

Born and brought up in East Cowes, schooled at Grange Road primary, Denmark Road Cowes, Secondary, Secondary Technical School East Cowes and IW Tech College

Apprenticed as Fitter Turner in Saunders Roe (Now GKN) became Jig and tool design draughtsman, was an engineer in the Merchant navy, programmed special purpose machines for Plessey Radar before training as a telephone installation engineer looking after large and small systems.

Been "Messing about in boats" for 70+ years, learnt to sail with 1st East Cowes Sea scouts in a gaff rigged ex RN 14ft dinghy, built and used a canoe, was coxswain in the Saro "A" team gig racing all over the Solent, and although a competent helm prefer racing as crew/tactician "Around the Cans". Spent a season each racing Dragons, another IoD's (similar to a daring) and did the RTI in No 16 "Marenda", Skippered a 40' sloop, "Conteza" cruising in and around the Solent racing RTI and Cowes Week, spent 6 years racing XoD 117 "Xray" 4 times a week followed by 3 years in various other Xod's and finally, before my back gave out, a 25ft Trapper on Thursday evenings, also did the RTI in a Folkboat and the ECSC RTI twice.

In between times, although not being very good, have fished off the needles a dozen or so times, represented the club at the Southern Television "Out of Town" fishing competition, owned 4 motor boats and two dinghies, which I use to get away from it all, did 9 Cowes Week's courtesy launches, was secretary of the Folly Regatta committee, was on the IW Car Club Committee, IW Motor Cycle Club committee, am currently one of the Deputy Station Managers at the Needles NCI Station, spend Monday mornings volunteering at the local Food Bank also do various tasks for the West Wight Time Bank.

Joined The Club in the late 1950's, was elected onto the committee in 1967 and was either part of the committee or an officer of the club for the following 45 years.

My duties during that time include 3 years as fishing secretary, two stints as Honorary Secretary of 9 and 11 years during the latter also as assisted Danny as Joint subs Sec. was assistant launchman on and off for 5 years then senior launchman for 25, was Commodore for 3, Rear commodore for 6 and in 2006 became a Vice President, was also one of the Clubs 3 Trustees for 3 years and am currently President

At The Club have been involved in re-laying the long slipway, demolishing the original wooden pier, where the rowlock, that is now the "Dropped Rowlock Trophy" was found, extending the yard which the Centenary Room stands on, re-laying all the concrete yard and floors, installing the security system and many more projects. As Hon Sec organised the annual dinner at the Trouville Hotel Sandown for several years arranging, without the aid of a computer, the seating plan for 400+ and 4 or 5 coaches from East Cowes

As Launchmen we did both Tuesday and Thursday evenings combining with the ISC Launch and borrowing a UKSA Launch to look after typically 15 to 20 5o5's, 20+ Mirrors, various amounts of fast and slow handicap dinghies and 15 to 20 XOD's.

Away from boating I helped to organise IW Motor Cycle Club trials, one or two of which I entered unsuccessfully, including the open to centre 2 day, various on and off road car club events including 5 Isle of Wight Stages, many 12 car night rally's, which I entered reasonably successfully until writing my Mini off hitting a tree at Locks Green triangle, have marshalled at various off road events on the mainland, was part of a Stages Rally Car preparation and service crew attending some 50+ events over 9 years as far afield as Northumberland, Isle of man, Jersey and Belgium, assisted in the rebuild of the Ferguson P99 Grand prix car and was part of the crew that took it to the Goodwood Festival of speed and the Revival 5 or 6 times each, Oulton Park, Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb and the Historic Grand Prix in Monaco. Sir Stirling Moss drove it at most of the events followed by Whizzo Williams and Peter Westbury.

A D (Tony) Cole 28th May 2020