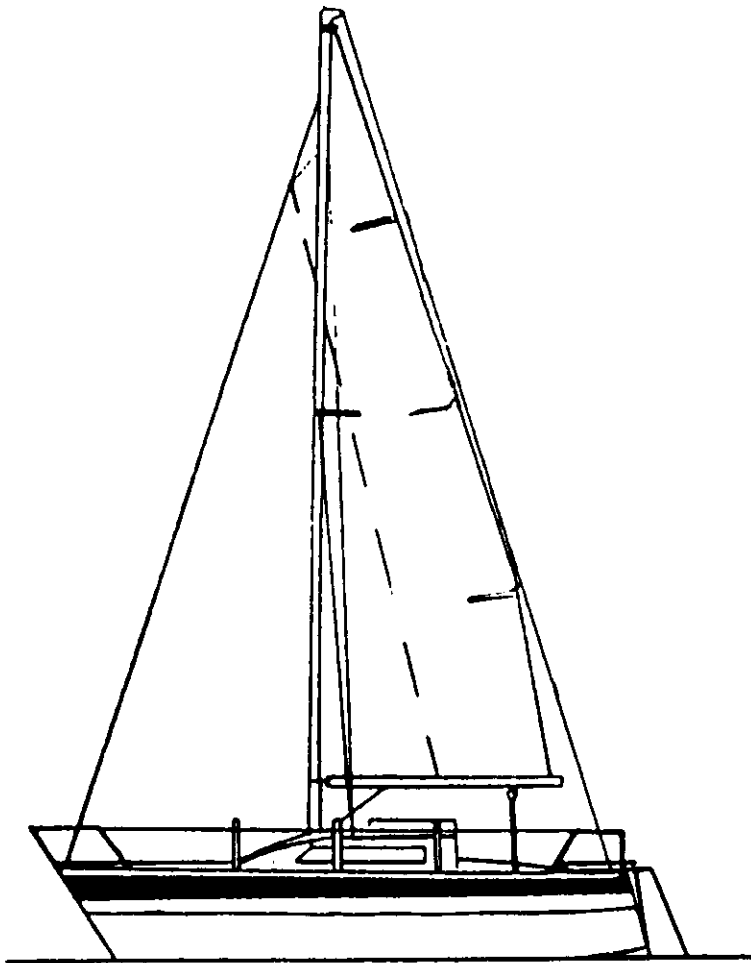


SWIFT

The journal of the Swift Association



NUMBER 55

NOVEMBER 1996

EDITORIAL

As I look out the window whilst getting ready for work, I see the boat covered with frost. It seems so sad and then I remember the Summer. We had a lovely Summer, escaping from the Solent to Poole in the Hunter. Unfortunately the weather turned for the worst and we were storm bound in Salterns Marina - not really a place to be storm bound, rather expensive but the facilities were good. We bussed into Poole for some shopping and to take Rosemary swimming. The children's pool is lovely and warm - like a hot bath.

By chance we met Angela, Bill, Jeremy and Mark Evans (ex Swifties) who were also sheltering, following a trip back from Dartmouth in their Sadler 26. The following day we all decided to head for Ridge Wharf Marina Wareham (cheaper and more sheltered). Alan and Lesley Probyn drove over for the evening and had a boat crawl! The next day we took Rosemary on the steam train to Swanage and we sat watching the boats rocking and rolling. Oh I am glad we never took the boat there. It was one of our aims - perhaps next year. The following day there was a window in the weather and both families headed back to the Solent. Ivan and I both look forward to our next season now. Hopefully the winter will not seem too long.

We are rather late in publishing this newsletter due to lack of copy and therefore have decided not to use commercial printers for the cover.

Ivan has talked to many new members and we wish you a warm welcome and happy sailing. People are always ringing up with questions, queries, and stories so there seems to be an active association out there. Lets hear about it and share your experiences.

Decisions on the future of the association will be made at the AGM. If you cannot be present (and we understand it would be a long trip for some members) please make your feelings known by letter to the Secretary.

