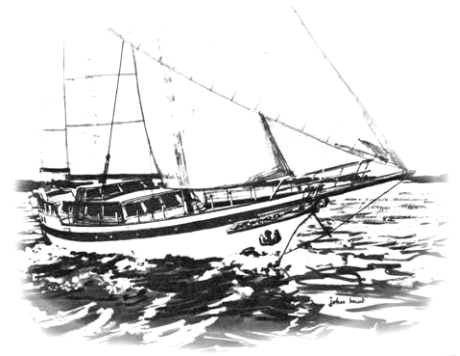


Yachting Almerimar

An occasional column on the yachtsman's life in Almerimar



Chris Southwood lives on yacht DriKe, a 53ft steel ketch. He has spent many winters helping to organise the very active social life for visiting and resident yachtsmen.

This article is written exclusively for Sol News.

Okay, last week I was full of praise for the Marineros of Almerimar. Good, stout and hardworking seamen they all are. Bye way, why are there no marinaras (female)? – I digress, these guys are great...anyway, time for a minor rant. Why is there no speed control around the port? Not even a maximum speed notice is posted. The streets lining the docks are often used as race tracks by motorcyclists and reckless idiots in cars and quad bikes.

We need speed humps I say! Okay, I may be unpopular suggesting this but if you have ever stepped of a boat that borders the road and nearly been squished by and idiot doing 75 k in a two ton Mercedes only one metre from the waters edge then you know what it was like to be one metre from death. Besides on busy fiestas and Domingo's the locals use the streets as their *Paseo Marítimo* for gentle strolling dressed in their Sunday Best. There are Children playing here and people walking dogs enjoy these areas...and also hapless yachtsmen stepping of their boats. No place for speeding. So we need speed humps. Or do we wait till someone is killed?

Another point for which I find no logic is the one-way system in Almerimar. I assume its instigation was either to prevent congestion or make things safer. So the public obey the one-way system. But why is it okay, and it frequently happens, that the Marineros drive their open Suzuki's in the centre of the narrow roads against the traffic? I am trying to find the logic for this. Save time? What? I think permission may have been given for their scooters but has extended piecemeal and without authority to their cars...bit daft; and very dangerous.



I took the photos on this page of an accident about four years ago. As far as I am aware no one was seriously hurt. This was obviously caused by speeding and failing to negotiate the corner by the Restaurante Nautico, hitting the wall and spinning. Imagine if a child had been in the path – there is no proper pavement – or the car had spun to the right and landed on a boat or a Suzuki had been coming the opposite way - this section is one-way you know. I rest my case.