

STORRAR MARINE Newsletter

October 2008

QUART IN A PINT POT.

Mid August I took a sneaky week off & chilled out on Peter & Anita's Oyster 49. Holland & the Islemeer were our cruising ground, it's probably the last time I will be invited as I never seemed to get either the stern or bow line looped over the mooring bollard when needed! Harbour master in one harbour actually gave me a standing ovation when after the sixth attempt I managed to lasso the damn thing. Having said that my skipper was remarkably calm on the occasion when with the wind up our chuff & Nimrod doing five knots under bare poles, three hundred metres before entering a large lock a large commercial barge started to get it all wrong & 'lose its stern'. Yours truly standing by with stern line, "Don't mess this one up" was all he said. The sight of the propeller on that barge thrashing round as they tried to straighten it up will stay etched in my memory for a long time!

Pic shows Nimrod (forty nine feet long) in a fifty five foot space, I must confess this particular harbour master was superb, "Yes" he shouted above the howling wind, 'no problem you will fit' & we did. Talk about getting that quart in a pint pot, well done Pete. Not only was the haven meester spot on with his judgement, but to see him tie a bowline, one handed & he did it by JUST throwing the rope in the air!

Late August saw me introduce my eldest daughter Kate's boyfriend to the delights of dinghy sailing or was it dinghy swimming, ten metres off the shore of Derwent Reservoir on a breezy but sunny day we capsized (gear failure me thinks but the truth is operator error) suddenly he was swimming, fortunately I managed to make the centreboard & keep dry. Strange this baptism does not seem to have put him off!

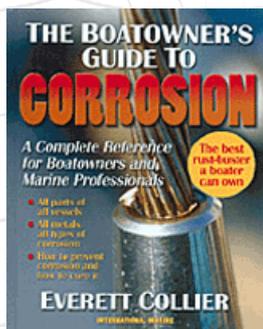


Early September saw Jenny & I take to the high seas, two weeks in the Canaries & guess what, within five minutes of taking Dream On from the boat yard travel hoist to our berth in Puerto Calero Lanzarote a familiar boat & familiar face, Mike Perrin from Sunderland Yacht Club with his junk rigged La Lobo. Last time I saw Mike was in Sunderland marina March 2007 just before he set sail. He helped me turn a powerboat so I could work on the opposite side of a new cover we were in the process of final fitting. Sadly Jenny & I did not get the opportunity to chew the cud with Mike & his good lady as we were both suffering from a flu like virus (not a drop of alcohol touched our lips for the first week) shows how bad we were both feeling!

Second week, we must have been getting better as we managed to sink a few and then sailed our Hunter up to La Graciosa, a small island at the Northern tip of the island. A few pontoon berths, a little primitive, cold shower, neither electricity nor water on the pontoons but at 490 euros for six months berthing for a thirty one footer, that cannot be bad!

RIGHT GOOD READ

The **BOATOWNERS GUIDE TO CORROSION** by Everett Collier is excellent value at £10.99, shows you how to prevent corrosion with proper grounding, cathodic protection, protective coatings, and careful selection and matching of metal parts. Chapters on how to protect your boat's hull, deck gear, mast, rigging, propulsion, electrical, plumbing, and steering systems. In my humble opinion it's 'the best rust-buster a boat owner can own' and in the opinion of world famous author Nigel Calder 'the best explanation that I have seen of corrosion on boats'. For those dinghy sailing frostbiting freaks competing in, perhaps the Sunderland or South Shields winter series or hardy sports boat sailors competing out of St Peters this winter, the 2009 racing rules are now in stock. Next seasons Nautical Almanacs are already on the shelf as well as some other 'right good reads' including the brand new RYA Knots & Splices, well worth a browse. Starting Christmas shopping early? Rick Tomlinson's 2009 Calendar is worth a peek at £15.95 & a great 'coffee table' book, Lighthouses at £29.95



TYNE BRIDGE WINTER SERIES

The eagerly awaited Tyne Bridge Winter Series once again springs into action end of October, first race in the hotly contested series is on Sunday the 26th at 13.00hrs prompt. Run and sponsored by Brian & Lorraine of St Peters Marina, it's recognised as providing some of the closest & most exciting keel boat racing in the North East. Excellent spectator sport, 'cos you can walk the river bank & there is the added attraction of the Bascule for a pie & pint after!