Alan has decided this year there will be no 'Laying Up' Supper, but it is hoped to have a 'Fitting Out' Supper in the new year, which will be a date not to miss.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

DENISE KIRK

THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The future of the association, after 13 successful years, is in jeopardy. Do you want to see the association die through lack of volunteers to keep it going? As of January, I will be the only officer left in the Association, and I am unable to run it single handed. Unless we can find willing volunteers to take on the jobs of Secretary, Newsletter Editor and (preferably) Technical Editor, then there will be no Association next year. I am willing to continue serving as Treasurer, though after 8 years, I would be quite happy to hand over to another volunteer, should one appear. But, without new blood, and commitment from a small handful of members, the Association will cease to provide anything other than basic services next year.

The AGM is coming up in the New Year. This is your opportunity to put your views and to volunteer your services. In the absence of members putting their names forward, I will propose the following alternatives to the AGM:

1. Hold the subscription at £10 and maintain only a database of members, the existing technical help, the spare keel winding mechanism and act as a contact point for new owners. The newsletter/magazine will be published once a year, with similar quality (or better) at commercial rates.
2. Reduce the subscription to £5., with the above services but no magazine. Publish membership list with 2 sides A4 newsletter annually.
3. Close the Association down.

There are no other alternative.

If only three members volunteer to act as officers, then this is unnecessary. PLEASE GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT and come to the AGM to support **your** Association.

CHRIS O'BRIEN
ICARUS SO 3001

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR THE SWIFT ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY 1997

AT THE

MASTER BUILDERS HOUSE HOTEL
BUCKLERS HARD, BEAULIEU, HAMPSHIRE.

2.00 pm

In the Sir Francis Chichester Room

A G E N D A

- 1 Minutes of AGM 1996
- 2 Matters arising
- 3 Secretary's Report
- 4 Treasurer's Report
- 5 Future of Swift Association
- 6 Election of Officers (if applicable)
- 7 Any Other Business

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available.

The Master Builders Hotel serve a range of lunches and light snacks in the bar along with a full restaurant.

Children are allowed in the Hotel but not in the area of the bar.

If you are unable to attend the AGM please send any matters arising or concerns in writing to the secretary.

LETTER RE: SEPTEMBER RALLY

Dear All,

Being the most forgetful person in the world I arranged for the family to spend a quiet weekend on the water with a possible night in Yarmouth IOW. What I had forgotten, including the towels and the breakfast bowl, was that September 14th was the Swift rally to Yarmouth. Strangely it dawned upon me that something must have been afoot when I saw a large fleet of Swifts congregating around the slipway at Bucklers Hard, a quick consultation with Teresa confirmed that the weekend in question was indeed the Swift rally to Yarmouth. Due to the delay caused by launching we lost sight of the sizable fleet of Swifts and one Hunter until, after a sail in a rising wind, we arrived in a very crowded Yarmouth where we made our way to the small boat moorings and found ourselves amongst the sizeable fleet again. Soon after mooring Denise, Ivan and Rosemary of Tarim (now grown into a Hunter 23) Dinghied across to us and invited us to join the rally for supper at the Wheatsheaf Public House.

After availing ourselves of the excellent shower facilities Yarmouth now boasts, Mike and Val of 'Catronia', Mike, Jeannette, Laura and Vicky of 'Lauvic', Roger, Karina and Lance of 'Charisma', Chris and Richard of 'Icaras', Denise, Ivan and Rosemary of 'Tarim' and ourselves of Breeze all sat down for the evening meal where we appeared to take over the whole of the conservatory area of the pub. A lot of people (in the know and with large appetites) opted for the shoulder of lamb, having now seen the size of shoulders I can only believe that the sheep on the IOW pump iron and work out at the Gym every day, they were huge! After an evening of good company, food and drink we all set off back to our respective boats. Guess who forgot to bring the touch? Terese, Oliver and myself staggered back via the footpaths (unfortunately not due to the influence of alcohol) to Breeze.

