



Ken Newman 1929-2020

From: Harriet Brabazon

It is with sadness that I write too often at the moment with bad news and I regret that here is more: Ken Newman died on 15th April. He had been in frail health for some time. Ken started riding in 1993 in his 64th year, and became a Member in 1994, and a Life Member in 2001. He rode regularly each season. For some reason I associate watching Ken ride the Cresta with my heart mostly in my mouth, but his riding record does not bear this out, with only 22 falls out of 272 rides. He last rode in 2011, in his 82nd year and, appropriately enough, in the Julian Board Seniors Cup.

The Club owes him immense gratitude for beginning the Herculean task of making some sense of the SMTC's copious archive record and I well remember the days we spent going through boxes of stuff, making lists and moving them to another, slightly safer, lockup, with Ken easing the drudgery with little nips of 'amber nectar'. His huge contribution was recognised by the Club in 2005, when he was made an Honorary Member.

In addition to his Membership of the Club, he held the record for the greatest number of entries, sailing in the Fastnet Race, starting in 1957 and last taking part in 2015. Of this gruelling race he said, "Looking back over the years and having competed in innumerable long distance ocean races, for me the Fastnet is the best event in the racing calendar. It's like four or five races put together, each one requiring difficult tactical decisions to be made. The crucial components are a well-found boat, a competent crew, safety and sea-room. The ability to get along with others is key to a successful race. I mostly sleep at the nav. station and remember being woken up at change of watch by the laughter going on between the crew, great guffaws of laughter and I thought well, this is what it's all about, that's the sort of camaraderie that I've been privileged to know. I'm a very, very lucky man...if you want to learn about someone, take them sailing." And to this I think he would add, "or ride the Cresta with them."

What a legend! Brave, cheerful, indomitable – he will be sorely missed by his many Cresta friends.