubiquitous Landrover and on Islander aircraft, which land on grass airstrips or even sometimes on the beach. Your name and destination is broadcast by local radio and you get to know the other passengers really well.

Last season, 89 tourists enjoyed the Falklands with 14 tour groups. Another 42 travelled independently. By far the greatest number, 5,563, went ashore from 13 cruise vessels making 29 visits. The Islands are preparing to welcome similar numbers in the season ahead. So are the penguins!



# Friends of the Falklands - Geoffrey Moir

by Robert Elgood

Many people work quietly and unostentatiously year after year in support of the Falklands without any apparent recognition or awareness of their efforts in the Islands.

One such person is Geoff Moir, who is known for his work for BBC *Calling the Falklands*. His trade marks are a great booming voice and a huge moustache of the late Jimmy Edwards variety. He still personifies the quintessential Second World War flying officer that he once was, and in his heart always remains. As a pathfinder pilot with 60 missions to his credit and a DFC and Bar he is indeed the real thing. I once persuaded him to guide my children round the RAF museum at Hendon and the sight of a Lancaster bomber unlocked an account of a raid where he flew his bomber, which looked rather more cumbersome than a London double decker bus and quite as slow, at 15 feet above a canal with another plane 50 feet from his wing tip, marking the other side, all in the face of determined ground fire. The other pilot was killed.

Once demobbed, Geoff became a school teacher and, following his retirement, went out to Fox Bay West to reopen the school after the Falklands War. Due to ill health he was forced to return after four happy years.

Most people would have retired for good at that stage, particularly as a recurrent heart problem needed bypass surgery which was recently successfully completed. Not Geoff. In 1987, infuriated by what he saw as the complete "lack of understanding and appreciation of the Islands, their people and way of life" by the news media he began a personal campaign to lecture to anyone who would listen. Every year he gives on average over 100 lectures on the Falkland Islands to audiences as far apart as Cornwall and Scotland. This year he has already given 57 and has a total booked so far of 107 with 18 more scheduled for 1995. In one twelve month period he gave 195 lectures. Nobody



Geoffrey Moir DFC, FRGS, FRPSL

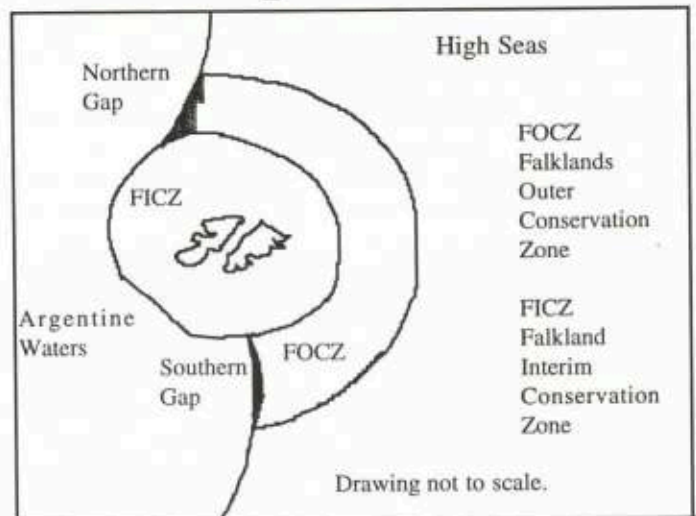
knows how many people he has talked to about the Islands, but a figure of 50,000 seems a fair guess.

Those who know the determined nature of the man will know that Geoff's lectures are likely to leave a lasting impression on his audience and that he is very capable of dealing politely but firmly with any critic of the British Government's policy of support for the Islanders. Since the Falkland Islanders' future rests squarely on the continuing support of the Government and people of the United Kingdom, the patient unpaid work of Geoff Moir, and other lecturers like him, is of great value to the Islanders. His enthusiasm and love of the Islands is infectious. He has also recently published another fascinating booklet, **Falkland Islands History through Philately**, which has a foreword by Sir Rex Hunt and reflects another great enthusiasm, Falkland Islands stamps. A full page article recently appeared on his collection in *The Times*. I don't suppose that Geoff will leave it at that. As his RAF career shows, he is unstoppable.

## Britain Closes the Gap

On August 22nd, Falklands Government legislation closed the northern of the two "Gaps" to unlicensed fishing. The "Gaps" are the two small strips of ocean between the western edges of the FOCZ, the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone, and the limits of Argentine waters. They both lie within 200 miles of the Falklands' coast, and outside the 200 mile Argentine limit, and so always belonged to the Falklands. However, they were omitted from the FOCZ when legislation for this was drafted in 1990 to avoid any possibility of overlapping with Argentine waters, which were not properly defined then. The northern gap covers 547 square miles, and had been extensively fished by unlicensed fishing vessels, and used as a base from which to poach in both Falkland and Argentine waters.

Argentina's press hailed this a piece of British aggression and suggested it was a reprisal for the inclusion of a clause in the new Argentine constitution claiming the Falklands, which had been decided three days earlier. Many Argentine papers falsely reported the move as a unilateral extension of Falklands controlled waters (which had been predicted during discussion of putting Argentina's claim into



the Constitution) that impinged on Argentine waters. Argentine politicians vied with each other in their criticism of this. This continued even when the move was accurately reported, and seen to be a very minor step. This included a threat by President Menem to "patrol" the waters concerned.



# Argentine Constitutional Claim

Argentina first thrashed out its federal constitution in 1853, just 20 years after Britain re-occupied the Falklands. It reformed this in 1860, 1866, 1878 and 1957. Neither the original nor any of the reformed constitutions claimed the Falklands. Argentina's claim to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands didn't even exist until Peron's time after World War II.

The recent Argentine Constitutional Convention was called to make the changes to allow President Menem to stand again for re-election in 1995. The election of the delegates was made on the merits of this. Argentina's claim to the Falklands was not an issue. However, with strong government support, and probably as a diversion from President Menem's falling popularity, the Constitutional Convention included a temporary clause claiming the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. This became law on August 24th when the new constitution was promulgated. A translation<sup>1</sup> of this clause follows:

"The Argentine nation ratifies its legitimate and everlasting sovereignty over the Falkland, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and their corresponding island and maritime areas, as integral parts of the territory of the nation.

