

NATIONAL OSPREY ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1979

NEW G.R.P. BUILDER

The partnership of Andy Barker and Roger Hull, trading under the name of "High Performance Sail Boats" now have the RYA licence to build GRP Ospreys. This welcome news was confirmed shortly after the March National Committee Meeting.

Last year, Westerly Boats gave advance notice that GRP production of Ospreys at Rock would cease and the original plan last Autumn to offer the licence to Butler Mouldings of Swansea made little progress.

Following discussions with Ken Robertson at the Earls Court Show, Andy Barker contacted Ian Procter and events then moved quickly during the early part of this year.

The first boat is due on the water, hopefully, by late June and both partners intend to race the boat at National and Open Meeting events.

Production capacity will eventually run to 25 boats per year but some keen marketing will be needed to improve the present sluggish growth rate in the Class.

Plans are to market the completed boat with fittings, spars and sails from the Wareham works. Kits and part completed shells will not be available.

Roger Hull, age 32, was formerly GRP Production Manager at Parkers and has a wealth of experience with 505 sailing and production. His sailing career started some 20 years ago in the graduate class.

Andy Barker, aged 30, has been building wooden Fireballs on his own account for some time and will, in fact, continue this exercise at the new Wareham works. His experience as crew to Laurie Smith is well known and takes some beating. Last year they took World Championship honours in both the Fireball and Enterprise classes and Andy's experience as a helm with the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Enterprise class was just as successful. He is currently campaigning a 470 class.

Andy Barker has known Ken Robertson many years and enjoyed the occasional sail at Rock in a Westerly Scorpion.

At the moment, brochures and technical information understandably take second place to getting the first boat on to the water but a phone call to Wareham 3935 in the evenings (messages can be left during the day) will get you the answers you want.

The Company's address is High Performance Sail Boats, Furzebrook Road, Wareham, Dorset.

WEST COAST OPEN

Morecambe & Heysham Yacht Club were hosts to the Osprey Class for their annual West Coast Open meeting over the weekend of the 12th & 13th of May. A total of four races were sailed over the two days and the weather brought out a large number of spectators. The practice race, during which a heavy sea mist descended, resulted in the whole fleet being bunched together sailing aimlessly up the bay with the incoming tide. As the mist cleared, Ken Toole, Commodore of the host club managed to round the bottom mark and went on to win the race.

With the mist clearing and a slight increase in the wind strength, Charlie Gillow the Race Officer set a long course for the second race which involved many different techniques of sailing on the outgoing tide. Ken Carroll & John Gillow of the host club were the eventual winners by a margin of some two minutes.

Sunday morning brought the sun but very little wind for the third race. A short course was set to compensate for the lack of wind; with a strong flooding tide many of the entrants over-shot the start which left Jim Haddock and Ken Carroll to battle it out until the last few yards when Haddock pipped Carroll to cross the finishing line first.