

The Last Word...

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Rock and ro-roll

UNDOUBTEDLY you have heard of Swedish metal band HammerFall. Guitarist Magnus Rosén left this successful formation in 2007, citing creative differences and a desire to embark on more provocative solo projects.

Surely he does not regret this move, as his budding solo career has now brought him to the Älvsborg ro-ro terminal, where he will be performing a Christmas concert together with the Gothenburg Lucia Group. The good people at DFDS will be furnishing the stage for this Yuletide performance. Rosén will be rocking on board the ferry *Tor Freesia*.

A narrow escape

WHEN asked why he decided to leave his captaincy after just five years, recently profiled Marine Professionals investigator John David told Last Word a rather harrowing story that could not quite fit in the profile, but is well worth retelling.

"I nearly ran the ship aground in Mauritius. It is the worst place to go and we were landing a sick person, so they faxed a chart to me and we had to stick it together, but the fax had stretched it and the letters were all wonky and I also hadn't realised the scale had stretched.

"Fortunately, Mauritius is a volcano, so if you stand on the beach and step out the water is 30 ft deep. The pilot was calling me in and I said: 'Look I haven't got a proper chart'. The pilot just kept saying: 'Come in, come in' because the lazy b****r didn't want his boat to come too far out to meet us. I had no idea where I was and he was sitting in his garden, but I thought he was there on some sort of control system watching me and monitoring me in.

"As we went in I passed a small Taiwanese fishing boat and he was

anchoring and I thought: 'We are 10 or 20 times the size of him and he is anchoring already!' He was looking up at me in horror. I realised I had driven the ship in between two rivers of lava and I stopped and thought: 'This is nuts'. I shouted down to the captain of the fishing boat and asked if I could turn around either way and he said no and pointed backwards so I had to reverse all the way back, which was almost impossible.

"After I felt awful and just wanted to go and hide in the cupboard. Everyone was sitting looking at me and no one was saying anything and I thought, 'Why isn't anyone giving any orders?' Then I realised that as captain it was me who had to do it."

Charitable donation

FELIXSTOWE Port Users Association has donated the entire proceeds from its annual charity ball to the Port Community Fund for the third year in a row. The £2,500 (\$38,770) donation will benefit local charities and community projects.

The Port Community Fund was set up three years ago by shipping and transport-related companies in Felixstowe and the surrounding area. The Port Community Fund Golf Day also raised more than £6,000 and the fund has raised more than £125,000 so far.

"We know that the money is staying within the local area, which is important, and it is good to know that many of the people it is helping will have some connection — family or otherwise — with the port or port-related activities," said FPUA vice-chairman Ole Krebs.

Among the groups to benefit by the fund were Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk), St John Ambulance (Felixstowe), Out & About, Felixstowe Area Stroke Support Group and Christian Youth Worker for Felixstowe Trust. ■

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FPUA chairman Simon Fraser (left) hands the cheque for £2,500 to Stephen Singleton, chief executive of the Suffolk Foundation, representing the Port Community Fund.