

The Sunken Pirate Ships - 'unusual', 'bizarre': Margaret Thew

A young pair of honeymooners, Stuart and Ruby, were on an ocean cruise in Phuket floating around in a lovely bay when an announcement was made that the future ports that were to be visited had closed. Like others, they were dismayed at this announcement and wondered what might be next. Not taking much notice, they decided to go for their usual afternoon sun-bake and swim in the small pool at the stern of the ship.

Back in the cabin, a leaflet had arrived to say that there would be a 'PIRATE BOAT BUILDING COMPETITION' to be judged in three days' time. Stuart and Ruby decided to go to the kitchen storeroom to get an empty poly-foam box to start this project as it would float on the pool. They kept their empty drink bottles to help with the floatation. Ruby added some of her colourful scarves to the ship's toilet brush mast. Ruby had taken a very small pot of paints, so these helped to decorate the floating Pirate Ship.

On the third day, everyone brought their Pirate Ships to be judged and lined them up at the side of the ship's main pool. Two of the male staff donned their swimmers looking trim and tanned, jumped into the pool to exhibit each boat to be judged by Captain Pisces and his first mate. The first mate's name was Melvin.

Most of the guests brought cameras and sat around the pool. When each ship was floated on the pool to be judged, some even sank to the bottom, but others floated well with sails of beautiful colours made from scarfs. Everybody clapped when Captain Pisces announced the winner, Pirate Ship with the huge colourful sails. The winning tropical fruit basket prize was given to the honeymoon couple, Stuart and Ruby.

Captain Pisces asked Melvin to go and put on the laser lights to accentuate the event. At the end of the judging, all the boats were put afloat on the pool. However, the pool water started to go down and all the boats became submerged in a puddle at the bottom of the pool. It appeared that Melvin had switched the wrong switch which meant that the pool was to empty, not the switch for the laser lights.

Everyone laughed while Melvin was reprimanded by Captain Pisces.