The night was a very cold one followed by a misty morning without a single breath of wind. After a hearty breakfast at Gossips cafe we set off back to Bucklers Hard motor-sailing most of the way. Just as we reached the mouth of the river a wind rose up, unfortunately too late for us to use to our advantage. Back at the slipway we were able to recover the boat at almost slack water followed by the fleet of Swifts who had caught up with us and each other. Some slick recovering by all the crews saw all of the boats ashore by mid afternoon.

Teresa, Oliver and I all agreed that we had had a wonderful weekend and that we had thoroughly enjoyed the company. See you all soon.

Nick Barlow
Parker 21 - Breeze

WESTER ROSS

Come and try sailing out of Lochcarron in Wester Ross. After living and working for twenty eight years in and around Aberdeen, my wife and I have retired to this North-West coast of Schotland, and have taken our Swift "Cir Mhor" with us.

Since acquiring our Swift 18 in 1984 we have sailed extensively on the West Coast of Scotland, and now with our permanent home located on the shores of the loch overlooking the anchorage, we will have even greater opportunities to explore.

Lochcarron is a small Wester Ross township strung out along the North shore of Lochcarron and has good facilities for visitors and residents alike. Among these facilities there is now a very adequate launching slip built by the people of the area and paid for by money given by them, and also funded by the Highland Council, Highland Enterprise and the European Community. The slip was officially opened by Charles Kennedy MP and it is hoped it will bring more visitors to this area. Just off the slip are five mooring buoys for visitors.

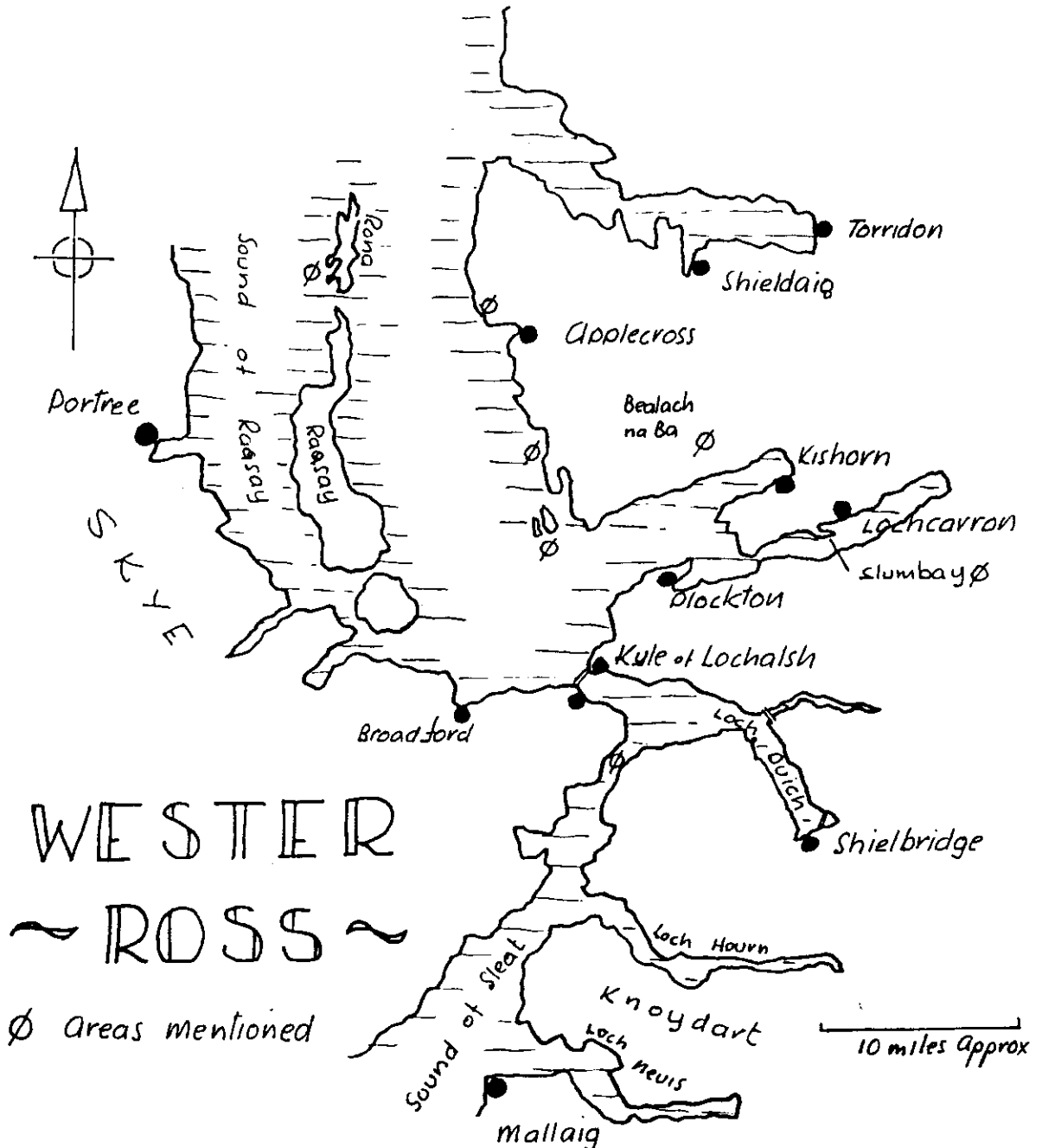
Why would anybody wish to sail in this area?

