

The Steak & Kidney Pudding Club -18th of October



The Cape Horn Road

Chris Roach has had a life-long affinity with tall ships and the sea. In his youth he met the late great Stan Hugill the last living Shantyman who shaped him into the man he became. He went to sea to find out how the songs might have worked when heaving and hauling on lines and capstan bars. His first voyage was a transatlantic crossing on *Sørlandet* the oldest fully-rigged ship still in operation.

Waving the flag for Britain in the autumn of 1991 Chris Joined the traditional square rigged sailing ship *Søren Larsen* with 33 others to take aim at Cape Horn. His talk illustrated with colour slides tells the story of how this little 150 ton brigantine sailed the great expanse of the Southern Ocean, where some way into the 7000 mile expanse of seemingly endless sea you are as far away from land as it is possible to be. He tells how they celebrated the loneliness:- the lime juice ceremony, paying off the dead horse 30 days out, arrival off Cape Horn in a force 6 and then destination Falkland Islands. Singers sing about this place, and Chris was there in the first British owned and registered square rigger to make the Horn in 55 years. Then blow me, in 2015 in his late 60's he went again this time in the bark *Europa*.

Chris is the editor of the Journal of the International Association of Cape Horners (IACH) a volunteer post he has held for thirty-six years. We can look forward to a fascinating tale of iron men sailing wooden ships in some of the most inhospitable seas imaginable. A tale that he might well embellish with a shanty.

Members are invited to meet in the bar at 7.30 for drinks and a chat before going into dinner at 8 o'clock to enjoy the chef's delicious Steak & Kidney Pudding with vegetables at £12.50 each. Please book with gala@rsyc.org.uk.

Rod Waller – President