



Introduction

Welcome to the 2007 edition of the Classic Marine catalogue. Unlike successive editions of software, which the purveyors would have us believe render every previous version obsolete, this edition is very much evolutionary.

In style, it continues the aim of providing a bit more than just a list of parts and prices. However, there is now a good deal of general background information and reference data on our website (www.ClassicMarine.co.uk), which in many ways is a much better way of disseminating information. Much of the guidance included there tries to pre-empt the kind of questions we are asked most frequently; from your viewpoint it is therefore - I hope - pertinent. From our perspective, the better informed our customers, the easier it is to serve you with the right equipment. I think it is called enlightened self-interest or something!

There are a number of new items here. If I may draw your attention to the most significant:

- Not a new item as such, but an attempt to make it easier for you to piece together gaff saddle and gooseneck assemblies. We found people were confused as often as not, so hopefully the step-by-step guides on pages 4 and 6 will help.
- On page 8 you can now find a new range of heavy duty mast bands - aiming to bridge the gap between the standard ones offered before and the need to make up special items. On the same page, we have also standardised on a range of crane irons (albeit in bronze!).
- There is a new range of wooden blocks on page 15 - varnished ash with stainless bindings. They are handsome, strong and reasonably priced.
- Staying with blocks, we have added 3 types of blocks for running backstays - tufnol wire blocks, the open-throated deck block and the fixed upright blocks, all of which can be combined to make up a running backstay system. This is a good example of items which move from being "specials" to standard offerings, to everyone's benefit.

Perhaps the most significant thing is that there are now more products listed on the website than in this catalogue, chief amongst which are plans for wooden boats. To start with, we have concentrated on the designs of Iain Oughtred and also the Golant Gaffer (by Roger Dongray). One aspect of this is simply to offer a shop window for the plans. Beyond that, however, I have with some trepidation made up hardware lists for the more popular designs. These cannot be prescriptive, but hopefully provide a useful checklist for builders. All feedback gratefully received.

In terms of the way in which we do business, buying on-line is proving increasingly popular. But don't worry - there are still real people here at Woodbridge to answer questions and take orders!

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy this new catalogue, and would very much appreciate your comments on it. Happy browsing!

November 2006

Moray MacPhail



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