

Hi Chris

I saw the mention of the Caprice website in PBO - it brought back a lot of memories of my Caprice days. I completed mine, a Mk IV C864 (then named Caberfeidh), from bare mouldings supplied by Island Plastics of Ryde in 1975 and we covered many thousands of miles together with a number of channel crossings. We had several club runs over to Cherbourg and the Channel Islands from the Solent though I think the maximum fleet size was five boats, three was more usual. We were stuck in Alderney for nearly a week on one such trip due to fog and the subsequent motor home (Seagulls!) in calm airs took over 30 hours. Should have photos to prove it somewhere!!

Nothing like Shane's voyages of course.

When I first had my Caprice the class had a strong and active class association that had been going since the early 1960s, their help and guidance during the build programme was much appreciated and it would be nice to think that something similar could be rebuilt for today's owners. The founding members that were largely still in place when I joined the association gradually moved on and a younger team slowly replaced them on the committee, of which I became one.

By the late eighties the committee had gelled as a team and four of the six formed a syndicate to buy a Moody, the other two getting larger boats of their own.

We're all still in touch from time to time, which is nice. At this point it proved impossible to form a replacement committee and moves to wind up the association were made. At the last moment a few members volunteered to carry on and we handed over the reins, archives and a pint. I may be wrong but I don't believe it lasted much longer because I used to get calls for many years from owners trying to contact the association, having been given my number by the RYA.

Caberfeidh was sold in 1989 and the new owner kept her in the Lady B marina at Shoreham for some years though I believe she had changed hands several times by the last time I saw her there earlier in this century.

I threw out a lot of COA memorabilia when we moved to the Isle of Wight a few years ago though I still have a list of members' boats from 1981, a 1959 sales reprint of a Light Craft magazine article describing a test sail of a Mk1 together with an original Mk V brochure - I could probably pdf them to you if they would be any use. I have a feeling that I might still have an oversized burgee which was used at rallies, a laughingly titled "COA Technical Manual" (think PBO's Owners' Sketchbook) and possibly the original set of drawings supplied for the Mk IV up in the loft, but that would require a major expedition - if you saw our loft you'd know what I mean!

I see from the website that I am not the only one to hide behind my boat in the email stakes but here again is a Caprice link...it was while I was at the Boat show in 1977 to place orders for Caprice sails that I first met my present boat on a stand there, she took twenty years to find me again!

Best wishes

Grahame Mackenzie
Past Chairman, Caprice Owners' Association