OBITUARY

Terence Steven Sprake
Yachtsman, artist, engineer and charismatic raconteur

Known as Terry to all his friends he died on Friday afternoon 6th January 2012 aged 88. He was born in Southsea in 1923 and his love of sailing was ingrained from that date when he would watch races from the Royal Albert Yacht club start line near The Clarence pier.

I first met Terry in 1988 when ‘Mornings End’ was moored on the Hamble River Harbour Masters Jetty, about a year later we met again in the same place and invited him for a coffee in The Solent School of Yachting.

Enquiring if he had had a good mornings sail that day ? “Yes I’ve just come across the Atlantic”. That encapsulates his indomitable spirit as one of the last true Englishmen. He had just completed a North Atlantic circuit of about 10,000 miles, over the years I learned part of the fascinating history of his very full life.

As a Captain in the British army based in India he was involved in testing the DUKW’s designed by Rod Stephens from the famous yacht designers Sparkman & Stephens. Then as an engineer with GEC he re-located to South America where he worked on geothermal power stations and Tamsin his daughter was born in Venezuela.

Concurrently he kept up his sailing and I learned he was also a skilled artist and sculptor with a knowledgeable eye for South American antiquities which adorned his Titchfield home.

On his return to the UK he bought a third share in the classic boat ‘Tar Baby’ which he campaigned for many years. Sometime later he sold her and bought his S&S 34 ‘Morning Tide of Lymington’ which he re-named ‘Mornings End’ she had an illustrious history from amongst others being ‘Red Arrow’ owned by the RAF to John Hart Bristol Channel Pilot/yachtmaster Examiner, from whom Terry aquired and renamed her ‘Mornings End’ a sister yacht to Sir Ted Heath’s yacht ‘Morning Cloud’
In 1993 James Jermain editor of Yachting Monthly invited Terry with "Mornings End" and Tamsin his daughter to the Yachting Monthly Classic Yacht Rally in Cowes, three other S&S yachts were moored with 'Mornings End' ‘Revid’, ‘She Two’ and ‘Scheherazade’. At the closing ceremony James Jermain was asked if the yachts could join the S&S owners club, James said there wasn’t one, but would publish an article in the Yachting Monthly that the Sparkman & Stephens Association was born at the Classic Yacht Rally.

As a result the S&S Association exploded into life and had its first AGM in 1993 in The Warsash Sailing Club when Terry was elected Chairman. Under his stewardship it grew into an international association with annual excuses for an AGM/rally/party in a different country each year. With his charm, Terry succeeded in getting the famous yacht designer Olin Stephens to attend many of these AGM’s.


Terry remained as chairman until 2002 when he stepped down and was elected ex officio Chairman and life member.
2003 on ‘Warrior’  Rob Snoeks presenting Terry with his ½ model of ‘Mornings End’

In his Titchfield House Terry had many sailing awards and cups from all over the world, including Royal Thames Yacht Club Young Members cup for getting young people afloat, one of his most cherished cups.

Terry was a member of several clubs :-
**Hurlingham Yacht Club** on the Thames, he became Commodore.
**Warsash Sailing Club**
**Royal Thames Yacht Club.** Who will fly their flag at half mast on the day of his funeral as a mark of respect for a senior member.

Reviewing the fleet at Spithead  Lady crew with daughter Tamsin
Terry was married to Yvonne who was sadly killed in an accident in France, he is survived by his daughter Tamsin and son Stephen.

2004 Terry sold his much loved yacht ‘Mornings End’ to Andrew Cheyne now fellow S&S member who will take Terry on his last voyage.

Terry, we will miss you, Bon Voyage from all the members of your Sparkman & Stephens Association  

David Olley Hon Chairman S&S Assoc