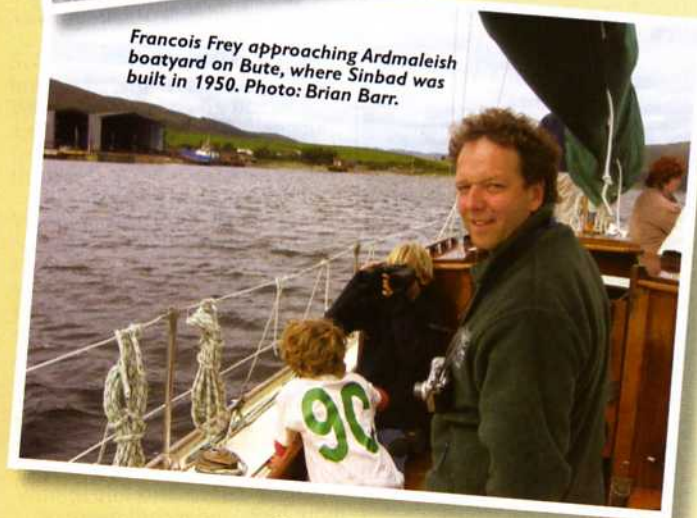
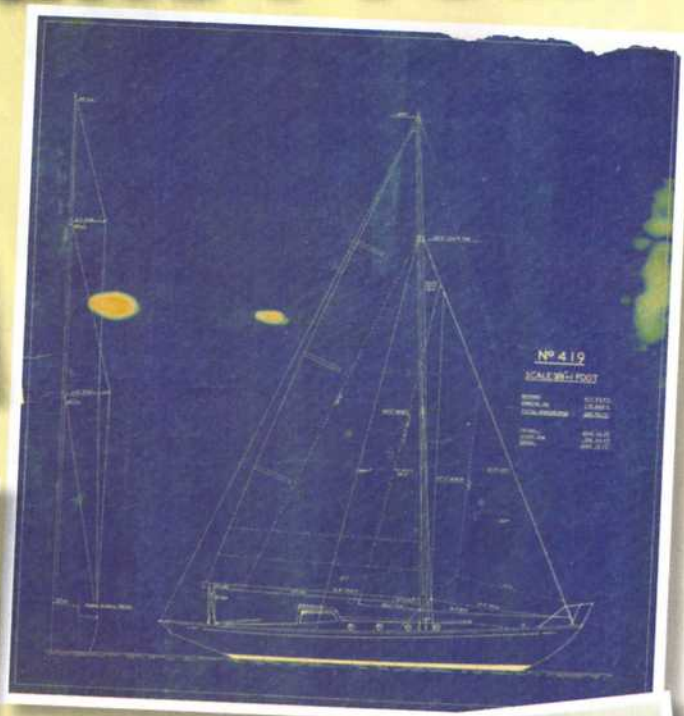


Sinbad Sails Home



Sinbad on her visit home to Bute in July. Photo: Zac Harrison.



Francois Frey approaching Ardmaleish boatyard on Bute, where Sinbad was built in 1950. Photo: Brian Barr.



George McKenzie (I) and Brian Barr, both of Bute, played a part in re-uniting the original blueprints with Sinbad.

FOLLOWING a number of extraordinary chance events, the original blueprints of an Alfred Mylne designed yacht that was built at Ardmaleish boatyard on Bute in 1950 have been returned to the current owner, writes Viv Shelley.

The first 'chance event' occurred in 1972 shortly after Stan Ferguson had taken over the Ardmaleish boatyard and had lit a bonfire on the beach to get rid of old registers, drawings and notes.

It happened that at the time Jack McKenzie, a designer of

model yachts and amateur boatbuilder, was visiting his son George on Bute and they were walking Jack's dog on that same beach.

Jack happened to notice a tattered set of blueprints that had blown away from the fire and being interested in all things nautical retrieved them and took them back to George's house where they became part of the family 'treasures', eventually being added to the remaining model yacht designs and plans of boats built by his father.

