



IF IT'S NOT ONE THING . . .

Well – after all the work I did on my engine last winter, I thought I had many trouble free years of sailing ahead – but no – sometimes the Gods are cruel . . .

Having put the engine back in “Sundance” after replacing the worn out water pump and replacing the sail-drive seal (*which had been there for 7 years*), cleaning it all up and finishing it off with a good lick of paint I thought all was well. That was until about three weeks later. I motored out of Elie harbour for a sail when suddenly the engine revs died to half and since then I can only get half power from the engine. Why – don't know – so, this winter it comes out again for a total strip down to find and solve the problem. Jim Knox (the local marine engineer) I know well and he has said “if I get the engine out we can take it to his workshop in Upper Largo, fix it and bench run it till it is good to go back in the boat.” I will go and work on it with him to learn for the future.

IN THE MEANTIME . . .

I have not missed out totally on sailing this year. Two years ago, my wife May and I bought a residential caravan at Twenty Shilling Wood holiday park in Comrie, only 4 miles from Loch Earn. The first year I spent a lot of time running up and around the loch in my Zodiac – but I really should have been sailing. So – I decided to look for a wee boat to sail on the loch. I thought I would get myself a Leisure 17, but having looked at quite a few on Ebay and Gumtree, there was nothing that was on a trailer, not in crap condition at a reasonable price and not within 300 miles of Loch Earn. Then – out of the blue – one day on Gumtree, I found her! At first I couldn't believe my luck – I was reading an advert for a 19ft Sea Wych for sail at



Lochearnhead. Looking at the photographs, she looked lovely – and on a trailer for £600. I called the owner right away and agreed to come up the following weekend to have a look at her. After spending quite a lot of time looking over the photographs again and again in anticipation – as you do – I travelled up the following Saturday to meet him and look the boat over. After a pleasant drive from Elie to his cottage on the banks of Loch Earn, (a distance of about 65 miles) with excitement I saw the wee boat. Full of excitement I shook his hand and walked towards the boat. As we got closer I thought “wait a minute” the weather boards had been left out and she had been standing behind his house for over a year during which time the chickens had decided to call the boat “home”. Looking at her from the outside, I could see that everything was old and dirty, the rigging was a joke although she had potential. Inside was unbelievable! The chickens had covered everything with s**t and there was eggs everywhere – there was also a strange smell! However – that said – I liked the layout and there were interior cushions, cockpit cushions and a good set of red sails. I saw a lot of work ahead, but could imagine the finished result, so I made an offer of £400 that was turned down. Expecting him to come back with £500, I was pleasantly surprised when he said that £425 would be acceptable. Keeping my straight face on while inwardly I was going “yes, yes, yes” I shook hands on the deal and the wee boat was mine. He was kind enough to offer to tow it the 3 miles back to Twenty Shilling Wood for me where I could start to work on her. This all seeming as if it was meant to be – we called her “Destiny”.

Over the summer of 2018, I cleaned her up – starting with a full day with a power washer to get rid of the

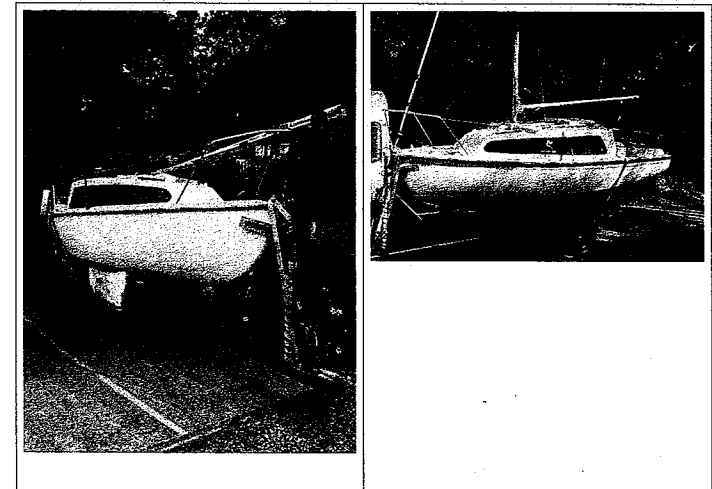
"interior decoration" and the smell. (*I had already removed the eggs*). So began the restoration. Once she was cleaned up, I gave her a lick of anti-fowling, repainted all the woodwork, replaced the roof rails (which had rotted), and replaced the rigging and added new graphics. All the locker lids were replaced and the bilges cleaned and drained. I decided to run all the halyards back to the cockpit, so the mast was re-rigged and new cleats added. I already had a Yamaha Malta outboard that I had used on the Zodiac that would power her along nicely, so by March 2019 I felt we were ready to launch her.

