

## Considerate guests are welcome

By Bent Lymann

**In Danish harbours and mooring places it is considered good form to abide by the written and unwritten rules regarding social etiquette, nature and the environment.**

It is actually very easy to be a welcome guest; you simply behave in a similar manner to what you expect from others.

Among yachters there is fortunately an express willingness to be friendly and helpful but you can come across some that distance themselves from other yachters. This becomes particularly apparent when you are on the lookout for a place to berth and have to moor alongside another vessel due to a lack of vacant berthing, marked with a green sign.

In Denmark, the green sign indicates that you are welcome to use the mooring berth. A red sign means that the berth is unavailable as the boat owner will be returning shortly.

The concept of private berthing is not used in Danish harbours.

### **Yachting Harbour Code of Practice**

Berths for guest yachters is rare in Denmark and several vessels usually moor alongside each other. Good practice is to help the neighbouring vessel with the mooring. You make sure to have spring in both ends and adequate fenders.

Similar size vessels should moor alongside each other. And you should aim to use the berth in the most space-efficient way possible.

It is self-evident that when you pass over neighbouring vessels, you wear clean footwear or socks and the ship dog should be carried to avoid scratching from its claws, and that you pass over the foredeck – never through the cockpit.

There should always be room for one more, so dinghies, surf boards and rafts are never moored midship. It is not considered good practice to allow children to play in the harbour basin in dinghies with outboard motors - just as swimming within the harbour is dangerous and prohibited.

Good practice is to be considerate to others, which among other things means avoid listening to loud music or VHF radio, and parties, of course, end at midnight at the latest.

Good practice is also to abstain from sailing motor or generator-driven vessels in the harbour in a manner such that neighbours are disturbed by noise and diesel emissions. Good practice is furthermore to make use of the harbour's sanitary facilities unless a holding tank is fitted. And vessel cleaning, if allowed by the harbour authorities, should be undertaken without the use of cleaning agents.

### **Rules of conduct in nature and on the mooring places**

In Denmark, everybody is welcome to use nature and we can move freely in the state forests and on public beach areas.

Dogs must be kept on a lead between April 1 and September 20.

There are, however, some simple rules that we have to comply with when exploring nature.

Almost everything is privately owned in Denmark – including forests - therefore, there are certain limits to what we can do, and it is self-evident that you should avoid pulling ashore near dwellings and leave the dinghy on the private beach. As a rule of thumb, you can walk on all privately owned beaches below contiguous land vegetation between 7 am and sunset, however, you may not stop over and swim or leave the dinghy within 50 meters of inhabited dwellings and 150 metres of farms.

In privately owned forests you may only walk or cycle on designated paths and prepared roads and in private forests smaller than 5 hectares, the owner can limit the public's access by putting up signs. Forests below 5 hectares are often found on the small islands and it is only natural that we as visitors show consideration - as we are guests visiting a private area.

It is illegal to build a fire on the beach and if you have a barbeque on land, please make sure to clean up afterwards and bring your rubbish when leaving. Please remember that there will be other visitors so leave nature in the state it was on your arrival.