

YOUR
OCEANS
NEWSLETTER

cruiselines

AUTUMN 2009

norwegian heritage... black prince farewell... black watch refurbishment... proposal on board... winning awards... and more!



A big thank you to our guests from the RNLI

Image courtesy of Nigel Millard

Fred. Olsen passengers buy another lifeboat

It's an amazing fact that the RNLI rescue 21 people a day, every day. What's also impressive is that this year our Oceans members have donated an overwhelming £77,000 for this worthy cause. This means our target to raise £150,000 for the RNLI to purchase a new Atlantic 85 lifeboat for their Kyle of Lochalsh station in Scotland has been reached.

Donations from Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' passengers through the years have played a valuable part in supporting the RNLI. Overall, the generosity of our guests has provided three Atlantic 75 lifeboats, four mobile training units, three training rooms at the RNLI Lifeboat College and the development and supply of three new lifeboat launch carriage.

On behalf of ourselves and the RNLI we would like to thank all our Oceans members for their continuing generosity and support.

Looking Closer: Our Norwegian Heritage

It's well known that Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is a family-managed business, but the Olsen family have a connection with sailing that dates all the way back to Norway in the 1840s.



In the small village of Hvitsten on the Oslo Fjord, three Norwegian brothers, Fredrik Christian; Petter and Andreas Olsen – all three being ships' captains – each purchased a number of vessels for international trade and shipping, sailing out of Norway. This began the Olsen family's passion for sailing Norwegian waters and was the start of a business that would eventually grow to include Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines as we know it today. Our Norwegian heritage, dating back more than a century and a half, remains extremely important to the company.

Norway is famous for its fjords: the beautiful waterways and mountains are complimented by picturesque towns and villages to create enthralling and varied landscapes. And no-one knows it better than we do. Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' long Norwegian heritage continues today, with most of our captains and officers being from Norway. This means they can show you the very best of Norway and the fjords in a way that few others can. After all, they are at home.

In 2010 Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines will operate an extensive Norway cruising programme. For more information simply visit www.fredolsencruises.co.uk or call one of our dedicated team on 01473 746 170.

Black Watch dry dock for further improvements

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' programme of continuous improvement continues apace with *Black Watch* taking a well-earned short break to head to dry-dock this December for a pampering treatment of her own.

Black Watch will sail into a dock, which is then sealed. Apparatus will be erected to support the weight of the ship and the dock drained of water so that work can take place on areas that are usually below the waterline.

In conjunction with Fred. Olsen staff, the expert team at the Blohm and Voss shipyard in Hamburg will make improvements to many of the public areas on board, with new soft furnishings in the Neptune Lounge, Piper's Bar, Glentanar Restaurant and the Observatory Lounge. More extensive changes will be made to the Garden Café. This will be completely transformed to create the Braemar Garden; a larger space for informal dining with a fresh, contemporary look, a screened private dining area and improved Braemar Lounge with a new bar. In addition to the improvements to the public facilities, some of the cabin bathrooms will be refitted and a series of system and mechanical developments will be made, including the addition of two new lifeboats.

Emerging from her make-over on 14th December, *Black Watch* will be primed to offer Christmas holiday makers an improved cruise experience.

BLACK WATCH



Black Watch's sister ship, Boudicca, in dry dock

SECOND EDITION WORLDWIDE 2010/11 BROCHURE OUT NOW



This comprehensive brochure features the same cruises as the first edition, with updated details of our full range of exciting itineraries for 2010 and early 2011. The brochure covers our destinations worldwide, our departure ports around the UK and on board entertainment, lectures and facilities across our fleet of four stylish ships: *Black Watch*; *Boudicca*; *Braemar* and *Balmoral*.

For your copy of our second edition brochure simply call our brochure line on 08705 77 22 99, contact your preferred travel agent or visit www.fredolsencruises.co.uk.

Winners Twice Over – Two new awards for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines!



New Grampian Restaurant



New Library



New Observatory

In recent awards from one of the UK's most popular and influential cruise websites – Cruise Critic – Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines won in two categories.

Braemar was awarded 'Best Refurbished Ship' and Fred. Olsen was named 'Best for Seeing the World'. We are delighted our efforts have been recognised in this way, with these awards being a testament to the hard-working officers, staff and crew on our ships.



Left: some of Braemar's new areas following the 2008 refurbishment

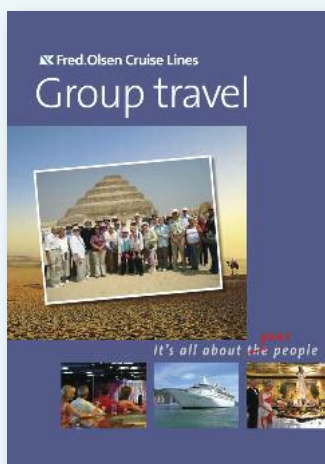
Would you like to earn yourself a free cruise?

Well now could be the perfect time! If you're a member of a group or association, travelling together on board can have many benefits.

We know that many of our valued Oceans members are also members of clubs, societies or associations, such as retirement groups, ex-service associations, Rotary Clubs, Lions Club, the WI, or special interest groups.

