

# 125th Anniversary Award

Angus Richardson



Hello, I'm Angus Richardson and I'm 19 years old. I was very fortunate to be given 125th Anniversary Award from the Royal Highland Yacht Club this year, which has been put towards my training. I'm taking the 47 week practical boat building course at IBTC Lowestoft over a period of two years, whilst working at A&R Way Traditional Boat Builders in Lochgilphead.

I started working with Adam Way two years ago. Work experience at the boatyard whilst at high school ultimately lead to an offer for full-time work. Whilst I've been at the yard, there have been some very exciting restorations, the most recent of which has been the Scottish Island Class yacht, *Canna*.

The Island Class one design yachts were built to encourage competitive racing on the Firth of Clyde and were used extensively for short cruising on the West Coast and the isles. These beautiful boats are fast, light and responsive on the helm.

My main areas of responsibility were some work on the hull, the toe rail as well as the tiller.

## Hull

The old varnish was scraped off and the hull was sanded back to bare wood. Below the water we cleaned out the old caulking and the caulking was redone and the seams filled. David Wilkie had given me an original caulking hammer and this was the first time I had used it. We used a router to sort the seams above the water line, I shaped pitch pine splines to match the planking, and fitted them in between the planks with glue into the hull. Once again the whole of the hull was flat sanded until smooth. Varnish was with the initial 50:50 coat followed by 4 more full strength coats.

## Tiller

The tiller was created from the African hardwood Utile. Five layers of wood were cut with a planer -thicknesser that were then glued together with epoxy. This was left to harden for a couple of days.

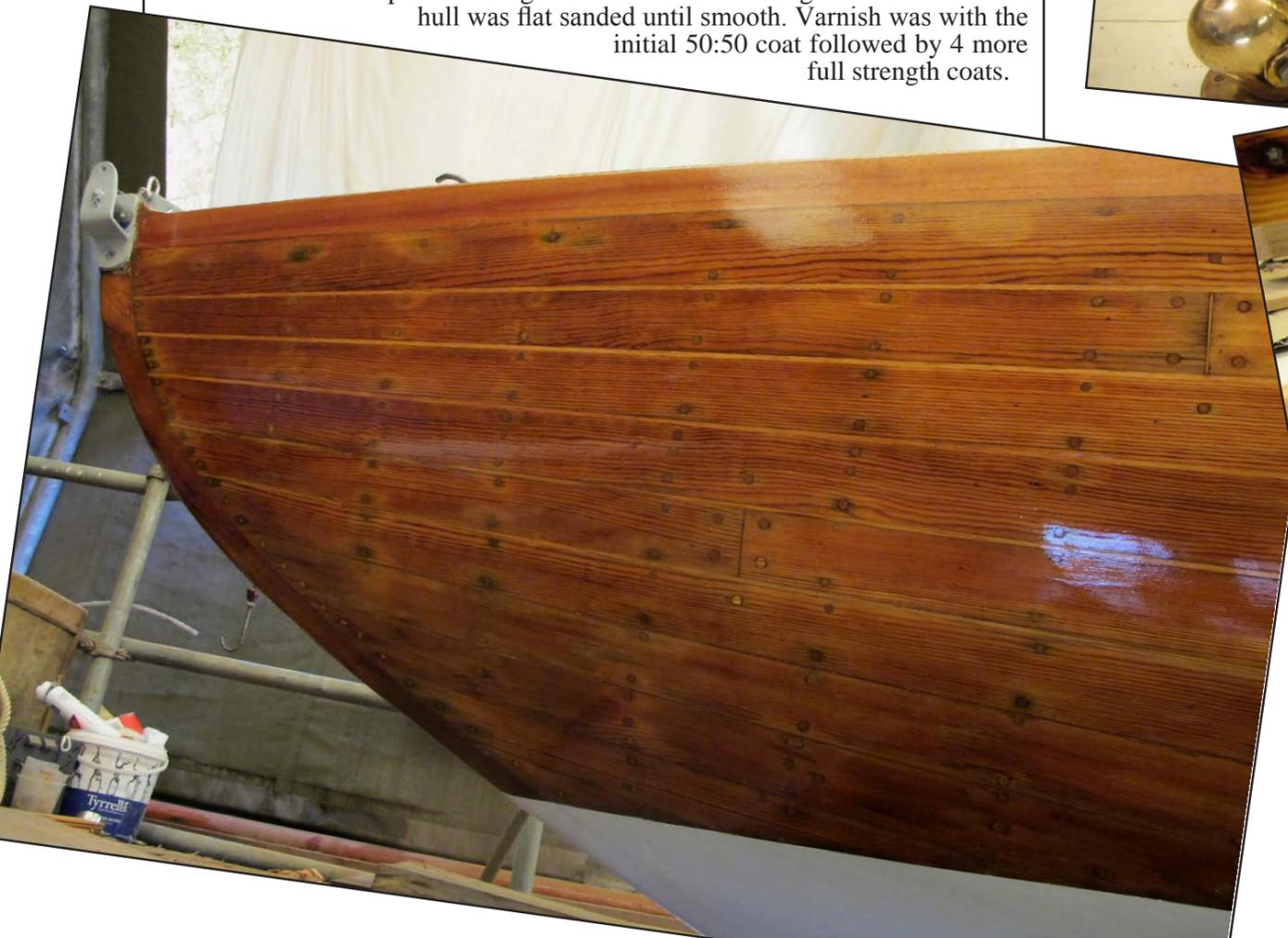
The shape was then created by hand and finally sandpapered to a smooth finish. The front of the handle I finished with a hand carved octagon. Finally several coats of varnish were applied.