The yacht to which the blueprints belonged was identifiable only by its yard number 419. Jack McKenzie would most certainly have liked to see the yacht built to design 419 and perhaps re-unite her with the drawings but with no name on the blueprints he thought it would be a difficult task to

trace her.

In 2004 Robin Wishart brought his boat Trefoil 'home' to Bute (also an Alfred Mylne design that was featured in this column in February 2007). Following a conversation with Robin about Trefoil at the start of this year's sailing season, George unearthed the set of tattered blueprints in case they happened to be Trefoil's



North Sea Yacht Race 2008

Banff to Norway, Saturday 28th June



Karmøy Seilforening



Stavanger Seilforening



The 2008 North Sea Yacht Race, organised jointly by Banff, Stavanager Karmøy and Stord Sailing Clubs, will start at 12 noon on Saturday 28th June from Banff and finish in Stavanger, European Capital of Culture 2008.



Notice of Race, Entry Forms and Measurement Forms are available from the organisers and must be received by 2nd June 2008, including the entry fee (£60.00)

www.northseayachtrace.org.uk

For Bute Blueprints

drawings - but they did not match Trefoil's yard number so that was not to be.

The second 'chance event' was that last spring François Frey, president of Yacht Club Classique de La Rochelle contacted 'Bute Sons and Daughters', a project which helps people to trace family connections on the island, asking if they knew of anyone who might have worked on a 37ft 3in yacht named Sinbad, which was designed by Alfred Mylne and built at Ardmaleish in 1950.

François had found Sinbad lying in a poor condition in Ireland in 1996 and she is now a sailing exhibit in the Maritime Museum at La Rochelle.

By a weird coincidence Brian Barr, one of 'Bute Sons and Daughters' volunteers, picked up François' email on his way to speak to Campbell Leitch in Port Bannatyne as part of an archival project on the island. In the course of conversation, Campbell revealed that he had worked at Ardmaleish at the time, so Brian produced the message about Sinbad and Campbell remembered working on her!

François asked Brian to help him to arrange a trip back to Scotland partly to spend some time on Bute investigating the origins of the yacht, but also to take part in the Tobermory Race.

The arrival on Bute at the end of July with his sailing crew and their wives and joined by their wives and children, François met up with Brian and Campbell and other local sailing enthusiasts who enjoyed great hospitality on board Sinbad. They also sailed over to Ardmaleish where François met Stan Ferguson and came across a sail plan of Sinbad that had been coloured in by Alfred Mylne Jnr. The third 'chance event' came about following the stories of Sinbad's visit in Bute's weekly newspaper, the Buteman, which also published some photographs of Sinbad. George McKenzie read these articles and once again linked the design of the boat to the

blueprints that had been in his possession for 35 years.

He went down to Rothesay Harbour where Sinbad was berthed and sure enough - it was engraved with its yard number - 419. On 3 August, the day before François Frey sailed Sinbad back to France, George McKenzie handed over the original blueprints and they are now lodged, together with a blow-up of the water-coloured picture by Alfred Mylne Jnr circa 1968 when Sinbad was painted blue, in the Maritime Museum at La Rochelle.

François is absolutely delighted with the find - not least because when he visited Ardmaleish Boat Yard, Stan Ferguson apologised for the destroyed - and he has sent original designs having been destroyed - and he has sent copies of all the designs back to Brian Barr in Bute and to the Alfred Mylne Company to help with its new policy to promote classic yachting and the name Sinbad took part in the 2007 Tobermory Race as planned and at the end François Frey presented CCC commodore Jim McIlraith with a Mathusalem bottle of Saumur sparkling wine made specially by his friends of Bouvet-



Jonathan Anderson's Playing FTSE. Pictured off Ardeag on Bute led CCC's Closing Muster fleet home, carrying her big pink spinnaker from Ardmaleish Point to Tarbert.