If you are a member of a group or association, you could earn yourself a free cruise – if you travel in a group party (15 passengers or more) that you've organised*. So this could be just the right time to get a group together from your local club – or maybe even a group holiday with your family and friends (particularly if you have a birthday, anniversary or other special event to celebrate). And don't forget that our special interest Flagship Golf and The ArtsClub programmes are available to all, to make the cruise even more enjoyable (charges apply for Flagship Golf and some The Artsclub activities).

In addition to your free place, we can also offer you a selection of free added value benefits so you can tailor-make the group package to your own requirements.



The benefits available include*:

- 'Group saver' special pricing
- Free onboard spend credits
- Free parking at the port or airport
- Complimentary coach transfers to/from the port
- Welcome aboard drinks party
- Plus office based and on board assistance with group dining and specific onboard requirements.

This month we are delighted to announce the launch of our brand new *Group Travel* brochure featuring details of each ship, public room specifications and group benefits.

If you would like to order a copy, or if you have a group enquiry in mind, please call

01473 746 164 or email

group.sales@fredolsen.co.uk.

*Terms and conditions apply. Please ask for details.

Farewell to an old friend: Black Prince



This October, after sailing approximately 4.5 million nautical miles and carrying 629,000 passengers, beloved *Black Prince* spent her last days as a Fred. Olsen cruise ship. Staff, officers, crew and those passengers fortunate to have secured a place on her farewell cruises all said their final goodbyes as *Black Prince* departed in style.

Guests enjoyed a wealth of on board entertainment, with acts such as Tufty Gordon and the Steve Love Band, and ceremonial events, with local folkloric bands and dance groups welcoming *Black Prince* quayside. All adding to the memories of these iconic sailings.

After 43 years of service we shall be sad to see *Black Prince* go, but at the same time, pleased that this popular ship will continue to sail, with 3- and 4-night short break holidays from Venezuela.

We wish *Black Prince* many more years of happy sailing and bid her a fond farewell.

Below: Black Prince officers and crew on the farewell voyage



Fund for Philippine flood victims

With a large proportion of our crew being Filipino, many have had families and friends directly affected as a result of the terrible flooding that has devastated the region recently. To those who know our passengers well, it is no surprise that they have shown great concern and many Fred. Olsen cruisers past and present have enquired how they can help. As a response, we've set up a fund to assist flood victims related to our crew members, in an attempt to help in getting their lives back to normal as soon as possible. We know that the crew have been touched by the concern shown by so many of our customers.

Should you wish to make a donation, simply send a cheque made payable to Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, to the company's Ipswich office at the following address: Deborah Moore, Philippines Fund, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Fred. Olsen House, White House Road, Ipswich, IP1 5LL.

These contributions will be distributed through Fred. Olsen's crew agency, which is based in the bay area of Manila. The company has pledged to match contributions to the fund to a significant level.



Romance on the High Seas

Our congratulations to Mr Peter Block and Mrs Kate Windsor. When Peter and Kate were cruising on *Boudicca* last September, the perfect moment was seized and Peter took the opportunity to propose to Kate.

“One evening before dinner, Peter took me up to the sundeck to watch the sunset. At the bow of the ship he produced a diamond ring and asked me to marry him. At the very moment that I said yes a school of dolphins leapt from the sea. Were they celebrating that very special moment?”

And of course, the happy couple will be celebrating their honeymoon on *Black Watch* in May next year. The officers and crew on *Black Watch* are sure to make the cruise one to remember, but as Kate says, “I’m not sure if Peter has any more romantic surprises planned, but he’ll need to go a long way to surpass his perfect proposal!”

We wish Peter and Kate all the best for this very special occasion and their life together.

Bridge Tournament on L1003 Commentary and Talks from Paul Hackett

With Bridge a popular pastime on all our cruises, we know that there are some keen players among our Oceans members. With this in mind, we’ve teamed up with the English Bridge Union to host a tournament on board *Balmoral* sailing L1003, in addition to all the usual entertainment and activities.

Making the whole proceedings even more exciting is that *Daily Express* Bridge correspondent Paul Hackett – of recent World Senior Championship success – will be giving daily commentary across the six-day tournament, along with fascinating talks covering Bridge-related topics.

Whether experienced or novice player, this is a great chance to test your skills against like-minded competitors, all in the relaxing atmosphere of the ‘Canaries Collection’ cruise.

To find out more, simply call our Reservations Team on 01473 742 424 or contact your travel agent.



Please note: Those wishing to take part in the bridge sessions must pre-book and there is a charge of £100 per player. Those not participating will be unaffected by proceedings and all other activities will proceed as usual.



Balmoral in Antigua

On the horizon



And then there were four...

After successive and successful expansions to our fleet in recent years, not having *Black Prince* around is sure to take a little getting used to. This said, we have meticulously planned the itineraries of our 2010/11 calendar to still offer the widest possible choice of destinations, durations and regional departure ports – the three key factors in cruise selection, once you know the Fred. Olsen style is right for you.

As the nights here close in, there are perfect opportunities to get away, whether to indulge in one of our Christmas party mini-cruises; for leisurely days of pre-Christmas shopping at some of the best of the festive continental markets; or to get right away for some much-welcome winter sun – before, during or after the holiday period.