The recovery of the said territories and the full exercise of sovereignty, respecting the way of life of the inhabitants, and in conformity with international law, constitutes a permanent and unrenounceable objective of the Argentine people."

## DI TELLA VERSUS EDUARDO MENEM

Interestingly, the above text is not the same as that proposed by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Convention to its plenary session. Its recommended clause (in Dictamen 19) made no reference to "respecting the way of life of the inhabitants", and referred to the exercise of sovereignty as being "in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations" - *which have, of course, never called for anything more than negotiations over this.*

Di Tella appeared before this committee on July 7th, just before going to New York for the debate at the UN Decolonisation Committee. He supported the inclusion of Argentina's claim into the new constitution, but wanted a special status for the Falklands written into it too. He was successfully opposed by hard liners led by Eduardo Menem, the President's brother and President of the Convention. These counter-proposed that the Falklands be accorded no special status until Argentina had complete control of them - *when, of course, they wouldn't be needed.* Some of Eduardo Menem's supporters claimed that the Falklands were already part of the Province of Tierra del Fuego<sup>2</sup>.

## NEVER THROUGH WAR?

The report, part of "Dictamen 19", from the Foreign Relations Committee to the Convention called on it to demonstrate the "firm resolve of the Argentine people to recover complete sovereignty of the Falklands.... through legal and political means, **never through war**". However, neither the proposed nor final clauses specifically prohibit the use of force. Nevertheless, putting "in conformity with international law" into the final text clearly goes some way towards this (although it may just be an attempt to suggest that international law favours Argentina's claim, which it



The Argentine Constitutional Convention in Session.

Photo: P.J.Pepper

does not). This phrase does at least imply that Argentina should pursue its ends by peaceful means. Of course, anyone who knows Argentina will realise how little protection this offers. President Menem has broken the constitution himself, and military governments, by definition, break it.

## SELF-DETERMINATION

On the 3rd of August, the Constitutional Convention approved a clause including nine international conventions and treaties in the new Argentine constitution. One, according to newspaper, *Pagina 12*, enshrined equality before the law. Another was the right to self-determination. Sadly, equality before the law did not extend to self-determination for the Falklands. The Convention added a rider that the latter should not apply to the Falklands.

## SHUTTING THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS

To a certain extent the constitutional claim is just theatre, like the still incomplete inclusion of the Falklands in the Province of Tierra del Fuego. It clearly served to divert attention from Menem's political problems. It could, however, have legal ramifications. It might, for example, make cooperation with Argentina over oil very difficult.

It binds successor governments to pursue the claim, proclaims this publicly and disenfranchises the 25% of Argentines who would abandon this. It means that any concession now can only be a stepping stone to more demands. It means the negotiations, that Argentina is always calling for, could only result in complete capitulation.

Above all, it means that Britain must never negotiate over sovereignty with Argentina.

**P.J.Pepper.**

1. The original text in Spanish reads: La Nacion Argentina ratifica su legitima e imprescriptible soberania sobre las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur y los espacios maritimos e insulares correspondientes, por ser parte integrante del territorio nacional. La recuperacion de dichos territorios y el ejercicio pleno de la soberania, respetando el modo de vida de sus habitantes, y conforme a los principios del derecho internacional, constituye un objetivo permanente e irrenunciable del pueblo Argentino.

2. Argentine law number 23.775 in 1990, which created the Province of Tierra del Fuego, purported to include the Falklands. The provinces boundaries are still undecided, but it is acting as if the Falklands belong to it, and most Argentines consider the Falklands to be part of that province. See Newsletter June 1993



# The Falklands at the Commonwealth Games

The XVth Commonwealth Games which were held in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, brought the best out of the four Falklands participants.

Ken Aldridge and Sue Whitney smashed the Falklands previous highest score in the full-bore rifle pairs events by 17 points, finishing 20th out of 22 countries and beating Swaziland and Bermuda in the bargain. Ken scored 270 and Sue 268 for an aggregate score of 538. Australia won the event with a score of 593 - a record.

In the Individual Full Bore event, Ken Aldridge established a new Falklands record by scoring 374, 7 points more than Stan Smith scored in Edinburgh in 1986. This left Ken in 36th place with no fewer than 8 shooters below him. Susan scored a creditable 362 to finish in 42nd position with two competitors scoring less. Dave Calvert of N. Ireland, an RAF fighter pilot, scored 398 to win, with New Zealander Geoffrey Smith second and England's Glyn Barnet third.

Clay Pigeon shooter Saul Pitaluga by his own admission "shot poorly", but his final score of 89 left him 36th out of 40 competitors. 21 kills on the second batch of 25 clays was the highlight of Saul's competition.

Marathon runner Hugh Marsden ensured that the Falklands maintained its record of avoiding last place in each of their four events. He did so superbly finishing 28th out of 30 starters, taking no less than 15 minutes off his previous best - recording a time of 2 hours, 43 minutes and 31 seconds. The conditions suited him perfectly - heavy thundery rain, a slight breeze and overcast sky, which protected his injured eye from the usually piercing hot sun.

The Victorian crowd lined the streets to cheer Hugh on, shouting words of encouragement - "keep going Hugh" and "good on you Falklands".

The participation of the Falklands team, headed by Team Manager Patrick Watts, was an undoubted success and it brought considerable excellent publicity for the Falklands, with all team members being continually interviewed by radio, TV and newspaper reporters from all parts of the world. They were all excellent ambassadors for the Islands.

All team members were most appreciative of the Falklands population for supporting the drive to ensure participation at the Games. **Patrick Watts**



The Falklands Team, L to R: Rifle shooter Susan Whitney, Marathon runner Hugh Marsden, clay pigeon shooter Saul Pitaluga, manager Patrick Watts, coach Trish Halmshaw and rifle shooter Ken Aldridge

*Photo: Patrick Watts*



The team with its banner at the opening ceremony

*Photo: Patrick watts*

## Commonwealth Games Fund Raising

Fund raising for the trip took many forms. The Falkland Islands Government gave £3000. Other efforts raised £6000.

