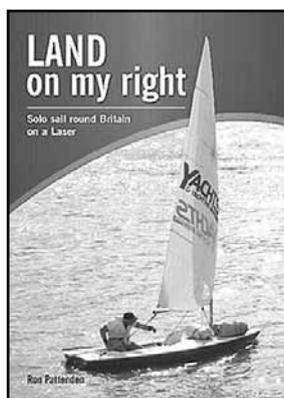


# Book Reviews

**By Ted Jones:**

*Land on my right*, by Ron Pattenden



Paperback: 109 pages. £13.95 (£6 to download)

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Here's a book we can all read and enjoy since it's about a solo dinghy sail round Britain ... wait for it ..... in a Laser dinghy !

At first I thought it must be a well-supported venture with rescue boats bobbing around, engines throbbing, and crews at the ready to pull the author from the drink and help him return his capsized boat to the upright. But I was completely wrong. It was very much an individual effort to raise money for the Prostate Cancer Charity.

Next, I wondered how he slept on board. The answer was – he didn't. The cover picture is of his boat with a small land tent and minimal food and cooking gear strapped to the foredeck. Every night he made for a likely looking piece of shore, pulled the boat above the tide line and pitched camp there. Occasionally he landed near a campsite and managed to get a shower which must have been bliss since he sailed an average of 30 miles each day in a wetsuit. Phew!

Was he brave, lucky, foolhardy or just plain stupid? Everyone will have their own take on this but reserve your judgment until you've read the book which you can order online from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). All you need do is search for 'Land on my Right', and you'll get straight there. It'll cost you £13.95. TJ

*(And if you want to pay less, or start reading it immediately, it is available on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) as a download in pdf format, text only, at £6 –Ed)*

*If you think Ron's trip in/on his Laser was a little ill-advised, take a look at what he'd like to do next—Ed:*

I hope you get as much enjoyment from reading the book as I did writing it, and actually 'sailing' it.

I'm just itching to get out there and do some other desperate adventures, so here's my next off-the-wall scheme, which I hope will come to fruition.

I have run in both the New York and the London Marathons and would like to link them together by sailing my Laser between the two. I ran the New York Marathon in 1991, and the London Marathon numerous times, so I don't intend to run them again, as I want to do the sailing during the summer months. I am looking for sponsors who would be able to provide a 'Mother' boat for me to 'land' on each night. I would then start at exactly the same Lat/Long next day until I reach London. During bad weather, I would just have to stay on the 'Mother' boat and drink copious amounts of beer until the storm/gale/hurricane subsides.

Obviously I would be able to take as many spares as I need (more sponsors please) including a spare hull, but essentially I would try to complete it with my old Laser (not *Oops*), which cost about £300 secondhand and use my old varnished wooden centreboard and rudder. I would like to attempt it in as short a time as possible to set a challenge for a time to beat – either number of hours or number of days afloat. I intend to do this as a charity event, and I would like The RNLI to be that charity, since they gave me such good support on the Round Britain sail, even though they do call me 'one of those WAFI's' (Wind Assisted F\*\*\*\*\* Idiots). The boat doesn't have to be that big, as all I need is some kind of ramp affair on its transom to dock onto. I would like it to be a sailing boat however, as I think it would be against the spirit of the thing to use anything else. I would also like to think the whole challenge could be done without the use of a motor (except in an emergency). Getting up the Thames may prove a bit dodgy so perhaps I'll allow engine use there only. It is all dependent of course on finding a boat that can keep up with me!

If you have any ideas, comments, or a large wallet for sponsorship you can email me at [ronhilary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ronhilary@yahoo.co.uk)

Regards, Ron