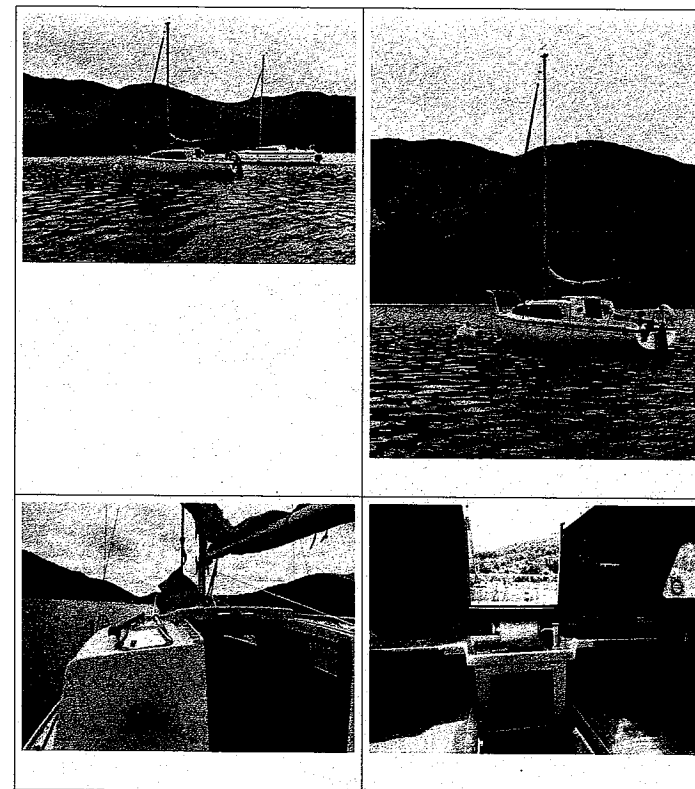
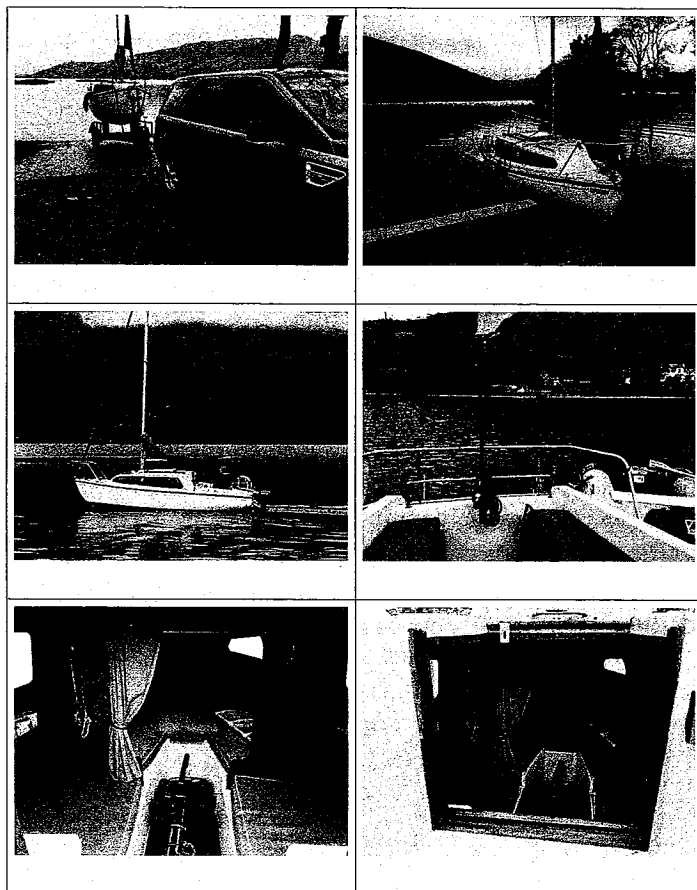
On the day we planned to launch her, my pal Jim Kenyon came up to Twenty Shilling with me to use his Discovery to tow her to the launching ramp and put her in the water. He had only moved about 6 feet when there was a rumble – a wheel bearing had gone! "Oh my goodness" we said "how unfortunate" (*well, this is the printable version*). There was nothing more we could do, so home to Elie to think again ...