Amongst these was a radio auction run by Patrick Watts; prizes including a horse and a flight to Punta Arenas given by DAP. Another was a sponsored mid-winter dip. Track suits were funded by the Falkland Islands Company as was ammunition for the shooters. Royal Insurance gave £500 for uniforms. Governor and Mrs Tatham organised a charity dinner at £10 a plate, which yielded £400. A raffle at the dinner yielded another £200.

## The Newsletter's Congratulations

Once again Falkland Islanders have gone out boldly, carrying their flag and political message around the world. Despite its tiny size, the Falklands was never last in any of the competitions. When you think that there are more shooters at Bisley any weekend than there are people in the Falklands, this is particularly praiseworthy. Particular congratulations must go to Hugh Marsden who competed while still suffering from an extremely serious eye injury. The Newsletter offers its congratulations to the Falklands team, its organisers and those who contributed time, hardship and money to its success.



The sponsored mid-winter Dip. Part of the fund raising efforts for the Commonwealth Games. *Photo: Penguin News*





Hugh Marsden crossing the finishing line in the Commonwealth Games Marathon



Hugh Marsden being interviewed for television  
*Photo: Patrick Watts*



Saul Pitaluga on the clay pigeon range. The dust filled clay can be seen breaking just above and to the right of the umbrella. *Photo: Ken Aldridge*

## Imperial Meet at Bisley

Attendance at Bisley is a Falklands tradition. It goes back to the days when shooters came all the way by sea. This year was no exception. Four Islanders: Stan Smith, Susan Whitney, Ken Aldridge and Ron Betts took part in a competition that was notable for its high standards of shooting.

The Falklands did best in the Junior McKinnon, which is shot at 600 yards, coming 8th out of 16 teams - with a score just 9 points less than the winner. It took part in the Junior Overseas and Junior Kolapore as well, coming 14th and 13th respectively out of 16. As usual this was against countries with more shooters than there are people in the Falklands. Ron Betts distinguished himself in the Kolapore with a score of 149 out of 150.

Individuals Islanders also took part in the Daily Mail Times and Alexandra competitions. Ken Aldridge won a competition medal, for coming in the top hundred shooters, in the Alexandra with a score of 49.6 out of 50.



Falklands shooters and their families, L to R: Back: Ron Betts, Carol Beecher, Susan Whitney, John Coutts and Bill Richards. Front: Stan Smith and Stephen and Ken Aldridge. *Photo: Ken Aldridge*



# Falkland Islands Development Corporation

## Development Update

### HOUSE BUILDING LOAN SCHEME

A proposal originating from LMW (BM) Ltd to establish a revolving working capital fund for private house building was submitted to Executive Council for consideration in August 1993. Council approved the scheme in its basic outline and delegated authority to the Executive Board of FIDC to finalise details in consultation with the Treasury, Public Works Department and the Planning Officer. Subsequently, £125,000 was transferred from FIG to a special fund to be administered by FIDC.

The House Building Loan Scheme is available to assist building contractors with working capital to build housing units for resale. The fund may be used for:

- (a) Building houses or housing units for which there are already identified buyers;
- (b) Building houses or housing units for which there are no identified buyers but where, in the view of the Corporation, there is expected demand;
- (c) Generally the scheme is intended to assist private builders to provide low cost housing in the 1 - 2 bedroom size range. FIDC may, however, approve loans for larger houses where it is satisfied that the project will not proceed on the basis of commercial funding, and the financing of such a project will not withhold funds from lower cost housing projects;
- (d) The scheme may not fund buildings for commercial use or buildings for rent, nor may it fund buildings for third parties who do not intend to become the owner/occupiers of the building.



Housing Units Under Construction



# Falkland Islands Development Corporation

## Development Update

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The first application under the scheme was approved by the Executive Board of the FIDC in November 1993. LMW (BM) Ltd have now completed the first phase of two 2-bedroomed semi-detached bungalows, ie four housing units. Plans and funding for the second phase, a further four units, have been approved. Work on the foundations will commence shortly and the materials are due to arrive in September. It is anticipated that the units will be completed in January 1995.

### **FIDC's 10th ANNIVERSARY**

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation Ordinance 1983 came into force in June 1984 and the inaugural meeting of the Corporation Board was held on 14 July 1984. To commemorate that event approximately 30 past and present Board members and staff gathered at FIDC's offices for a small buffet lunch on 14 July 1994.

As Mike Summers, the General Manager, was absent on overseas leave, Ian Dempster, the recently appointed Assistant General Manager, gave a brief speech outlining FIDC's achievements over the past ten years. These include the provision of assistance to 185 businesses on 244 occasions by way of 70 loans, 19 hire purchase arrangements, 86 enterprise grants, 36 special grants, 12 interest relief grants, and 21 equity investments. Only 17% of assisted businesses have ceased trading. When considering assistance by sector, the majority of approvals have been in the service sector (52), with 40 in retailing, 28 tourism, 25 food production, 17 construction/building, 13 manufacturing and 10 others. FIDC has also spent almost £3m on assets which have been leased or on-sold to local businesses. The above is a commendable record of achievement.

Mr. Dempster also paid tribute to the time and effort put in over the past 10 years by both Board Members and staff, too numerous to mention, whose contributions have helped FIDC reach the point it is at today.

### **STAFF CHANGES AT FIDC**

A number of staff changes have been made at FIDC over recent months. Claudette de Ceballos was appointed to Clerk of Council for FIG following the departure of Anton Livermore to the Falkland Islands Government Office in London. She was replaced as Administration Officer by Wendy Teggart, previously the Assistant Producer at the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station.

Ian Cox returned to UK following the completion of five years as Assistant General Manager. He has been replaced by Ian Dempster who previously worked as Business Development Manager at the Drummur Castle Estate. Mr. Dempster also has experience of the offshore oil industry and it was therefore felt appropriate that he should participate in the Falklands delegation visit to Newfoundland in late April/early May prior to commencing his employment with FIDC.