is that Campbell Leitch of Bute, who had worked on Sinbad in 1950, died in October, aged 86. With bright sunshine and moderate S/SW winds, a fleet of nearly 40 boats mustered in Rothesay Bay for Clyde Cruising Club's Annual Closing Muster Race to Tarbert on 22 September. Following spinnaker starts in a 5/6kt breeze that kept the fleets close together, the bay became a blaze of colour as they bore down on Ardyne

The Surveyors in Scotland

For all your requirements U.K. and abroad

- Yacht & Motor Vessel
- Pleasure or Commercial
- Design, Survey, Consultancy
- Appointed RORC Measurer
- Approved MCA, COP Surveyors
- Purchase insurance and damage surveys and valuations

MARINE SURVEYOR • CONSULTANT • NAVAL ARCHITECTS

SURVEY ONE

JAMES W.F. McILRAITH
BSC(HONS), C.ENG., F.R.I.N.A.
SURVEY ONE LTD, 31 PAISLEY ROAD, KENNERW, SCOTLAND PA4 8JH
Tel: 0141 886 5210 (24hrs) Fax: 0141 886 7839
E-mail: surveyone@btconnect.com
MEMBER RINA, YBDSA

Boat Cradles and Props

Special Orders Catered For Trade prices available on request.

Tel: 01505 503824
Fax: 01505 503246
Mobile: 07774 951660
Web: www.tennamast.com
Email: nbrown@tennamast.com

Tennamast (Scotland) Ltd
81 Main Road, Beth, Ayrshire KA15 2HT

buoy but as the wind increased to 12kts and tightened in the East Kyle the fleet were forced to drop spinnakers.

Some of the back markers however had a struggle to reach the Burnt Islands when the fickle wind, typical of the Kyles of Bute, dropped to F2/3 just before Colintraive. Fortunately it picked up again and overall some fast times were recorded.

Ronnie McKay's Fiona 9 chased every available 'cat's paw' with her large asymmetric, at one point being buried with no wind whilst the rest of the fleet sailed past then breaking free with good nip and tuck tactics to recover. She was unable however to reach the prizes on handicap. The fleet was led home by Jonathan Anderson's Playing FTSE carrying her big pink spinnaker from Ardlamont Point to the finish off Tarbert, unlike the slower boats who struggled with the increase in wind force in the middle part of the afternoon. Under those conditions however, many of the restricted sail class boats did well on the final home power reach.

Other non-racing yacht crews swelled the numbers for the social festivities starting with a pontoon party at which the Commodore read out the results.

Later, approximately 90 members gathered in the Anchor Hotel for a two course meal followed by a successful ceilidh which rounded off the club's hectic and busy summer season.

Overall Results:

- IRC Class 1: *Playing FTSE*, J Anderson; 2 *Tan-It R Harris*; 3 *Xanadu A Knowles*.
- IRC Class 2: 1 *Lingo W MacKay*; 2 *Danos S MacDonald*; 3 *Significant I Macdonald*.
- CYCA Class 2: 1 *Liaison F&S Sheilds*; 2 *Freebird C Gourlay*; 3 *Good Craic D Armstrong*.
- CYCA Class 3: 1 *Victric I Abernethy*; 2 *Pointer B Robertson*; 3 *Saboo J McIlraith*.
- CYCA Class 4: 1 *Sunrise S Chalmers*; 2 *Pinocchio VII P Fairley*; 3 *Swedish Lady I Harris*.
- CYCA Class 5: 1 *Aja D Beaton*; 2 *Lyrebird C Reeves*; 3 *Starsweeper J*



Lots of Clyde sailors turned out to celebrate QE2's 40th birthday with her at Greenock. Photo: George McKenzie.

Douglas.

● For anyone wanting to improve their sailing skills, wanting to sail outside the Clyde, but feeling daunted about tides and navigation, or already progressing through the RYA cruising scheme then Royal Northern & Clyde Yacht Club at Rhu could have the course for you.

The Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster shore-based course leading to the RYA qualification will be run at RNCYC in Rhu over six Saturdays commencing 12 January 2008. If you want more information or are interested in participating you should visit the website www.rncyc.com or contact the club on 01436 820322, or send an e-mail to mail@rncyc.com.

● Despite the inclement weather, Clyde sailors turned out in large numbers to welcome the QE2 back to the Clyde on her 40th birthday on 20 September. QE2 was launched on the Clyde in 1967 and to mark this she returned to her birthplace and spent the day at Greenock. Danny Callaghan of Falkirk, a keen Clyde sailor who berths at Kip Marina was intending to meet the QE2 as she passed up the Clyde in the early hours.

When his alarm went off at 05.00, he looked out into the dark, uninviting weather and wondered if it was a good idea to venture out in his Snapdragon 24 Miss Sable. Gratefully, he accepted the offer to go with his friend Robert Wylie in his Sealine 22

Knotty Lady.

They left Kip at 05.30 into a rather rough Clyde to find QE2 had already passed and was near the Cloch Lighthouse. So they hared after her and, along with quite a few other boats, were able to give her the customary sailing welcome of horns as she berthed in Greenock. Even at that time, the shores were lined with crowds of spectators and cameras flashed the whole way up the Clyde. In Danny's words; 'It was a wonderful sight. She is a real ship with lovely lines and on this her 40th Birthday still the fastest cruising ship in the world.'

A full programme of events was organised at Greenock to mark this special day including a superb display by the Red Arrows, witnessed by Danny who went up to Greenock by bus to savour every moment of the event.

Sadly though there was no way the public could get a

closer look at QE2 as the Ocean Terminal was kept firmly closed to the public. At 14.28, the time of her launching, QE2 sounded her horn for 40 seconds to mark her 40th birthday.

Not content with welcoming QE2 on the water and spending the day at her party on the quayside, Danny also intended to take Miss Sable up the river to see her leaving at 18.00 but as the weather was still not looking over-welcoming, he readily accepted an offer from Eric Billimore in Camayo.

The sight was wonderful. As she started to leave her berth the sky turned blue and as the tugs pulled and nudged her into the river all the milling boats were given some wonderful photo opportunities.

With the tugs dropping their lines, she was off under her own steam down the Clyde with a flotilla of boats of all types and sizes whooping horns and fire tugs spraying cascades of water.

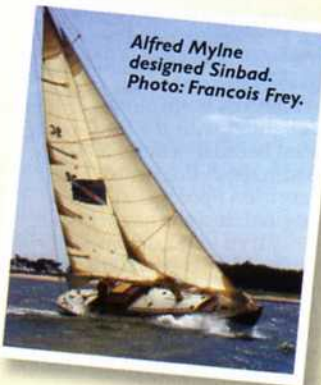
Danny added; 'Then the race was on to keep up with this wonderful lady, but the captain kept his speed to a sedate pace so that the flotilla, her passengers and the crowds lining every vantage point along the shores could savour the moment. It was a wonderful 40th Birthday celebration!'

It was also a nostalgia trip for Robert Wylie as he worked for the company who hauled most of the steel from Ravenscraig and the timber from Muirheads of Grangemouth and he saw QE2 grow over her construction.

Danny also remembers her well as the company he worked for supplied the office furniture that went on board - and he even drove a mini van under her completed bow!

● This is the last epistle from Viv Shelley whose business career now dictates more travelling and less leisure time. Best wishes and many thanks from the YL team, Viv.

New North Clyde columnist Penny French takes over next month.



Alfred Mylne designed Sinbad. Photo: Francois Frey.

www.goachersails.co.uk

AUTUMN OFFERS NOW AVAILABLE ON ALL CRUISING & RACING SAILS



WANTED

SAILMAKER TO JOIN OUR BUSY TEAM

Lowside, Bowness-on-Windermere, Windermere LA23 3DH Tel +44(0)15394 88686 Fax +44(0)15394 88683 sg@goachersails.co.uk