

STEPHEN BERESFORD AND HIS AMAZING CLINKER BOAT

Continued from cover story... Even on the setting up day the atmosphere at Alexandra Palace was intriguing as gradually other exhibitors realised what was amongst them.

As Steve gradually uncovered his extraordinary boat, R249 National Redwing, the surrounding exhibitors in the West Hall began to realise someone was in a different class to themselves. As the word spread competing exhibitors in the Great Hall began to filter through to sneak a look. I was privileged to hear some of the comments: "I haven't seen craftsmanship like it for fifty years. "This boat is a unique

achievement; it is a work of meticulous beauty. "Every piece of this boat is sculptured to perfection; it is a true work of art."

The show opened at 10.00am on Saturday 6th March. This day sees the serious sailing buffs strolling the stands. One gentleman from Eastern Europe walked round and round the Redwing mumbling "Extraordinary Boat..." Others let their fingers run down the African mahogany hand crafted clinker planks, each Forest Stewardship Council approved and held together by 1,782 copper rivets. The magnificent red sails towered into the heights of the Palace and people were in awe.

The judging panel had arrived. Up for grabs was the 'Concours d'Elegance' trophy to be awarded to the 'Boat of the Show'. They inspected every tiny detail. They looked seriously impressed but they were giving nothing away. They would return the following day. And so they did. Steve learnt the Redwing was in the final five, shortlisted along with a GP14 'Sniper', an International 14 1541, a Merlin Rocket 3626, and a National 12 341; all serious competition. The sailing families were admiring, but I noticed one of Saturday's judges was hovering nearby. He took Steve to one side. The judges were unanimous. Steve's Cockermouth built National Redwing R249 was the winner of the 'Concours d'Elegance' trophy for the National Dinghy Boat Show 2010. Steve beamed appreciation. The rest of us shook his hand, patted him on the back and couldn't quite take in the enormity of his achievement. A large silver cup was produced. The photographers descended, as did the sailing press.

I think the moral of the tale is this. Here in our midst we have true expertise and brilliance. I don't just mean this of Steve Beresford, though he clearly qualifies, but I mean it of the skilled people of this area. We should treasure every one of them, encourage them to fulfill their potential and applaud their achievements, be they young or old. We are a real community in Cockermouth and we are getting back on the map. Thanks Steve, I was so proud to be there, in London. You have truly played your part.

Steve would be pleased to discuss the commissioning of any classic dinghy class of boat, be it Redwing, Tideway, or any other clinker built boat. Steve has decided that if he is going to be able to continue making further boats he must sell this National Trophy winning R249 Redwing to have the finances to do so. If anyone is interested in buying it, then give Steve a call on 07934 622 013. The quality of the Redwing class is indisputable...Redwings R1 and R2 are still sailing!

Richard Johnson



Spring Afternoon Tea Offer from Lodore Falls Hotel

Take a drive out into the beautiful Borrowdale Valley and relax for a couple of hours at the stunning Lodore Falls Hotel and enjoy...



A full afternoon tea for just £14.65 per person or two people for £25.00
Add a glass of chilled bubbly for only £2.75

If you are cold, tea will warm you;
If you are too heated, it will cool you;
If you are depressed, it will cheer you up
If you are exhausted, it will calm you.

William Gladstone, 1809 - 1898

This afternoon tea offer is for a minimum of 2 people. It must be pre-booked quoting 'Cockermouth Post Afternoon Tea' and is valid only on presentation of this advert. Offer is subject to availability and ends 30th June 2010

Lodore Falls Hotel

Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5UX
Telephone 017687 77285

IT'S PIMMS O'CLOCK!

~ FOR THE NSPCC AT HIGHAM HALL ~

Higham Hall hosted its very first 'Pimm's and Puddings for the NSPCC' in 2009 which was a summer evening of food and drink in beautiful surroundings. Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, we raised over £1,000 to help local children and their families.

This year we hope you'll come again to swig, scoff and salsa as we are joined by Manuel and Julie Marcano-Oliver from Club Latino, who will be demonstrating the Salsa and teaching a few dance steps along the way!

Derwent Photography of Keswick will also be holding an exhibition of their work and there will be an opportunity to buy a professional portrait voucher at the special price of just £20.00.



All the proceeds are of course going to the NSPCC.

The event is to be held on 20th May at 7.00pm and tickets cost just £10.00. They are available from Higham Hall or by contacting 01768 776276.