For sailing, the area provides "waters which arguably provide some of the best coastal crusing in Europe if not this world" A claim which I would enhance, but I am biased!! The area is comparatively safe provided you heed the weather forecasts and sail with the tides. It has sheltered waters and many beautiful and secluded anchorages. Whatever the wind directon there are places to shelter in. Some of these lochs which are bordered by step hills are subject to squalls which can hit you unexpectedly, but a vigilant eye and an awareness of the possibilities can insure you are not caught unawares.

The Anchorage Under Plumbay Island



A mile from the slip in Lochcarron SW down the loch is the anchorage by Slumbay Island where local boats are moored and where Cir Mhor has now got a permanent mooring. The bottom is mud and it is sheltered from all but the NE. Other anchorages can be found at North Strome just round the former ferry slip, and at the mouth of Lochcarron. There is Plockton which is a favourite stopover for yachts which journey this far north. Plockton is the centre which is used for filming the TV series "Hamish McBeth" and is given the fictional name of Loch Dubh. Across from Plockton lie Kishorn, tucked under the hills of Applecross with the exciting Bealach na Ba road rising up to its high point 2000' up where motoring correspondents like to bring new car models for testing. The road is fairly spectacular.



If you want something wilder, sail to the Crowlin islands and anchor in its narrow gut of a harbour, or drift into Pol Creadhe under sail and watch the otters playing among the kelp. Further North and four miles from Applecross is the quiet bay of sands with its spectacular wind blown sand dune built up by the prevailing westerlies. Although not a sheltered anchorage it is good for a swim or a picnic in good conditions.

To the West and bordering the East Coast of Skye are the islands of Raasay and Rona. Raasay has a fairish population and a good ferry connection with Skye, but Rona is uninhabited. It does possess the very enclosed and sheltered anchorage of Acarsaid Mhor (the large anchorage or haven), and for Swift owners here is a world in which you can creep in and swing to an anchor surrounded on all sides by heather and wood clad slopes, ruined settlements and the wonderful coastal wildlife of a true Hebridean Island.

Portree, across on Skye provides all the necessary facilities for a sailing stopover and is worthy of a visit.

Should you journey South from Lochcarron you can sail under the new Skye Bridge for free and past Kyle of Lochalsh into Loch Duich with Eilean Donan Castle at its mouth and the Five sisters of Kintail spectacular mountains at the head of the loch. For excitement, sail through Kyle Rhea, carrying the tide at 8 knots on the spring tide you will not be able to stem it south beyond is the Sound of Sleat and more tempting waters to explore - Loch Hourn, Arisaig, Loch Nevis, the small isles of Muck, Rum, Eigg and Canna and much more. But do not just read about it. Trail your Swift up to these parts, launch at Lochcarron or elsewhere and go sailing with the Clyde Cruising Club Pilot, a good chart and the spirit of Tir nan ogg.

