

New Member's Boat

Simon Rippon's Enterprise, *Kindly Light*

Kindly Light is not pictured here on the Aln estuary, in case you wonder, but near Lochranza on the island of Arran, Scotland. The first photographs Simon offered were too light in resolution. The boat was also shown empty, and I'm sure you'll agree that she is much more interesting with this unusual racing crew of five !

The *Kindly Light* is a GRP Enterprise built around about 1970. Her sail number is 14436, as carved into her stern thwart, although I do not possess any sails with that number on them.

When I got her in 2010, her hull had been damaged by someone reversing a trailer into her, resulting in five holes along the starboard side. She came with a mast (slightly bent), a boom and a centreboard. Clearly some work was required to get her going. Sleeves were rolled up and priorities assessed. A new rudder stock was made and the rudder was a windsurfer dagger board. When you have an Enterprise a surprising number of people in the sailing community have bits and pieces of kit stored in their sheds and garages, thus a fine laminated tiller, a newish centreboard and two sets of sails came my way. I decided to ignore the bend in the mast. All I needed was a bung and I was ready to go.

I am a member of The River Aln Boat Club at Alnmouth in Northumberland, so Alnmouth became *Kindly Light's* home port. We are a small club with about 100 members. There is a boat park, a launching slip and the right to lay moorings in the estuary, all of which are leased from Northumberland Estates. The club is very inclusive: dinghies, day boats, yachts, fishing boats, windsurfers, canoes and kayaks all being equally welcome. The estuary dries and is sailable for two hours each side of high water. There is also a substantial bar across the mouth of the Aln. This limits sailing opportunities for the bigger boats, so an Enterprise, being light and shallow-draughted, has proved to be ideal.

We have a full racing programme at Alnmouth with spring, summer and winter series all being keenly contested.

There are also cruising events for the yachts and a social programme. So far the *Kindly Light* has taken part in the races and sailed on birdwatching expeditions on the estuary, only occasionally venturing out to sea. During the six years of my ownership I have gradually adapted her for cruising, fitting oars, a compass,



roller-reefing headsail, and reef points in the main. She is quite possibly the only Enterprise to sport belaying pins instead of cleats. I have also adapted my personal kit to make it more rugged. Recently I made a sleeping platform enabling sleeping at thwart level. I am working on the tent! The latest step has been to join the DCA... SR