Paul Blake resigned in July to move to UK where he hopes to obtain work in the offshore oil industry. Cathy Clifton will undertake the Operations Assistant duties; she has been employed as Secretary/Receptionist since 1989.



# FAMOUS ANTARCTIC BOAT RE-SURFACES JAMES CAIRD SOCIETY FORMED

By Harold Briley and Harding Dunnett

It was one of the most astonishing feats of navigation, endurance and, above all, survival in the annals of exploration..... Sir Ernest Shackleton's escape from the wreck of his Trans-Antarctic expedition ship, the *Endurance*, crushed by ice in the Weddell Sea nearly eighty years ago, in 1915. Against all the odds, he and every man on his expedition survived - after an extraordinary and unbelievable sequence of events. They drifted on ice-floes, and camped on Elephant Island as Shackleton and a small party of his men navigated their way over eight-hundred miles of fierce winter ocean to South Georgia in a small boat, found their way across the island over mountain, ice and snow to a Norwegian whaling base and made contact with the outside world for the first time for 17 months. Finally, the men left behind on Elephant Island were rescued two years after the expedition had set off.

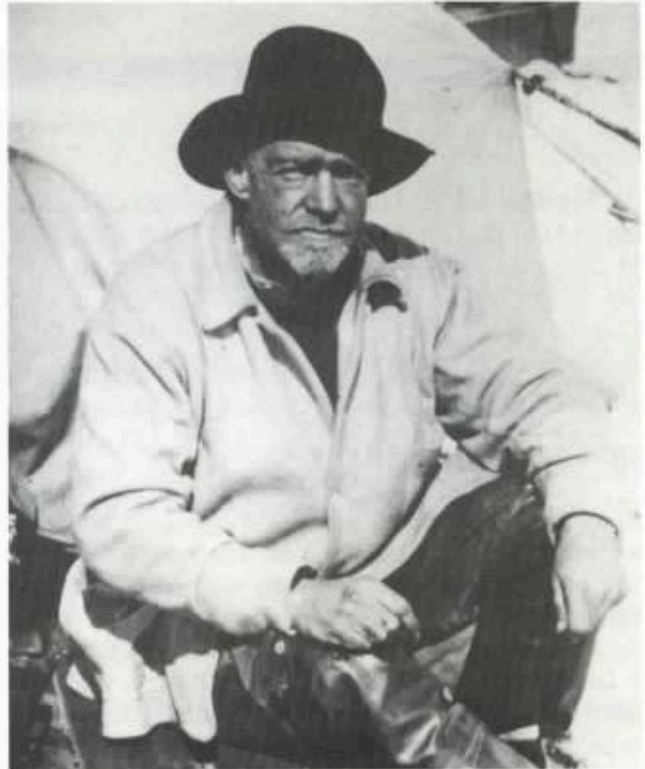
For the epic 800-mile ocean voyage to South Georgia, Shackleton relied upon a twenty-three foot open boat, called the *James Caird*. Not for nothing was this era called the heroic age. Not only did all members of the expedition survive. So did the *James Caird*. All these years later it has given birth to a special society to perpetuate this outstanding feat and promote an educational programme about this period of Antarctic exploration. Its chairman is 85-year-old Harding Dunnett, who was a small boy when Ernest Shackleton returned to Britain to acclaim from an admiring nation. Harding Dunnett takes up the story.

## THE JAMES CAIRD SOCIETY

The founding of the *James Caird Society* is an example of the great interest re-awakened in recent years in the Antarctic. The Society came into being as a direct result of



The *Endurance* trapped in the ice of the Weddell Sea  
Photo: By Frank Hurley, reproduction courtesy of Dulwich College



Shackleton at Patience Camp on the Weddell Sea ice in 1916 after the loss of his ship *Endurance*.

Photo: By Frank Hurley, reproduction courtesy of Dulwich College

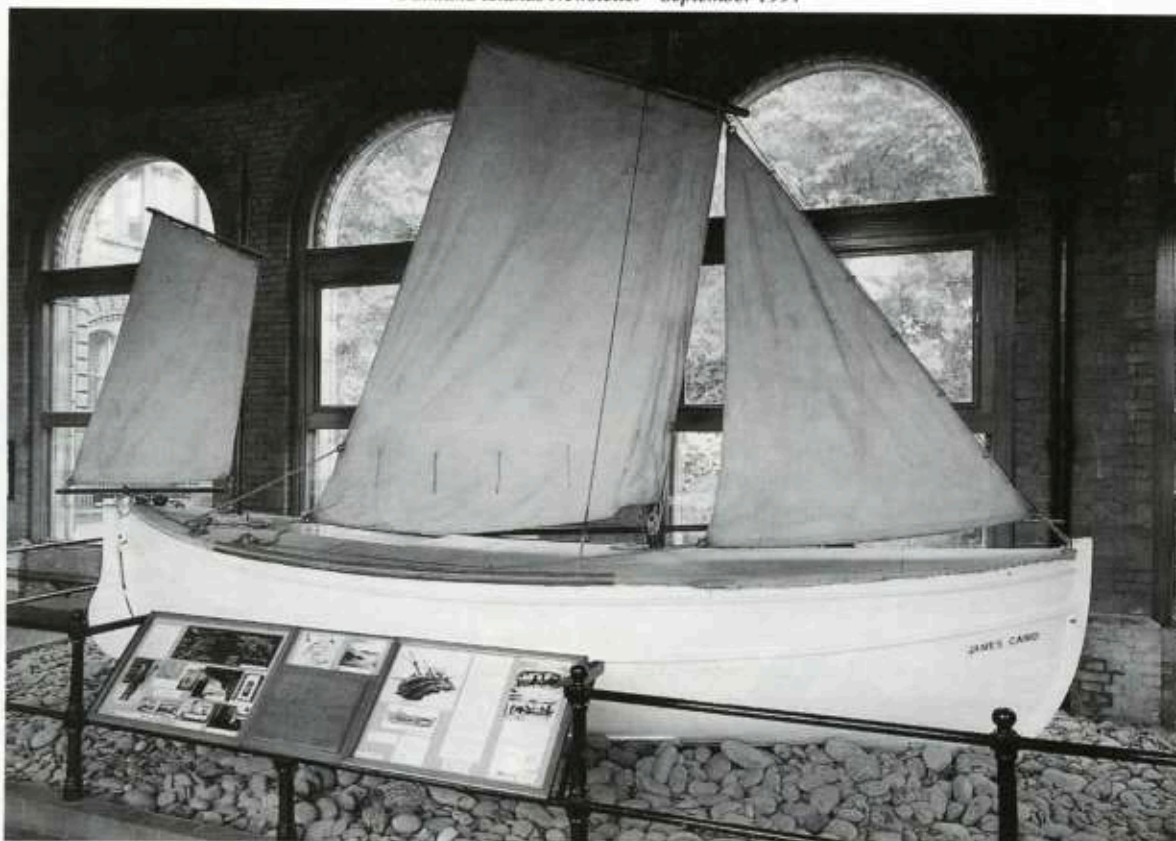
its success as an exhibit in the London Boat Show last January, by arrangement with its owners, Dulwich College, where it normally resides, reminding its pupils that their famous predecessor, Shackleton, was a scholar there too.

