

“Canterbury-J Chin-Wag” Canterbury J-Class Owners Association (CJCOA)

18 June 2020

Edition#18

Hi J-Skippers

We are now sailing “normally” again. Skippers were crunching leaves and slipping on the damp ground, skirting the extensive mud puddles make by the large flock of Canada Geese.

Canada geese were introduced as a game bird into New Zealand in 1905. They were protected under the Wildlife Act of 1953 and the population was managed by Fish & Game, New Zealand, who culled excessive bird numbers. In 2011 the government removed the protection status allowing anyone to kill the birds.



In Canterbury, Winter often means sunny skies and becalmed conditions. And frosty mornings. Skippers do more chatting than sailing!



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The Mystery Sailing Boat

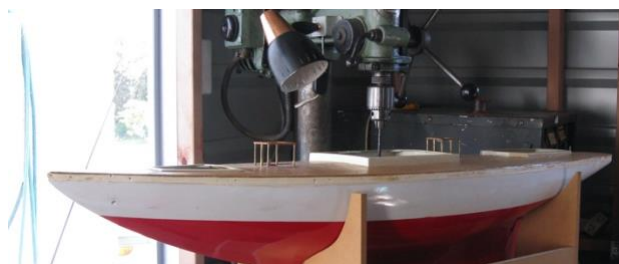
It has been identified as a *Robbe Atlantis*. “Robbe” was a German company making model boats, cars and planes. But has gone out of business.

Rodney Thorp from Timaru, can tell you all about this yacht:

“The schooner pictured is a *Robbe Atlantis*, although I do not know current owner, Peter Vincent made patterns from this one’s sails to refit the similar model I bought from Bob Wing.

I never met with Bob, as he had taken off to Australia after the Christchurch earthquakes, but acquired through his partner’s daughter here in Timaru My “hulk” required an extensive rebuild, but fortunately most of the components were still with the hull.

Again, as so often happens there were a lot of unforeseen challenges. In order to make the yacht more handle-able out of the water, I decided to use the old practice of a lifting handle attached to the internal keel weight . After careful alignment with the deck c/l , the positions did not line up with c/l of the cast iron. The weight had not been fitted true, and therefore needed to be removed and re-sited.



With the holes drilled central and tapped, a couple of lengths of threaded rod and a stout timber brace across the deck ,the reluctant iron was prised from the hold. Such was the start of a series of alterations, too many to here

recall, but for any-one who has undertaken re-building, they will be all too aware.

However now completed the yacht has proved to be a very satisfying craft to sail, reasonably nimble in light airs and excitingly powerful in a good blow.”

Cheers Rodney Thorp





Rodney Thorp sailing his refitted Robbe Atlantis, on Timaru Engineers Pond.

Also Jurgen Laakmann, a Canterbury-J owner in Germany, recognised this yacht: “The model you are showing is a “*Robbe Atlantis*”. The company does not exist anymore but some of those models are still sailing. I assume most of them in Europe because “*Robbe*” was a Germany based company. The model is quite famous for her good sailing behaviour in a wide variety of winds.” Kind regards, Jürgen.

“Mathew Lord”



Finally, we have tracked down the actual boat! It is currently stored in the Christchurch Model Yacht Club rooms.

Leon tells me that the proud owner is Keith Lord.

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As most of you will know, this is Canterbury J-1.

It was Dave Heanly who created the first Canterbury J-Class model yacht (J-1), which he named *Shamrock*. “Its construction was a joint effort,” he says, “The fiberglass hull was bought from Norm Sisson, the sails were designed and fabricated by Hugh Hobden, and I put it all together”. On launch day, Dave was distracted with making his last-minute adjustments.

This was in 1996.

Consequently, he was late getting her into the water. He says, “The first boats off the start-line had already passed round the second mark. Anyway, J-1, she went like a rocket. *Shamrock* sped past everyone and finished first!”

Canterbury J-1 built in 1996



We will look at older boats next edition – if you have an older model boat story, now is the time to tell it.

This is the 18th edition.

Happy sailing, Rodney Ford, (Canterbury-J ChinWag editor)
On behalf of your Canterbury J Class Owners Association. CJCOA

Enjoy these quips

