

White Mouse II comes home

White Mouse II, a Philips 53 twin screw wooden motor yacht, returned home to Dartmouth recently. She was built 47 years ago by Philip & Son at the Noss, Kingswear with twin 105hp 6.354 Perkins diesel engines (registered at the Custom House Dartmouth with the Official Number 301909). She appears in Derek Blackhurst's book about the history of the Phillip and Son Shipyard.

Her new owners Gary & Alison Walker who live in Dartmouth saw and bought her in Cap Ferrat, France in October 2009. She was wintered in France before being moved to San Lorenzo in Italy in May. They decided to have her brought back to the Dart during August this year.

White Mouse II was originally commissioned in 1963 by Sir George White who was the grandson of the founder of the Bristol Aeroplane Company which after many incarnations became British Aerospace and he himself created the Bristol Car Division. White Mouse II was to be the first of a standard class, with bigger and smaller sisterships to follow. Built of mahogany on oak frames, her lines are exceptionally attractive. She is currently painted navy blue and her wheelhouse and cabin are of varnished mahogany.

The previous owner, who discovered her in Antibes in 1988, brought her back to England where she underwent a complete renovation in the mid nineteen nineties and then spent most of the following years in the Mediterranean.



This August she made the return journey of 2000nm by sea with a delivery skipper (Charley Horton of Yachts of Dartmouth) & crew. The route taken was a direct route from the Ligurian Coast of Italy across the Golfe du Lion passing the Balearic Isles to Denia in Spain for refuelling. Then around the coast of Spain into Gibraltar where she had new batteries fitted and on to Lagos in the Algarve for a crew change. From here she travelled up the Portuguese Atlantic coast to La Coruna in Northern Spain, again refuelled and made the final leg back across the Bay of Biscay to the UK via Guernsey.

She arrived back in Dartmouth in mid August just in time to take part in the Parade of Classic Craft at Dartmouth Regatta. She is now waiting to have her decks re-caulked and the inevitable other jobs required on a wooden boat of her age before Gary & Alison take her on the next adventure!

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www.whitemouse2.org
