

## **Memories of Ian Anthony Grewer (written by Dale Grewer)**

On the evening of the 22nd of November 1943 one of the most courageous counter attacks on Germany began,  
764 bombers left England and deposited nearly two and a half thousand bombs on Berlin in a little under 30 minutes  
A pivotal turning point in the war

### **At the same time, Nora May Grewer was busy delivering Ian Anthony Grewer**

...on her own of course!...

Eric Grewer was not seen within the hospital, as the a coal truck needed to be prepared for the following morning!

**Coal** was the family business at this time and brothers, Colin and Ian would spend their formative years learning a work ethic from Dad, Eric...  
Bare in mind this is before child labour laws!

Ian's Recollections of a work day within the family coal empire would start with a footnote warning to captivated listeners that  
**"You youngsters don't know you're born....!!."**

A lesson in yorkshire work ethics would then follow,

Ian and Colin used to have to get up at 3am, and go with the coal truck to the pit  
You had to get in the queue early so you were ready for an early fill @ 4.30am,  
Only when the bagging was finished back at the depo,  
could the brothers think about getting ready for school...!"

It's worth mentioning that Ian and his older brother were also experienced practitioners of the little know sport of 'Coal-Cricket',  
Despite its failure to ever be included as an olympic sport, Coal Cricket was a highly competitive distraction whilst in the tipping queue,  
As the name suggests,  
It was a version of cricket,  
But, the more traditional bat and ball were substituted for a of choc-wood from the lorry and  
The heaviest piece of coal that could be launched towards any area of a human target,  
Flinching, ducking or running would be punished!;-)...  
Apparently, it was Character building!

The Coal business continued,  
But the family moved to Beckfield lane and the brothers went onto Poppy Road school

Ian left school at 16 to start an apprenticeship at Hull road motors as a mechanic

When Ian was fully qualified he started as a service mechanic maintaining Caterpillar vehicles,

The majority of these were used to build the A1, probably the section some of you used today!

During an onsite service, Ian was a witness,

to a practical joke amongst the workers involving a driverless large digger being created,

controls were roped off and a heavy tool box used to hold down the accelerator.

WHEN IT WAS MOVING, A trainee was supposed to run after and stop the vehicle whilst onlookers laughed....

This did not go to plan...!

The digger ended up going down a hillside

A lot faster than expected and couldn't be caught.

**It was last seen heading towards Darlington!**

It was never seen again, never mentioned or reported

**These were very different times!**

It was around this time that Ian and his brother became prominent in the relatively new sport of Rallying,

Skills were developed and success achieved in their respective cars on a weekend but occasionally these skills were put to use on some of their Dad's cars

A brand new Triumph Herald convertible was delivered to the house for Eric

**This definitely required Ians performance seal of approval;-)!**

He took it to the test track, which in this case was a flight through the Castle Howard arches where upon

**a heavy landing provided a mechanical incentive to return home!**

Arriving back home Ian struggled to open the door,

'persuasion' from Collin yielded an opening,

**Collin was very strong!,**

Unfortunately the car had bent in the middle during the test flight!

The bi-product being the doors on both sides rested on the ground whilst open..!

Ian,

By now a very resourceful engineer,

Pushed the car into the workshop,

removed the bonnet and boot,

Built braces up to the roof and jacked the car In the middle until the shape was corrected and once again the doors would shut...

No one would ever know!

.....Eric Grewer only found out about this in his late 70's whilst sat in Ians office with Colin and Dale!

he was quoted as saying;

**"you were both absolute buggers!!"**

In his 20's

Ian ran the service department for a bakery company on st James street, a location that will play greater significance later on,

At this time,  
Ians friend, Howard Cooper introduced him to one of his work friends....

**Jenny,**

Although not initially impressed by the introduction, Ians persistence was rewarded by a first date,  
only the best for his future wife, The Windmill pub on hull road, now A Bernie Inn!

**It worked though..!**

**They were married in this very church in 1966**  
**Ian & Jennifer Grewer**

The first few years of their marriage were spent living on a boat called 'Pye Dolphin'  
The boat was moored in the centre of York  
and entertainment was provided in the form of a deranged spotted Dalmatian called Shamus  
Jenny loved all animals,  
**Ian..... not so much!**

Around this time, Ian & Dick Rowland, A dear friend from his rallying days started White Rose Motors,  
A car repair and sales business, which would eventually move to St James street as mentioned earlier;-)

The couple's first proper house, very much at Jenny;s insistence, was bought in the early 70's in Riccall,

**approximately 1/2 mile away from Ian's final address in Barlby!**

Boating now relegated to weekends, life would get very busy with an expansion to the family in 74 & 76....

**Dale Peter Grewer & Jody Elizabeth Grewer would join Ian, Jenny, and Shamus the dog!**

Expansion to the business would follow as well,  
White Rose Motors would now also include White Rose Transport

**Expanded family & business led to Jenny instigating another move!**

Ian always felt they were never going to get rid of the railway line next to the house in Riccall so it was a good idea to move....

3 months after they moved to 35 Heworth Green in 1980 the Railway line was replaced by a revised A19 and then a cycle path in later years!

The Business expanded again with a base of operations for White Rose Transport at Dunnington,

**next door to the site of Ian & Jenny's first date,**

No longer a Bernie Inn but still called the windmill!

Whilst setting up the Haulage & warehouse yard  
A flashback to the A1 renegade digger incident here!

