

Why we bought a Dazcat?

We are now the proud owners of a Dazcat D1150 renamed Bare Necessities having been previously called Drama Queen and owned and raced extremely successfully by Dazcat's Simon Baker.

Bare Necessities - Falmouth May Bank
Holiday 2014



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We are Bruce and Alison; we have been sailing various things since the 1980's. We met at Newcastle University and were both keen windsurfers with Alison competing for Team GB. Having finally shed various other partners we become an "item" or whatever the face book term is a few years later. Despite working in two different countries we managed to sort out going cruising. We bought our Westerly GK 29 Giakonda in February 1990 and set off in April through the French canals out to the Mediterranean and then East to Turkey finally coming back to Falmouth via Biscay some 10,000 miles and 18 months later.

Having rejoined the world, Giakonda was sold and we returned to work and windsurfing. Some 20 years later, when the talk turned to a new boat, after vague acquaintances with multihulls through a friend who had participated in RB&I and AZAB on Meridian, we were quite keen to try one. A primary influence living near Plymouth was to avoid the "oh let's turn left to Salcombe or right to Fowey" each weekend scenario that a monohull might create. So we bought a Farrier F27 renaming her Live a Little. We sailed her for 5 seasons moving from the OMG what have we done? scaring ourselves silly through to cruising and racing her extensively around the Channel and S Brittany.

For the last two years we have been looking for something a bit more substantial. The F27 is a superb boat and we will miss her dingy like qualities but she is only 27 foot and for offshore sailing we wanted a greater degree of comfort as we aged. A genuine double bed was also on the list.. who says there is not life in old dogs?

We looked quite widely and various other South West sailors including Matt Baker and Jon Nicholls helped with the searches. It became increasingly frustrating that there was no obvious candidate.... and that these boats were spread around the world! Whilst we were looking for increased comfort the boat still had to sail. We considered a "project boat" and a complete back to shell as having had a 20 year old trimaran and pushed her we could see the ageing process was not limited to the crew? We physically looked at Farrier 36's, Dragonfly 32 and 35, Outremer 40 to 45, Schoening and various Le Rouge designs and even seriously considered going back to monohulls with both the Arcona 430 and the Pogo 40 lift keel cruising model being contenders but almost inevitably we kept coming back to Dazcat's.

We had both sailed on Drama Queen; Bruce helping to deliver her very quickly to Southampton Boat Show in 2012 in a F7 Westerly and Alison racing her back from Trebeurden as part of the 2013 Fastnet qualifying mileage. We also then both raced her at Bembridge in 2013. We had a certain amount of confidence in the boat as if Simon had not broken her then it was unlikely that we would!

Going through our tick list, she had double beds, shower, hot water, twin diesels, stowage space, davits for the dingy which was also important as we had by now acquired a puppy, and she went fast! The build quality is good, there is loads of space and light and having looked at two of the newer Dazcat's, Suenos and Rock Steady whilst there were changes there was nothing that much different unless you needed 2m of headroom. We have been promised that we can make various modifications to enable her to take to the ground more easily and in due course we will be copying these from the later boats.

We have now sailed her for about 6 weeks and finished the RWYC Falmouth Fowey triangle race. We did not win! But our crack racing crew of four plus six month old baby and our eight month puppy had a great time and we can certainly say that the boat looked after us and tolerated our inexperience.



Bare Necessities - Alison, Ellie, Aiofe and Patrick

Daz and Simon, we promise we will go faster now that we have worked out that the boards will go down another meter... and learning which way round the spinnaker goes will also help?

Here's to the next chapter with our Dazcat D1150 ~~racer-cruiser~~ cruiser racer...

Alison and Bruce