

CHRIS HOGAN (1951-2016)



These brief comments taken anonymously from Facebook show the enormous respect and admiration and love that the Squib family has for Chris Hogan.

“He’ll be well remembered in Squibland in no small part due to his name being all over trophies!” ~ “What a lovely man, really sad today” ~ “A wonderful man and formidable competitor who always had a smile for you back in the bar. We say goodbye to our friend who will be greatly missed” ~ “A true ambassador of the Squib fleet!” ~ “A true gentleman with a big smile” ~ “The class has lost a really lovely man and great sailor” ~ “A true champion, true gentleman” ~ “A generous man with his knowledge” ~ “A lovely man with a fine family” ~ “He was a great guy and did what he enjoyed most (sailing) up to the bitter end. I will always remember the trademark Hogan grin and his tremendous friendship.”

~ “We’ve lost an absolute legend” ~ “The Class was truly fortunate to have such a wonderful sailor and generous man showing us the way for so long. Who can forget that smile and those sparkling eyes as he came off the water? Thank you Chris for the memories.” ~ “A lovely man who always had a smile for us when we travelled over to race (Mostly well behind himself and Mark!). Thanks for the memories and tips on how to go faster Mr. H. !” ~ “What bad news! A great loss to his family and the Squib Class. Such a great competitor and a lovely guy too. We will all remember him as a legend.”



I am indebted to Elaine Watkin Jones for allowing me to reproduce her obituary for Chris, as published on the Yachts & Yachting website.

Chris Hogan sadly passes away

It is with great sadness we have to report the passing of multiple Squib and Hornet class National Champion, Chris Hogan, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday September 27th after a short two-year battle with cancer.

Chris was born in Sale, Manchester in 1951 and left school to concentrate on his life long career in the building trade. Starting as a joiner and shop-fitter, his steady progress through

the ranks eventually saw him project manage the construction of the café at the summit of Mount Snowdon.

Because of his love of the sea Chris and his wife Alison moved to Anglesey in the 1970s where they were lucky enough to have two sons, Mark and Liam. His first boat was a small cruiser/racer which he sailed with his growing family. Chris soon felt the pull of competitive racing and embarked on his dinghy career. He became a member of Clwb Hwyllo Y Felinheli/Port Dinorwic Sailing Club in the 1980s, and this was where he did most of his club racing. His early sailing career was spent in the GP14 class where he achieved some notable results on the national circuit. After a brief fling with the Scorpion Class he moved onto the Hornet Class in the mid 1990s which he dominated for a few years winning both the National and European titles.

At the end of the 90s Chris set his sights on the Squib class. He found the perfect boat in No. 136 and – typically - spent two years rebuilding and tuning her before re-launching her in 2000 with his Hornet crew, Tim Hall. The following season Chris teamed up in the Squib with his eldest son Mark. So began a remarkable domination of the class during which the pair won an unprecedented six consecutive national championships together. Chris and Mark went on to win two more national championships along with a handful of inland titles before Chris became ill.

Never one to let the youngsters to have all the fun, although he was in his mid-fifties, in parallel to his Squib campaign Chris also joined the RS400 class. Despite being regarded as "Old White Hair" he recorded a number of notable race wins and competed in the RS400 Europa Cup regattas in Ireland and at Lake Garda in Italy.



Chris Hogan aboard his Fife © Hogan family

As he approached retirement, Chris had set his eye on the beautiful classic lines of the Fife class which is actively raced at the Royal Anglesey Yacht Club. After some searching, along with his friend Richard Date, Chris invested in a 'project' Fife. It was No. 18, the last wooden

Fife ever built. It had been abandoned and unloved for a number of years, but of course this was just the type of challenge Chris was looking for. He worked tirelessly on a restoration so meticulous it took two years to complete. Eventually though she was ready to race. Sadly, Chris was diagnosed with cancer not long afterwards.

Chris loved sailing right up to his passing, happy to let others helm and he even got his son Liam on board the boat - something which gave him immense pleasure. Chris' last national championship was in June this year. Despite undergoing treatment he had salvaged and restored yet another Squib - none other than No. 28 'Thistle', the winning boat in the first ever Squib National Championship. Despite clearly being very poorly and racing in some big conditions he and good friend Richard Roberts came a very respectable eighteenth. Determination always was one of his greatest strengths.

One thing Chris will be remembered for is his tenacity at hunting down the right boat. Both his Squib No. 136 *Ric O'Shea* and his Hornets 2115 and 2126 were all restoration projects. Much like some of his crews, they weren't always pretty and polished, but Chris had the ability to see their potential and was willing to put the work into them to get results.

A wonderful person, a fabulous husband and father, a terrific friend and competitor to so many of us, Chris will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

2016 Inland Championships were dedicated to the memory of Chris Hogan at the Race Officer's Briefing. Here is Salty's homage as given at the Saturday evening Championship Dinner.

"Ladies and Gentleman, before we enjoy our evening meal, it would be very remiss of someone not to stand and make a short address, and I do not intend to prolong this address, but we must remember our friend and fellow Squibber Chris Hogan, who slipped his moorings on the 27th September after a long fight with his illness, which almost lasted two years to this day.

Chris Hogan will arguably be the very best Squib helmsman we shall ever have the pleasure to watch upon the water and great success comes along with great crewing and our thoughts go out to Alison, Mark and Liam, together with their respective families at this very sad time. An accomplished yachtsman and helmsman, Chris was also a true gentleman and I have yet to hear anybody say words against his ability and he will be sadly missed upon the water and at our events.

I had a look on the internet to find out what else happened on the 27th of September of any significance and the only real things I could find were the launching of the Queen Mary in 1938, the shooting down of 55 Nazi aeroplanes over London in 1940 and the passing of Johnny Mathis – whom I'm not sure if Chris would relish as a comparison. However, whilst I can assure you that Johnny Mathis will be singing to the angels, Chris Hogan will undoubtedly be teaching them how to win yacht races!

Need I read out the following?

2001 – National Champion and Inland Champion

2002 – National Champion

2003 – National Champion

2004 – National Champion and Inland Champion

2005 – National Champion

2006 – National Champion and Inland Champion

2009 – National Champion

2011 – National Champion

I consider it an honour and a privilege to have been able to call this man a friend and we will now raise our glasses to the great man.

Final Note: It was noted by the competitors that the Committee Boat flew the Black Flag in Mourning, memory and respect of Chris on several occasions! I'm still trying to work out why they insisted on putting it up 4 minutes before each start!!

Nigel Grogan made particular reference to the memory of Chris and that the event was overshadowed by his passing. All Squibbers would cherish his memory.

The Legend Lives On ...”