His voyage in the *James Caird* in 1916 to bring rescue to his marooned colleagues is one of the great epics of polar exploration. Her ten days at the boat show revealed remarkable ignorance about Shackleton and his expeditions. Many people believed the *James Caird* had perished in the Antarctic. Thus the idea of forming the society germinated.

The boat show display also featured a more recent expedition, called "In the Wake of Shackleton" in which Trevor Potts and three friends endeavoured to repeat the famous voyage in a specially-built replica. But this took place in the summer months and, unlike Shackleton, they were forced round the north-west of South Georgia, after a severe struggle with a Force-8 south-westerly gale lasting many hours. Having by-passed the need to climb over the South Georgia interior, they attempted a climb up to the Shackleton Gap, but were defeated by slow-going in soft snow and the threat of avalanches. So, with modern equipment, they failed to do what Shackleton had accomplished more than three-quarters of a century earlier.

In contrast to Shackleton's many months of silence, his fate unknown to a world, by then embroiled in the First World War, news of Trevor Potts' expedition was transmitted daily, via their Immarsat communications system, to the Boat Show. They knew what was happening back home too. Having rounded South Georgia and anchored in a bay, they





The James Caird in her permanent home at Dulwich College

switched on a radio to hear a voice announcing: "This is the BBC World Service. We are now going over to Earls Court and the Boat Show", followed by myself, Harding Dunnett, and Shackleton's grand-daughter, Mrs Alexandra Bergel, being interviewed about the James Caird and Trevor Potts' expedition. As Trevor Potts later observed, the contrast between Shackleton's life and death struggle through an Antarctic winter in a ramshackle boat and his own experience served only to high-light Shackleton's heroic deeds.

The James Caird Society thus came into being after the boat show. It aims to build on the knowledge and experience gained there to inaugurate a comprehensive educational programme. Sets of photographs or postcards about Shackleton's life, his expeditions and his men are planned, as well as models of the James Caird.

Lecture programmes, radio, television and video features are in preparation, for distribution through the shops of maritime museums in Britain and abroad. A video of Shackleton's boat journey has already been produced at

Dulwich College for the instruction of the boys. President of the Society is his grand-daughter, Mrs Bergel. The late Lord Shackleton, the explorer's son, had the satisfaction of seeing the society formed in the evening of his own life. Membership is open to those who support the Society's aims. Enquiries should be sent to the James Caird Society, Dulwich College, London SE 21 7LD.

**Editors Note:** Mr. Harding Dunnett is Chairman of the Society having compiled the video, master-minded the Boat Show display, acted as unpaid press officer of Trevor Potts' expedition, and persuaded like-minded friends to join him in forming the Society.

**Photography:** One of the outstanding features of Shackleton's expedition was the photography of Frank Hurley. His pictures of *Endurance* trapped in the ice are by any standards, brilliant. The famous shot of her at night (front page), with her mast and yard-arms draped in frost and icicles, he took by simultaneously triggering off two dozen flares in the snow around the ship, taking his comrades by surprise, thinking he'd blown himself up. His photographs are reproduced here by courtesy of Dulwich College.

## New Law to Protect the Antarctic

Parliament has passed a new law to support international safeguards for protection of the Antarctic. The Antarctic Act, enjoying all-party backing, enables Britain to ratify the 1991 Environmental Protection Protocol to the 30-year-old Antarctic Treaty.

Britain's association with the Antarctic began with James Cook 220 years ago and continues with the British Antarctic Survey today. It was a pioneer of the original Antarctic Treaty. So it is fitting that Britain should be amongst the first to ratify the Environmental Protocol. British scientists, research vessels and the Royal Navy are already observing its safeguards.

It is now an offence without a permit to kill or interfere with indigenous animals or plants; to introduce animals and plants which are not native to the region; or to damage, destroy or remove any part of a historic site or monument. Husky sledge dogs, such an essential part of past Antarctic exploration, have to be phased out. The last British ones were recently flown out through the Falklands to Canada. British expeditions and its bases in Antarctica now have to have environmental permits from the Government.

Lord Shackleton's final illness prevented him from speaking in the debates, but many speakers paid tribute to his long-time championship of Antarctic protection.



# LORD SHACKLETON

## CHAMPION OF THE FALKLANDS

Lord Shackleton is remembered as a man of many achievements, as the recipient of many well-earned honours, and, above all, as a man of many friends. For his friends, his death leaves a great void of sadness. We mourn his loss and applaud his achievements. Eddie Shackleton lived his 83 years to the full, as explorer, politician, Government minister, conciliator, diplomat and trouble-shooter, scientist, businessman... and champion of the Falkland Islands. It's there his achievements and friendships came together, in a region where his father, the famous explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, won international fame and admiration.

