

## BOOK REVIEWS

**HAPPY HOOKING: The Art of Anchoring – Alex and Daria Blackwell (second expanded edition). Published in paperback by White Seahorse Inc <http://www.whiteseahorse.com/> at £13.00. 226 pages including many line drawings and photographs, but no colour. ISBN 978-0-9815-1710-0**

Anchoring is a subject which is of interest and importance to all sailors, especially cruising yachtsmen and the authors, both of whom are OCC members, have set out to produce a complete textbook on the subject.

*Happy Hooking* is divided into six parts: the first is concerned with anchors themselves, part two deals with the anchor rode, part three is devoted to the technique of anchoring, part four covers permanent moorings, part five deals with tying up and rafting, and part six with anchoring etiquette and manners.

The first section describes all the different types of anchors available and the advantages and disadvantages of each design. The authors have made a very thorough investigation of the research and tests carried out in various parts of the world by authorities including Coast Guards, the American Bureau of Shipping and yachting magazines, and also draw on their own extensive experience. They explain the classification of anchors into High Holding Power (HHP), Super High Holding Power (SHHP) etc. They resist the temptation to recommend one particular anchor as the best, but anyone thinking of buying a new anchor would be well advised to read this section. It is also very interesting reading for anyone wondering whether the anchor they already have is the most suitable for their particular boat or for their usual cruising ground.

Part two discusses in some depth (excuse the pun) the pros and cons of using rope, chain or a combination of both for the rode, and deals with snubbers, kellets (chums), triplines and the avoidance of chafe, as well as the all-important matter of the length or scope of the rode.

The section on anchoring technique covers everything from selecting an anchorage, dropping the hook, using two anchors and recovering them to how to deal with a dragging anchor. It also includes chapters on weather forecasts, sea anchors and drogues which might be considered outside the scope of a book entitled *Happy Hooking*.

The discussion on anchoring etiquette describes the annoyance that can be caused in a peaceful anchorage by excess noise, smelly barbecues etc. It goes without saying that OCC members would never be guilty of such behaviour so that chapter will be wasted on them.

*Happy Hooking* is well written and makes a very pleasant, easy read, and is well illustrated with plenty of photographs and drawings. It should be essential reading for anyone fitting out a boat for cruising, and will be of interest to all cruising sailors. It may well become the definitive textbook on the subject.

CSD