DOUGANGUS

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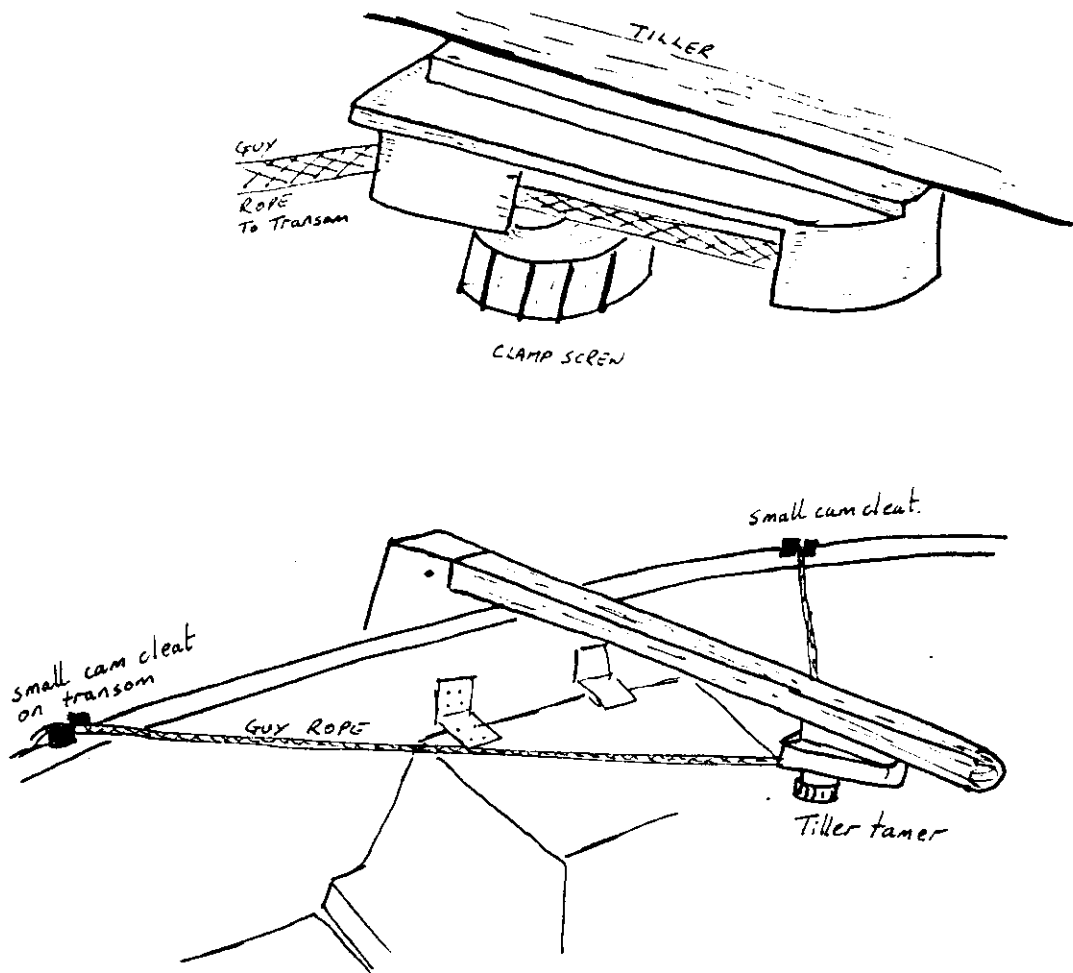
TILLER TAMER

A device I have found to be well worth fitting is the "TILLER TAMER". I got it from CRUISER MART, it is manufactured by Davis Instruments in California.

The tension can be adjusted to anything between fully locked to fully free. I find it invaluable when sailing on my own when the tiller can be left for short periods. It is also great when moored as you can lock the tiller centrally and not worry about the rudder flailing from side to side.

It really is an extra pair of hands - well worth having.

CAMPBELL GOWAN
WINDANSEA 402



Association Officers 1996

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