When I once asked Lord Shackleton what stood out in such a crowded life, what honours he cherished most, he said: "I remember the Falklands with enormous affection. They made me a Freeman of Stanley. Isn't that wonderful. That and being made a Knight of the Garter by the Queen are the two great honours I've had".

His contribution to the wellbeing of the Falklands has been enormous and will long continue. His two investigations and reports on the economic future of the Falklands, in 1976 and 1982, laid the foundations for present prosperity, political progress and a future of even greater promise. He fought for the fishing conservation zone which has brought unprecedented wealth but wanted to extend it 200 miles not just 150. He recommended agricultural reforms, splitting up large farms with absent owners, enabling more Falkland Islanders to own their own land and sheep. He envisaged oil exploration and the difficulties of extraction.

### PERCEPTIVE... PRAGMATIC

Falkland Islanders appreciated his perceptive description of an island as "an area of land surrounded by advice". The thrust of his report took the Government by surprise. Some in the Foreign Office, wanting rid of a persistent problem, thought the islanders could be persuaded that economic progress depended on reaching a sovereignty agreement with Argentina. Instead, Lord Shackleton's pragmatic appraisal was that the islands could prosper outside Argentina's clutches. To his delight, he was derided as a "pirate and buccaneer" by the Argentines, who ordered one of their naval vessels to fire upon the scientific research ship called "Shackleton" in the mistaken belief he was aboard.

The question has to be asked: What if his first report, in 1976, had been implemented instead of put aside by the Labour Government in favour of pursuing co-operation with Argentina? Many people believe it would have prevented the 1982 conflict and the loss of hundreds of lives. That's what the Argentine Foreign Minister, the late Dr Costa Mendez, told me after the conflict. Lord Shackleton privately agreed. Argentine reasoning was that implementation of the Shackleton proposals would have emphasised, in a graphic and practical manner, Britain's commitment to the Islands, beyond any doubt, and warned the Argentine Junta that aggression would not pay. Instead, Britain's lack of action was interpreted by the Argentines as indicating Britain was no longer interested and the islands were there for the taking.

By ignoring the first Shackleton report, Britain embarked on an indeterminate course leading to the 1982

invasion. A key proposal to underpin Falklands development was to extend and strengthen the permanent airport which Shackleton privately pointed out would make rapid troop deployment easier... and so deter invasion. Others were not as far-sighted. Only after the conflict was the new airport built, giving the islands the security they previously lacked.

His vision was based not only on intuition but experience. He'd been a Royal Air Force intelligence officer during the 1939-45 war, involved in anti-submarine warfare, was mentioned in despatches twice and awarded the OBE. Later, as a Cabinet Minister in the Labour Government, he was in charge of security. He also carried out a review of anti-terrorist law and headed a Government mission to Southern Arabia where his patient, forceful diplomacy led to withdrawal of British troops and independence for Aden. He was also Minister for the Royal Air Force, a job he particularly enjoyed as a former RAF Wing Commander.

### RESPECTED... ADMIRER

As Minister for the Civil Service, he carried out radical reorganisation allowing recruitment of outsiders, while retaining the respect and admiration of the civil service. He was also Leader of the House of Lords. He fought an election to enter Parliament in 1946. His early ambition to become a cricketer was thwarted when he was dropped from the school team. He was educated at Oxford University, where he organised an expedition to Borneo and Sarawak, making friends even with the headhunters. He found them "nice, friendly people", whose forests and way of life he has ever since tried to protect. He became the first white man to climb the highest mountain there. Then, off he went to the Arctic to explore Greenland and learn Eskimo, adding this to his mastery of Malay, French and German. He was a Ministry of Information adviser to the German Service of the BBC, and a BBC talks producer in Northern Ireland.

As a businessman, he held top posts in major companies and led trade delegations to Eastern Europe and elsewhere. Of his many honours and awards, he modestly remarked: "Once you become known and get one honour, they tend to remember you and give you more". But honours don't come that lightly as he knew well as Chairman of the Political Honours Scrutiny. He took pride in forming Parliament's Science and Technology Committee. He was Chairman of the British-Australia Society, a Fellow of the Royal Society, Chairman of the Arctic Club, and President of the Royal Geographical Society, awarded its special gold medal, the same as his father received many years earlier.

His father died and was buried in South Georgia in 1922. Lord Shackleton's 1976 Falklands investigation was his first opportunity to visit his father's grave. He described South Georgia as the most beautiful place he'd ever seen. His daughter, Mrs Alexandra Bergel, visited the grave this year, courtesy of the Royal Navy. Our sympathy is now with her and her mother Betty, his wife for 56 years.

Lord Shackleton's interest in and knowledge of the Antarctic gave his championship of the Falkland Islands a crucial wider perspective. He believed the Antarctic Treaty





Lord Shackleton, photographed earlier this year with his daughter the Hon. Mrs Alexandra Bergel

*Photo: The Hon. Mrs. Alexandra Bergel*

was the most important international accord in his lifetime, leading to peaceful co-operation by so many countries, hostile in other spheres, Britain and Argentina among them. He campaigned to the end to strengthen the Treaty to protect the Antarctic's unique environment and wildlife. When the British Parliament this year passed the new Antarctic Act to do just that, many tributes were paid to him for his contribution. He formed the South-West Atlantic Group to focus attention on that region, and constantly urged Britain to maintain a physical presence of power and sovereign authority there.

For that reason Lord Shackleton argued it was vital to retain the Royal Navy's ice patrol vessel, the *Endurance*, named after his father's ship. He opposed plans to withdraw *Endurance* before 1982 and fought successfully for her replacement with a more modern vessel three years ago....with the same name! As he reminded me, it's not just a ship's name, albeit a famous ship, it's an essential pillar of the Shackleton family motto: "By Endeavour, We Conquer". Like his father before him, no man was better equipped with such dogged characteristics to uphold that motto. On that, all his political contemporaries are agreed in their tributes to him.

