

## Coming alongside, no thanks!

By Rodney Arnold, Shrimper 294 (*Morning Vicar*) (Spring 2003)

(Prompted by observations amongst the Shrimper fleet last summer)

I would have thought that it is natural courtesy, when coming alongside another vessel or a pontoon, to be prepared. After all there is usually plenty of time, even for single-handers like myself.

Please have sufficient length of fore and aft warps ready, preferably run back to the cockpit, outside the shrouds, (and untangled), so that you can easily throw them to your intended victim. At least one fender for the initial impact and two more once secured.

Remember also, if rafting up, to allow the first boat to secure, so that its crew can then prepare to receive your boat. You do, after all, have an engine with forward, reverse and speed controls and can, if required, go round again in most situations.

I witnessed one Shrimper, going too fast and having done none of this, come alongside a motor vessel and relying on that vessel's lady crew, who, it turned out, was partially blind, to hold his boat whilst he found his tangled warps and fenders. A very poor image of a Shrimper helm.

"Which side to"? We've all been there, so if you are uncertain, slow down, put one fender on each side and be ready to change warps over. If you are approaching down stream, throw the stern line first or reverse from at least 50ft away. My warps always have a loop so they can be switched from one side to another without undoing knots.

This is all automatic to most of us, but for those who may recognise themselves, please **DON'T COME ALONGSIDE ME** until we are both ready and then I will have a glass waiting!