This year look out for Buddy, the Sigma 8 skippered by Colin Davidson, rumour has it he may have some new sails for this year's series! Other front runners to possible wager a bet on include Thunderbirds, Enigma, Sophie & Join the Club. This winter however may be the series when a Cork 1720 comes good, watch out for Mr Big, Corkanut or 'our friends from the North', Yonka.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



November the 14th sees Adrian Flannigan (first person ever to circumnavigate the world via the Polar caps) giving a talk, show video footage & no doubt signing copies of his newly published book 'OVER the TOP'. Adrian, who currently lives in France, is only appearing at two other venues this autumn so I feel very privileged to be welcoming him to the North East. A similar format to last year's 'Evening with Rick Tomlinson' The Marine Store, & co-sponsors The Polar Front www.thepolarfront.com are hoping, with your help, to raise a considerable amount of money for the RNLI. The venue this year is the South Tyneside Collage who incidentally have 'donated' their lecture hall for free for the evening. Tickets are once again £8-00 for adults, £5-00 for students and scouts and are available from the Marine Store or from Mark c/o Polar Bear, Royal Quays Marina. To help raise funds (apart from thru' ticket sales) we will be having a tombola stand with lots of valuable prizes to be won and also a raffle.

HANG EM HIGH

August & September can be quiet months for our riggers (but certainly not this year) what with the stepping of the mast on

'Concrete George's' Bruce Roberts designed steel thirty seven footer 'Carnaptious' (which is apparently Scottish for 'Grumpy old Bugger') George who purchased her as a empty steel shell some four years ago has now seen the 'light at the end of the tunnel.' She is afloat, he is living on her & she looks as pretty as a picture, well done



George! Immediately after the stepping of the mast, Richie the rigger & Neal (who helps run the sail loft) disappeared down to the new Langley Academy in Berkshire. Their mission to hang the gold medal Sydney rowing eight; a propeller display which included an eight blade carbon fibre wind turbine assembly; a three bladed injection moulded glass reinforced microlite prop; a three bladed bronze powerboat prop and a wooden two bladed aero prop; a Pterosaur yes you read it right (an evil looking seagull, about 30ft long that lived 65-220 million years ago!); five cycles thru the ages from Penny Farthing to a carbon race bike.

All hung from the roof of the halls as per the designer's exact specification as regards to heights & angles.

Early/mid September saw us with a couple of small re rigs but the end of the month saw two industrial customers expecting the impossible, first request 'can you design, manufacture & hang all the wire assemblies for carrying internal signage in a new build supermarket in Milton Keynes within seven working days!'

Nearer to home a luxury new hotel (East end of City Road/Newcastle Quayside) "Can you part make up seventy seven 5mm balustrade wires assemblies & final fit on site by close of play Friday the 26th (phone call was 23rd!). By the way all the carpets are already in place & the rooms are completely decorated so you will have to be extra careful!"



BUILD YOUR OWN PROJECT

Regular customer Ian Simmonds, is looking for like minded folk who may be interested in a 'build your own project'. An opportunity to build your own luxury flybridge cruiser to your own particular specification. If you have the enthusiasm & drive to partake in a self-satisfying and rewarding project such as this, and could bring skills, knowledge or experience, please give him a call. If interested please contact Ian Simmonds, phone:

0191 2096226 or e-mail: simmonzi@blueyonder.co.uk

Specification

Length : 11.90m

Beam : 4.04m

Draft : 1.07m

Power : 140-600HP



DID YOU KNOW?

Rob Storrar has been making, repairing & recutting sails for both dinghies & yachts for over thirty five years. Norma McGreery has worked for Rob for nearly twenty years, she is that genius when it comes to new build canopies, sprayhoods etc. Pic shows sailmaker Neal checking out his new Cherub sails, built in our sail loft in his spare time. They look fast but will his crew eventually learn that diving thru them is slow! This autumn once again we are offering our VIP valet service for sails and canvas work, wash & reproof if needed. Check over, re stitch plus free storage for the winter months if required. Need new sails, racing or cruising? We have been manufacturing world championship winning racing sails since the seventies & cruising sails that have taken customers round the world. **PS** Please don't leave it till the last minute to bring those sails and canopies in!



Aunty Foulin's problem corner

Dear Aunty Foulin,

Last autumn my pride & joy ended up smelling very musty, what can I do to prevent it happening again this year?

Dear Mavis Mildew,

What you want to invest in (assuming you have a 240 volt supply to hand) is one of those low consumption tubular heaters, 40watts/£24.95, 80watts/£27.95 (other sizes/outputs available). If no power source available the rechargeable crystal dehumidifiers are an excellent buy at £22.95. In stock at the Marine Store NOW!

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