Sir Rex Hunt: "He was a great fighter and a great champion of the Falkland Islanders, their watchdog and Father figure. He will be remembered forever in the

Falklands. We cannot over-estimate the importance of his economic studies. Everything developed since then stems from his recommendations".

Former Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan: "A man of great conviction and fixed principles, which made him extremely effective. He inherited his father's dogged determination and pursued his objectives through ice, foe, fog, snow rain, thunder, to get there... a great man to be with in a real struggle".

Former House of Commons Speaker and Cabinet colleague, George Thomas, now Lord Tonyandy: "A man of shrewd intellect and inner strength which enabled him to persist in advancing a cause, quite unafraid of any opposition. He had a fierce loyalty to his friends, one of those men whose contribution to public life sweetened this land, a giant whose contribution was wholesome and constructive".

Lord Cledwyn Hughes, who succeeded him as Labour Leader in the Lords: "An interesting man who knew the world, a very active Member of Parliament with strong views which he stuck to and fought for, like a hawk, waiting to pounce upon Ministers. An independent spirit, a man of courage, principle and persistence. A great man".

We in the Falkland Islands Association salute him for what he was to us and for what he did for the Islands.

**Harold Briley**



# Tragedy in 1981 - Ciudadanos de Segunda

Baroness Vickers saved British Citizenship for Falkland Islanders in 1983, but her magnificent attempt to do this in 1981, when the original British Nationality Act (BNA) became law, failed by just one vote.

The BNA was intended to exclude the people of Hong Kong from Britain. It extended immigration controls to all residents of British Overseas Territories, except Gibraltar, unless they had a parent or grandparent born in Britain. So the debate about Baroness Vickers' amendment, exempting Falkland Islanders too, was more about making a precedent for other territories or appearing racist than it was about the merits of the Islanders' case. Unfortunately, Lord Shackleton, who knew so much about the Falklands, had to be away overseas at the time. Passing on his apologies for absence, Lord Hunt commented how effectively Lord Shackleton could have supported the amendment. In the event, just his vote would have been enough. With its defeat, some 400 Falkland Islanders lost the right of abode in Britain and got "overseas citizenship". The Argentine claim had been mentioned in the debate - and the wrong message sent.

## A PROPAGANDA GIFT

In 1982, the Argentines used the BNA as propaganda for all it was worth. They portrayed it as if it applied to all Islanders, and as if they had been singled out for discrimination. The fact that it applied to other British overseas territories was conveniently forgotten. The Junta used it to claim that the British considered the Islanders "second class citizens". Worse still, they spread the lie that the Falklands word for a native Islander, "Kelper", was the derogatory name for the Islanders in Britain. This was, of course, a projection of Argentine opinion. Most Britons hadn't even heard of the Falklands until 1982, none thought like that, and the word "Kelper" is still largely unknown in Britain, even today. But, it allowed the Argentines to pretend that they were liberating the Islanders from British abuse.

## Toothfish Trials Pay Off

Longlining Patagonian toothfish has proved profitable for Consolidated Fisheries, a Falklands consortium of some 17 local companies. "Catch rates are as good as we could have hoped. We estimate the fishing to be worth in the region of \$10 million a year", Terry Betts of Consolidated Fisheries told *Fishing News International* in September.

Falkland Islands Department of Fisheries had granted Consolidated Fisheries a three month licence, which was used by two contracted boats, the *Isla Guafo* and the *Elqui*, both Chilean flag vessels owned by largely Spanish interests. Fishing was carried out in the southern portion of the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone (FOCZ).

## Falklands Manages South Georgia Fisheries

Since August, the Falkland Islands Department of Fisheries has been controlling fishery around South Georgia, where some five or six boats currently operate, fishing for toothfish. A potential exists for crab and an expanded krill fishery, which attracts Polish, Russian and Japanese vessels.

## INFERIOR PEOPLE

All this lead on to the idea that "second class citizenship" implied an inferior people. This, of course, fitted perfectly with the Argentine argument that the Islanders' interests should be taken into account in a settlement of the Falklands dispute (which Argentina got included in UN Resolution 2065 in 1965). After all, inferior people NEED someone else to decide their interests for them - as they are not capable of doing this for themselves. It all served to rationalise the idea that others should decide what the Islanders' interests were - which was, and still is, critical to inflicting interests on the Islanders that aren't their interests at all. Of course, lurking in the background was a more fundamental sentiment: as second class citizens, the Islanders were second-class human beings too, who didn't have first class human rights such as self-determination!

## WHY SHOULD BRITAIN DEFEND THEM?

On Argentine TV, during the war, commentators repeatedly wondered aloud why Britain should bother to defend people that it did not consider genuine citizens. It was here that the word Kelper turned into an Argentine pejorative.

Baroness Vickers' reversal of the BNA in 1983 was greeted with sneers in Argentina. The word Kelper lives on there as a popular term of abuse - with obvious racial overtones. It even appears in the press. It's a bit like the racial epithets that are used in English, but it's really worse than an insult - because it means something. It particularly means someone who has no rights or is not recognised as an equal by his peers - a second class citizen (*Ciudadano de Segunda* in Spanish). Perhaps its closest relation is the hideous word *untermensch* which the Nazis applied to Slavs and other people they considered inferiors.

Argentine malice and mendacity, a bad law, and the lack of just one more vote in 1981, is the source of all this evil.

**P.J.Pepper.**

## Mrs. Gwenda Jones

The Association would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Gwenda Jones for her years of hard work and dedication doing typing, filing and other general duties in the Association office.

Mrs. Jones will be retiring at the end of this year, and the Association invites applicants to fill this part-time position. The position is voluntary, but travelling and other expenses are paid.

## Lady Arrowsmith

Readers will be saddened to learn of the death of Lady Arrowsmith, widow of Governor Sir Edwin Arrowsmith. Lady Arrowsmith, like her husband, was a great supporter of the Falklands' cause and often attended Association functions. Our sympathies go out to her family.

