

STORRAR MARINE Newsletter

May 2009

The other week while on my way to work on a customer's yacht at Royal Quays marina I drove past the moored semi submersible which was being used to transport the now redundant Swan Hunter cranes (a Wallsend landmark for over four decades) & the floating crane Titan to a new 'home' in India.



That weekend I told my father (a few years over ninety) about the deck cargo. After Jenny had fed & watered him, before I drove him back to Morpeth, I took him down to the marina to see them for one last time. Like a lot of elderly folk Dad's short term memory is poor but to hear him talk again about shipbuilding & ship repairing on the river was fascinating, famous names such as the Smith Dock Co, Swan Hunters, Vickers- Armstrong (shipbuilders) Hebburn to name but a few. My father, who trained as a civil engineer, moved to the North East in the early fifties to oversee the construction of Smiths new no 8 dry dock (just round the corner from Royal Quays Marina) it was designed by the company he worked for, TF Burns & Partners. As a child in the fifties/early sixties my Saturday(s) 'treat' was being taken round the various shipyards on the Tyne by dad and when at Swans I can remember staring up at the towering cranes. Years later, just before he retired from the company as senior partner, TF Burns & Partners were involved in projects in Greece, Singapore, Dubai, Brazil & Korea & other countries, shipbuilding & repair on the Tyne was sadly on its way out! Whilst the big stuff may have gone from the river, at the Marine Store we, as well as having a superb Predator on display, have taken the plunge & are now displaying a couple of rather smart RIBS on our forecourt. Shipbuilding & repair may have almost disappeared from the Tyne however we hope that our fleet(s) will keep the North East maritime flag flying!

A late Easter followed closely by the early May Bank Holiday & for once some decent weather does put a tremendous strain on our resources (we run on the same number of staff summer & winter) so if our response has not been as good as it should be, answering the phone, getting back to you or should an item be temporarily out of stock please accept our apologies. We are, as I write this piece, working stupid hours to catch up & guess what, failing miserably!

Finally don't forget to enter our May competition, the prize is a fabulous Henri Lloyd Phantom jkt worth £225-00! To help you win this superb prize we have 'placed', a couple of easy to find clues in the clothing section of the chandlery. As well as the Phantom jkt we also stock the majority of the Henri Lloyd range. To find out more about the complete range visit

www.henrilloyd.com/uk



THE WEAKEST LINK

In what I think is a first class book 'The Complete Anchoring Handbook' there was a picture and description of an excellent chain to anchor connection. When one of our regular customers decided the other week to purchase from us probably the world best performing anchor, browse www.spade-anchor.co.uk it seemed logical that he use this recommended method of attaching his chain to the new anchor. Once assembled it gave excellent articulation with great strength. No weakest link here, eat your heart out Anne! Pic shows the complete assembly snuggled down in the anchor well of his yacht.

CHILD FRIENDLY STORE GETS NEW 'TOYS'?

Two years ago when on a sailing holiday in Holland we saw in a Dutch butchers shop a 'children's area' cleverly designed to keep young ones occupied whilst their parents shopped. On my return we purchased a similar activity centre & yes it does keep most youngsters happy when their parents are browsing the store; however as we later on found out the older kids were not interested in jigsaws & puzzles. After a lot of market research by Phil, Andrew & of course Andy (claims he only played on them for research purposes!) we now have a couple of brand spanking new hand held games consoles for the use of older kids, assuming that is that our staff are not getting stuck in! Rumour has it that both Andrew & Phil take the games home to practise on... Sad or what?



CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

The champagne corks were popping at Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club last Wednesday night when Ging's new GP14 racing dinghy went down the slip for the very first time. Well done to Ritchie who did such a great job of fitting the boat out. Without a doubt the prettiest & probably the fastest GP to hit the waters in the North East this year. Rumour has it, another new GP14 will be fitted out by the Marine Store. Expect to see it on the water at Derwent by July time if all goes to plan.



THE RIGHT KIND OF HOODIES IN OUR CHANDLERY!

As already stated, the prize for this month's competition is a new Henri Lloyd Phantom jacket worth £225-00. The Phantom jacket includes the new Optivision Hood System. Exclusive to Henri Lloyd, the system gives excellent peripheral vision in racing and cruising situations. Transparent TPU panels have been engineered into each side of the high visibility ocean hood to allow a wider peripheral vision without the loss of protection to the face, while an adjustable storm guard minimises water ingress from the front of the hood and collar system. The hood is ergonomically designed and has an adjustable fit with twin volume and shockcord aperture adjusters. To enter the Marine Store/Henri Lloyd May competition answer the following three questions, in the event of a draw the first correct answer picked from the hat on Saturday the 16th will win the Phantom jkt.



