

# DRESSING SHIP

Courtesy of COMMANDER HEALY,  
Riviera Chart Agent.

Like dressing up, there is much pleasure and pride to be derived from dressing the yacht overall with the set of 40 flags usually carried (26 alphabet, 10 numeral pennants, 3 substitutes and the code/answer pennant). To deal with the widespread uncertainty about the order of flags on the dressing line, the following is recommended to PYA members, whose vessels will all then look equally professional.

From the stem (not the stern as the Reeds almanac typist wrote never having heard of a stem except as part of a flower, thus confusing generations of sailors!), the order should be E Q 3 G 8 Z 4 W 6 P 1 I Answer T Y B X 1sub H 3sub D F 2sub U A O M R 2 J 0 N 9 K 7 V 5 L C S.

If the flags are the right proportion and the masts not unduly tall, the last few of the 40 will not be needed. If there are 2 masts, the line from-fore-to-main should start with the Y and continue as above.

The occasion being celebrated should be marked by the appropriate ensign (or other flag such as the owner's personal one) being hoisted at the masthead. For example the Monaco ensign if in harbour there for the Fête Nationale (19 November).

Dressing ship is a good occasion for British vessels to fly the Pilot Jack at the jackstaff forward (Union flag, with a white border).

The made up dressing line should be hauled up smartly with the ensign at morning colours (or on entering harbour and securing at the berth), and smartly lowered on sailing (unless in extremely calm weather) or at sunset.