The owner of the boat came to visit every Friday to see how the restoration was progressing. He really liked the tiller and called me in to see him and asked how old I was - he couldn't believe I was only 18 at the time. We enjoyed his visits as he always brought bacon rolls!



## Toerail

The old rail was removed, and new pieces of wood were machined and marked to fit. A scarf joint was used to join the lengths of wood together. Once attached by screws, the rail was planed and sanded smoothly to fit. Screw holes were plugged and again the rail was varnished. I then cut the scupper holes through the toe rail. I was told they must be perfect and I think I did OK. We used the original drawings and old photos to get all the details right.



## Sailing

I have continued to sail my Laser dinghy although my work has limited the number of Scottish Laser Grand Prix races I have been able to attend this summer. While at IBTC in Lowestoft, I joined the Oulton Broad sailing club so I can still get out on the water in my Laser. I have been made to feel very welcome here and enjoyed the sailing although it is very different from sailing on the West Coast! They don't seem to like it when it's too windy here, whereas I love it when it's really windy. There are regular club racing days every weekend and also I have competed in a couple of inter-club competitions coming equal first in the Broadlands Youth Regatta at the Norfolk Punt Club. When at home, I have continued to sail with Craignish Boat Club and have taken on some safety boat duties during the main training sessions with the younger sailors.



## At home

Deafness can create some big challenges in everyday life and passing my driving test was one of them. The practical side of this was not too bad for me (I had lots of practice on my dad's little Ferguson tractor!) but the theory test was very difficult since the language was quite complex and technical. However I eventually got through the theory test and now am the proud owner of my own small car which has opened up lots of opportunities and gives me the chance to be more independent. I drove myself from Ardfern to Lowestoft recently, which was scary but also quite exciting, and I can easily get around and visit friends and relatives now I am down here. I have also taken on a small boat renovation project of my own at home. Earlier this year I was given an Osprey sailing dinghy, which requires some work on both the hull and the deck. I hope to bring this boat back to perfect condition.

## College

At college, I am progressing through the course with the aim of achieving a City and Guilds qualification in traditional boat building and renovation. It is very interesting studying at IBTC as we get to work on some really amazing projects including historic vessels. These included a replica of the *James Caird* and recently the college has been commissioned by the Broads Authority to build a replica of a medieval Chet boat.

I am so grateful for the award from RHYC as it has enabled me to do my course and helped cover not only the course fees but also the additional costs which I have such as purchasing tools and BSL interpreters and scribes for my exams. I would like to give a huge thanks to everyone at the RHYC for their generosity and hope that they can continue to help young people who love boats and sailing in Scotland.