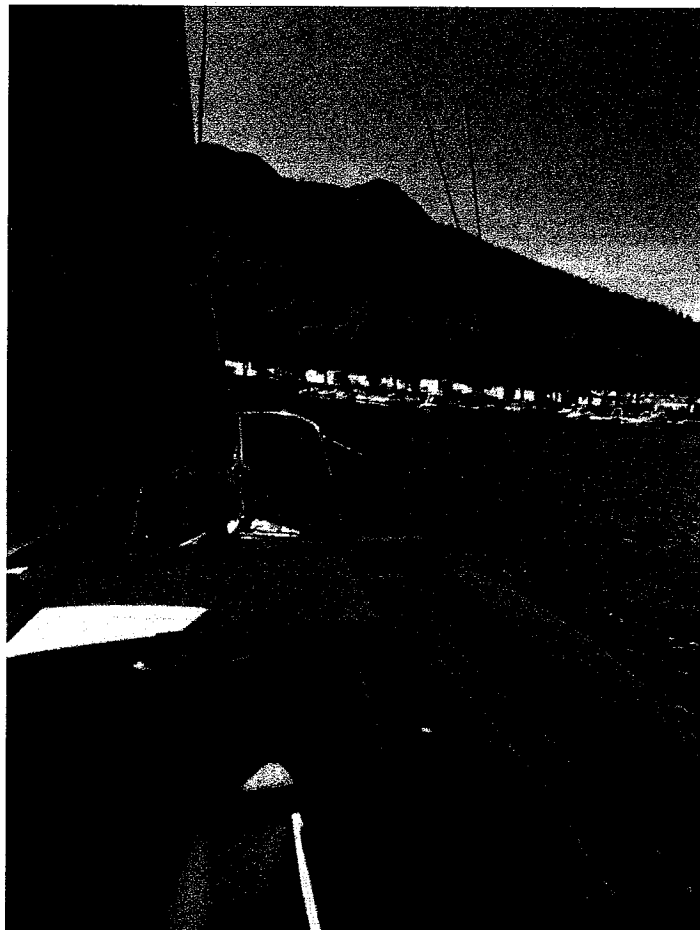
I phoned the local garage in Comrie to see if they could replace the wheel bearing and a few days later he phoned me back to say 'yes – he could sort the bearing but the trailer was in such a state that he didn't think it was worth the effort' – OK – what now. The answer was a new trailer, so I started looking on Ebay and Gumtree again. Now – as it happens – my pal Jim used to ride horses, and he had had an old horsebox chassis in his garage for years. A few days later he phoned me and suggested that we could maybe adapt it to take "Destiny". After a couple of weeks cutting, measuring and welding, we had a new trailer. The following week we took the new trailer up to Twenty Shilling Wood where I had arranged with a local plant hire company to bring a big digger along to move the boat from the

broken trailer to the new one. This was done – and we were off to the launch ramp. The ramp was at a fish farm and caravan park owned by Drummond Estates, who also had moorings at St Fillans. I had already booked a mooring so we were ready to go. We got "Destiny" rigged and launched, and I had a lovely sail back down the loch to St Fillans and my new mooring with a huge smile on my face. Jim drove the trailer back to Twenty Shilling before heading home. A full, but most satisfying day it was ...

This summer, I have had many happy hours sailing on Loch Earn – sometimes with May, mostly on my own, but loving every minute. Over the winter, there are a few wee bits to do to her – "refinements", and hopefully I will get a lot more sailing in her in the years to come. Please forgive me for changing brands – if there had been a suitable Leisure 17 or 20, I would have been delighted to have another Leisure. Maybe in the future .







Awe the best
Steve Blaney

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Could members please advise me when paying their annual subscription who the first named member is in the LoM if the payment is in a different name.

The bank is refusing cheques where payee appears as SWOA therefore would members make out their cheques to: 'Sea Wych Owners Association'. The bank says it is to reduce fraud.

Membership currently stands at 82; of us, 44 are SeaWych owners.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members

Hope
John
07933841505

Johnhope14@gmail.com

Peel
Stephen Colin
01282843778
07380189859
Stephen.peel@icloud.com

SeaWych
SW?
Feffie Girl
Emsworth
Solent

SeaWych
SW?
YB Blue
At home (Ullswater)
Northern UK