On which display wall in the clothing section of the Marine Store chandlery is the majority of the Henri Lloyd Marine & Technical clothing displayed, North, South, East or West? In which year was Henri Lloyd founded 1959, 63 or 65? & which Formula One team enjoys the support of Henri Lloyd. E-mail your answers to competition@storrarmarine.co.uk

THANKS!

We have been manufacturing sails, covers, canopies etc for over thirty five years, we take great pride in our canvas work & our long serving sail loft staff, however it's still nice to get a complimentary letter or email from a satisfied customer, this month has been no exception. Thanks folks for taking the trouble to drop us an e mail or note. I always make sure the 'workers' get to see them. Apologies for quoting such long delivery dates however we hope it's always worth the wait!

"Hi Rob, I just want to thank you for the advice and work on the Genoa. It looks absolutely stunning once hoisted, I now wish I had taken your advice and had the mainsail attended to as well. Best regards Mick Stevens."

"At the end of the season I was ready to throw away my old spray hood and got some prices for a replacement. The old one was thread bare on the top where the crew use it as a hand hold to steady themselves and the perspex windows were similar to the rear window of an estate car during the winter gritting. Rob said that "the Loft could sort it". Sort it they have it looks excellent we can see ahead to the clear blue sea and the reinforcement on top will make a really good handhold. It is going to prove its worth on our trip north to the Orkneys Later this week. Anita thinks it is great and that's the best recommendation. Give our thanks to the team in the Loft. Nimrod."

RIB SHACK

Resplendent on our forecourt are a couple of crackin new ribs, the 350RIB can take up to a 25HP outboard and has a nifty pillion style seating console for maximum safety and performance. Trimmed as standard in deep UV stable fabric with reflective piping, this hinges up to allow access for storage and fuel tank location. The stability of this RIB makes it ideal as a tender or as a fun and easy to use runabout at a very competitive price. As for its big brother this 480RIB can take up to 80HP but its recommended to run with a 50HP. An engine of this size will give a superb performance. Like its little brother it is Italian designed. The 480RIB offers more space and performance and is supplied as standard with a tall console with screen and grab rail. It also is supplied with Teleflex NFB Mechanical Steering as standard which increases the safe performance and operation of the boat. Additionally it includes cushions for the front, console hatch and rear bench.



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin,

Last weekend I had a near miss; this time it really did scare the pants off me! There I was minding my own business when suddenly, without warning, I found myself on a collision course. If it hadn't been for my 'O so alert' cabin boy who grabbed my controls I shudder to think what might have happened.

Dear Ida Fright,

Glad to hear your cabin boy saved the day, there have been a few times I have been glad of mine on a cold night! However I digress, down at the Marine Store on the A1058 Coast Road they stock a good selection of books on 'International Regulations For Preventing Collisions At Sea & The Rules Of The Road, seven different authors on this subject at the last count, get one of the Marine Stores hunky young men to steer you in the right direction... However if it's the wham bam thank you mam kind of boating you do & it's the Racing Rules that you need to brush up on they have 'on the 'shelf' books by Twiname, Elvstrom, Willis as well as the RYA's publication(s) on that subject.

DONT NEGLECT THE ENGINE ANODE

The other day our guys were asked if they could carry out a service on a small Yanmar diesel which had been installed in a twenty four foot yacht. No problems with the service but when the anode plug was drawn, absolutely no sacrificial material left, it was completely wasted away. Folks if you service the engine yourself (or you get the 'yard' to do it) make sure the engine anode gets the attention it deserves! Follow the manual & change on a regular basis.

If you are a DIY person & maintain the engine yourself we do carry most popular makes of engine anodes in stock as well as filters, impellers, plugs & lubricants. If you would prefer to get the engine serviced professionally, please give us a ring we regularly work on Volvo, Mercruiser, Yanmar, Vetus, Nanni and Beta engines. We service all makes of outboards, however our speciality is Mariner & Mercury & we do carry the correct computer diagnostics to enable us to 'read' the engines hour history!



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