## The Governor's Year: Moody At Port Louis

Governor Tatham's book, which was reviewed in the June Newsletter, is now available from the Association office. Price £3.50



## Baroness Vickers

Baroness Vickers DBE, formerly the MP Joan Vickers, died on May 23 aged 86. She was born on June 3, 1907.

One word sums up the character of Joan Vickers: redoubtable. I first met her in Kuching, Sarawak, in 1965. I cannot remember now whether she was there in connection with the Red Cross, The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the UN Status of Women Commission, the Europe China Association or the Anglo-Sarawak or Anglo-Indonesian Societies, in all of which she played a prominent part; but she certainly made an impression.

She was a charming and considerate house-guest and invariably managed to look cool and elegant despite the heat and humidity of Kuching. She always wore a choker of pearls and followed the advice of her father's friend, Winston Churchill, to wear a pretty hat. She went further and tinted her hair a striking blue. The Ibans of Sarawak, traditional head-hunters, gathered round and stared at her in wonder and amazement. Here indeed was a prize head.

She was also very clever, with a clear and independent mind that remained sharp until the end. When my wife and I last saw her in her cottage in Wiltshire, she asked questions about the Falkland Islands that were more taxing than any I have had from a professional interviewer. Her interest in the Islands was undiminished and she was well informed of the latest developments there.

It is, of course, her support of and work for the Falkland Islanders that is the main concern of this obituary. Others have already covered her parliamentary career and her many and varied other interests, in all of which she left her distinctive mark. She was, above all, against prejudice of any kind and champion of the under-dog.

It is not surprising that a person of her calibre and spirit was drawn to the UK Falkland Islands Committee in the dark days of 1968, when it seemed that the government of the day was about to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina. She became a Vice President and remained so until her death. In the House of Commons and, subsequently, the House of Lords, she battled fiercely for the Islanders' rights



Baroness Vickers DBE

to decide their own future. Perhaps her most valuable contribution was to steer the British Nationality (Falkland Islands) Bill through the House of Lords in 1983 and in so doing secure British citizenship for Falkland Islanders.

She was delighted to be invited by the Falkland Islands Government to attend the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1983 in recognition of all she had done for Islanders. Undaunted by having fallen and broken her hip a few weeks earlier, she took the difficult 14-hour trip in the RAF Hercules in her stride and emerged at Stanley airport looking as elegant as ever. It was typical of her that she had particularly asked to be accommodated in the home of an Islander. She stayed with Sydney and Betty Miller and spoke afterwards with pleasure and gratitude of their warm hospitality and of the great reception she had received from all Falkland Islanders.

Sir Rex Hunt

### Agenda for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held on 3rd December 1994

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Report of the Joint Executive Committee.
3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1994.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Executive Committee.
6. Suggestions from members present for consideration by the Executive Committee.

All nominations for office must be notified to the Hon. Sec. at least 21 days before the AGM.

### Croydon Exhibition

Once again the Falkland Islands Agency is staging an exhibition in the Sun Lounge of the Fairfield Halls Croydon, from Monday 31st of October until Saturday 12th November inclusive - EXCEPT SUNDAYS. The exhibition is open from 10.30am to 7pm each day and admission is FREE.

A large selection of Falkland Islands Products and Crafts will be on exhibition and for sale, including the magnificent pure wool and woollen garments. There will be video film shows of Falklands wildlife and the Islanders, together with photographs and magnificent artwork.

As this is Penguin Conservation Year, the philatelic display will be centred around these so attractive birds, whilst demonstrations of spinning will be given throughout each day. An Island personality or specialist will also be available every day to answer questions.

**PLEASE VISIT US - YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**



# Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Falkland Islands Association or the Editorial Committee

## The General Belgrano

Sir,

The Belgrano Saga still rumbles on, see Falklands Newsletter No. 59, June, page 7. It is time the true facts of the strength of the largest Argentine cruiser were printed, and then compared with the largest British cruiser in the Task Force. The A.R.A. General Belgrano was not an innocent vessel cruising around in the South Atlantic, she had immense fighting power.

ARA General Belgrano	HMS Bristol
13,645 tons	7,100 tons
15 x 6" guns	1 x 4.5" gun
8 x 127mm guns	2 x 20mm guns
2 Quad Sea Cat Launchers	1 twin Sea Dart Launcher
2 Missile carrying helicopters.	

The Belgrano was not only almost twice the size of the largest British cruiser, HMS Bristol, it had an even greater fighting ability. You will recall, the worst problem for the task force was lack of distant radar coverage. I dread to think what could have happened had the "Junta" and the Captain of the Belgrano known the QE2 was at South Georgia and Canberra at San Carlos disembarking troops. The Belgrano could have remained undetected over the horizon, fired her 15 six inch guns at the Task Force vessels including the QE2 and Canberra and thousands of lives would have been lost.

These facts have always been ignored by the extremists who criticised the sinking of what was probably the most dangerous surface man-of-war in the South Atlantic.

Unlike the Saga dwellers, I know of the sadness felt by all seafarers when a vessel is lost. I have not only spent a major part of my life at sea, but I have also had the opportunity not only to have sailed on the unarmed QE2 and Canberra, but also to be on the heavily armed A.R.A. General Belgrano on numerous occasions whilst she was in Buenos Aires.

Yours faithfully, **H. David Toulson**

**Editor's Note:** Readers may have read in the national press that the Argentine commission investigating British "war crimes" now considers the sinking of the General Belgrano a "legitimate act of war".

Despite President Menem's nonsense about it being a war crime, and of extraditing Lady Thatcher for it, she could not have been tried under Argentine law. Argentine amnesty "Punto Final" prevents the trial now of ANY PERSON who committed a politically motivated crime during the military dictatorship (1976 - 1983), within the jurisdiction of the Argentine courts. As the Argentines allege the sinking of the Belgrano was politically motivated, and as they claim jurisdiction over the Falklands and their surrounding waters, Lady Thatcher can sleep peacefully.

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# The Falkland Islands Association

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## Dates for your Diary

**31st October to 12th November**  
Falklands Exhibition, Croydon.

**Saturday 3rd December**  
Battle Day and AGM, Whitehall

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