

The Worcester Tradition of "Slewing"



All posted on 26th Aug 2009

My recollection of the "slewing schedule" was that we did it at break-times in the school day (weather permitting on the upper deck, on the Main deck in wet weather), and again after classes, probably at least three times a day.

I also recollect that we slewed clockwise (when viewed from above) when the Starboard Watch had won the Port/Starboard Boat Race, and the other way around if Port should be the winner, as of the moment the race was won. I seem to remember also that in my time on board from 1949-51, we spent most of our time slewing clockwise, the Starboard Watch being naturally superior to Port.

It was not unusual for best friends to slew arm-in-arm, or large groups to do the same, sweeping all before them until stopped by someone in authority, however in this day of "PC" and conforming to stereotypes, I wonder if linking arms would be viewed askance?

Patrick R.M.Toomey. OW 1949-51 Fore Starboard.

Thanks for the detail Pat. I vaguely recall the rotation but thought we did it in the evening, before or after supper.

Tony Child

In my time 58-60 it was every evening. Remember having a crystal set and listening to Radio Luxemburg!

Dave Farley

I agree with Tony slewing was done to "Park" the Cadets in any "spare time" thus we did slew during the daytime at times. The real event, "Slewing" was done in the evening before Prayers and it was done on the Upper deck if it wasn't piddling down with rain in which case it was done on the main deck with a speed up as "The Cabin" was approached just in case the occupants fancied interrogating practice on some, in their eyes anyway miscreant.

I can recall the first slew on the upper deck on joining and the dishing out of Lanyards for scrubbing by the darkened figure who no doubt got your name but I am buggered if I remembered half the names of the owners or how I recognised which lanyard was owned by whom. Some had a special knot or attachment can anyone remember?

Barnsey

Oh no no no no. You're right about the direction of slewing but it took place every evening.

Courtney

I'm with Patrick on this one, any spare(?) time cadets went either onto the upper deck or in bad weather and started to "SLEW", clockwise or counter-clockwise depending on when Port or Starboard had won the boat race! It was the general meeting place of your mates. I can still hear the shuffle/rumbling noise some 250 cadets made as they walked, and walked, slewing around the deck.

Tony Maskell

I remember slewing as being mostly in the evenings around supper time/sliding hammocks. I am pleased to report that we continued the clockwise slew from summer 55 to summer 58 for the reason stated.
Alasdair McCulloch.