Christmas markets

The value of a Christmas afloat with Fred. Olsen will be well known to many of you of course – you can relax while we take care of everything for you (including the washing up!). At the time of writing there are a few cabins still available, whether you are tempted by either the Canaries or the Caribbean, where we can offer the choice of a fly-cruise or month-long voyage from Southampton. Escape the family or bring them with you! Either way we'll do our utmost to ensure you have a memorable festive season.

Helen Long

Oceans Club Administrator



TOP POINTS

As you may know, we like to thank our most frequent cruisers by awarding a choice from our Crystal Collection to the passenger with the highest number of Oceans points on each cruise. This is presented at the Oceans Cocktail Party on board.

Please see the below for the latest list of our winners in ship and cruise order.



THE CRYSTAL COLLECTION

BW0912	13-Aug-09	Mrs Sandra Brett	L0919	26-Sep-09	Mrs Eleanor Miller
BW0912	13-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs David Hibberd	L091913	26-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Alan Morton
BW0913	29-Aug-09	Mrs Barbara Edwards	L091921	9-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Daniel Moonie
BW0913	29-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Michael Bone	L091921	9-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs William Roy
BW0914	6-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Brian Harvey	L091923	9-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Bernard Bristow
BW0914	6-Sep-09	Mrs Elizabeth Eagles	L091923	9-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Wilfred Heys
BW0915	20-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Eric Williams	L091931	23-Oct-09	Mr Anthony Heald
BW0915	20-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Keith Finch	L091931	23-Oct-09	Mrs Margaret Lilian Gregory
BW0916	18-Oct-09	Mrs Ivy Penny	BL0920	05-Nov-09	Mr & Mrs Fred Elliott
BW0916	18-Oct-09	Mrs Margaret Mary Harris	BL0920	05-Nov-09	Mrs Pamela Cooper
BW0917	25-Oct-09	Mr Trevor Lingwood			
BW0917	25-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Arthur Berry			
BD0920	18-Aug-09	Mr George Edwards	BP0918	08-Aug-09	Mr Rowland Simpson
BD0920	18-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Bryan Gray	BP0918	08-Aug-09	Mrs Irene Alton
BD0921	31-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs John Goodwin	BP0919	22-Aug-09	Mr and Mrs David Bishop
BD0921	31-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs George Browne	BP0919	22-Aug-09	Mrs Dorothy Howells
BD0922	12-Sep-09	Mr Mervyn Tacy	BP0920	29-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Daniel Lawler
BD0922	12-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Derrick Andrews	BP0920	29-Aug-09	Mrs Lilian Gough
BD0923	19-Sep-09	Mr William Chree	BP0921F	09-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Gerald Glover
BD0923	19-Sep-09	Ms Gloria MacMillan	BP0921F	09-Sep-09	Mr John Douglas
BD0923	19-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Brian Tong	BP0922F	19-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Ronald Rees
BD0924	01-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs DJ Henry O'Connor	BP0922F	19-Sep-09	Mrs Diane Renton-Rose
BD0924	01-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Alexander Creighton	BP0923F	22-Sep-09	Mr Stanley Norman Matthews
BD0925	05-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Alan Banks	BP0923F	22-Sep-09	Mrs Kathleen Scales
BD0925	05-Oct-09	Mrs Pauline Billings	BP0924F	02-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs David Odling
BD0926	26-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Robert Stephen Jones	BP0924F	02-Oct-09	Col & Mrs Peter Smith
BD0926	26-Oct-09	Mrs Vera Mortimer			
BL0913	9-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Trevor Prescott	BM0917	15-Aug-09	Mr Fred Bucksey
BL0913	9-Aug-09	Mrs Patricia Olive Evans	BM0917	15-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs AC Pyatt
BL0914	16-Aug-09	Mrs Jenella Armstrong	BM0918	29-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Peter Smith
BL0914	16-Aug-09	Mr Michael Medhurst	BM0918	29-Aug-09	Mrs Catherine Pearce
BL0915	28-Aug-09	Mr Kenneth William Nunn	BM0919	5-Sep-09	Mrs Patricia Bridges
BL0915	28-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Walter Brian Eccleshall	BM0919	5-Sep-09	Mr Daphne Devito
BL0916	31-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs Kenneth Chidley	BM0919	5-Sep-09	Mrs Joan Popham
BL0916	31-Aug-09	Mr & Mrs James Malone	BM0920	20-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs David Alec Dunning
BL0917	5-Sep-09	Mr Roy Williams	BM0920	20-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Anthony Manley
BL0917	5-Sep-09	Mrs Peggy Staff	BM0921	4-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs John Cooke
BL0918	14-Sep-09	Mr & Mrs Hugh Bailie	BM0921	4-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Byron Sheppard
BL0918	14-Sep-09	Miss Mary Holt	BM0922	18-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs William Wilkinson
			BM0922	18-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs Brian Albone
			BM0923	27-Oct-09	Mrs Cynthia Shirley
			BM0923	27-Oct-09	Mr & Mrs David Whittam