Ian accidentally knocked over a Oxy Acetylene gas bottle cylinder used for welding, The top valve snapped off on a tool box, the bottle of exploding gas, propelled itself through the side of the workshop, Ian ran outside to see wheat crops waving as the bottle traveled across the fields towards Elvington,

**Ian called at every farm in the flight path desperate to accept responsibility,**  
he was that kind of guy,  
**The bottle was never seen again, the police never came, no accidents reported!**

Alongside business Expansion and house moves, Boating played a major part in the family Grewers lives,  
'Pye Dolphin' gave way to 'Seafarer 2',  
A beautifully converted Scottish MFV fishing boat all works done by Ian himself  
Family and friends would do numerous miles round Europe on Seafarer,  
Those that remember these journeys will also recount that every destination always seemed to be reached at night,  
only so much can be blamed on speed and tides!

Ians experience, seamanship as well as him being an RYA Instructor,  
This attracted the attention of others wanting to learn or those who requiring boats to be moved around Europe,  
Bridge operators from Naburn to Selby would get very used to Ian backing boats with river flow or tide through bridges,  
whether it was a converted Fishing MFV or an Italian Powerboat, people would joke that Ian spent more time going backwards than forwards.  
**Ian had a belt and braces approach to seamanship & life**

Boating always played a very central role in Ians life.  
York Motor Yacht Club was where this centred from, many of its members are here today  
The Grewer family have long played a prominent part of YMYC  
Ian was always eager to roll up his sleeves and help where possible, building moorings or whatever was needed,

**There was however one area in which he excelled;-)**

For many years Ian was tasked with sourcing and creating the YMYC bonfire night spectacular, which was held on the field next door to the club.  
Ians infinite supply of pallets from the transport yard, plus anything else that could be motivated to burn became an excuse for a bigger and bigger fires,  
**, by the end, Ians bonfires were legendary**  
Ian would start building the bonfire in May,  
it would be lit at the beginning of November, for bonfire night  
**hopefully finally going out before May where Construction of the next one could start!**  
Health & Safety laws, or  
**The Ministry of no fun** as Ian would call them,

plus the discovered presence of a rare newt, that to this day hasn't been seen on the flood plain land,

**This brought Fire based enjoyment to an End!**

The boats kept coming,

Seafarer gave way to '**Chic Lady**', in 1990, The Last Moonraker 36 ever made

1999 saw the arrival of '**Malindi**' a Fairline Phantom 41,

Ian, always very responsible, had a rare moment of weakness after taking delivery of Malindi...

a couple of friends pressured him into flooring her between bishopthorpe and the YMYC...

**33knots under the A64 bridge...**

What were the chances of Eric Grewer driving over that bridge as Ian 'flew' under it?!

**Ian was caught red handed!**

2000 was the start of retirement for Ian & Jenny,

By 2002 this gifted Jenny for the first time her choice of boat!

A new Fairline Phantom 46 named 'Providence' it would be their retirement present to themselves

**2003 would unfortunately form the beginning of Jenny's battle with cancer.**

**and in April 2006 Jenny would have her funeral service in this church**

**Ian would not return to Providence.**

Ian intended to end his boating life at this point, he didn't want to do it alone.

A return to his love of boating would come from his son,

Dale brought his father back to boating by tracking down their favourite boat of all time.

A family trip to the London boat show many years earlier saw Father and son falling in love with the most beautiful boat either had ever seen.

Ian was gathered up by Dale, and told to bring his checkbook. They drove from York to Hamble on the south coast without knowledge of what he would be

Expected to buy...it was the very boat they had seen at the show

**Mosi Oya Tunya,**

1 of 6 Supermarine Swordfish 36GT's made,

The boating press called her 'The Aston Martin of the sea'

This brought Ian back to life & boating in 2007,

**A new zest for life also brought Sue into Ians world,**

Unfortunately this meant subjecting her to 18years of hard labour as 'Deck Hand' to Captain Grewer!

Joking aside, they were a fantastic team,

Many years and many more miles of traveling around Europe would result in 'Mosi' being traded in to make way for Ians last Boat

**Seaflax,  
A Broom 44HT,**

A lot slower but easier to live on board, especially when half the year is spent traveling

don't be sad for Mosi,

Dale ended up buying Mosi and would later make Ian proud by helping resurrect the company as a co-owner, it's still going today

Seaflax would play a major role in Ians last 6 months,  
Family would spend this time helping Ian complete his final sea based wish list

**Grimsby,**

Ian always loved Grimsby

I know this sounds like the start of a joke, but he really did,

The marina at Grimsby, called **Humber Cruising Association**, was a second home to Seaflax,

Both Ian and Sue loved their time here

It was always the start and the end of a big trip

**HCA was as far as Ian and Sue got on the farewell tour...**

**Don't be sad**

**They had the best of times there with Dale, Jody and Donna and other close friends visiting**

The **HCA** family were welcoming as always

Ian loved being close to the sea, unfortunately the motion of the sea disagreed with his cancer, **Ian would travel no further, only a return journey.**

**YMYC**

**Ian managed to do the last club rally and see the close of season at his home York motor Yacht Club.**

Boating right till the end, Ian managed to make one last visit to Seaflax to check on Dale and Phil,

Phil, Ian's best mate and Dale were busy decommissioning Seaflax for winter

**They weren't expecting an inspection!**

**A thumbs up was given.**

This is a very rare form of approval that Ian would give in the most exceptional circumstances!.

**Ian always wanted to complete the boating season and he did.**

**Ian Grewer passed away the next day**

RIP