

## THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS CLASS YACHT 'STROMA'



In December 1928 the Clyde correspondent of Yachting Monthly reported that “something in the nature of a mild sensation has been caused in local yachting circles.” The existing racing classes had all got scattered and consideration was being given to a new class.

The next month the magazine reported that Alfred Mylne had designed the new boat and five owners had placed orders with McGruer & Co and commented “Fitted as auxiliaries the new boats will not be very fast, especially in view of their moderate sail spread.” The new class was to be known as the “Scottish Islands.” They were launched around the beginning of June 1929.

My boat Stroma was ordered by George Nisbet and is number four in the Class. Number one, Westra, was lost in a yard fire during the War, but the others survive, as do most of the later boats.

Stroma had quite a few owners before I bought her in 1976. I sailed her on the West coast until 1989, by which time she was showing serious signs of age. I was then persuaded to lend her to the Scottish Maritime Museum, who wanted her as an exhibit, as restoring her properly was beyond my skills and resources. The Museum had undertaken to look after her and progressively restore her, but in fact under their care she deteriorated. They left her afloat in Irvine Harbour during the winter and eventually she was crushed in an accident with another craft and badly damaged.

I cancelled the loan in 1995 and decided that despite my lack of skill I should try to restore her. I eventually got her relaunched in September 2003 after about five thousand hours of work..

Stroma is pretty much back to her original state, except that I did not install an engine. She is a nice easy boat to sail and has comfortable accommodation for up to three. She is now virtually maintenance-free.

Ewan G Kennedy, Kilmelford, May 2010.