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Beneteau from Quin's, a sound investment in sail.

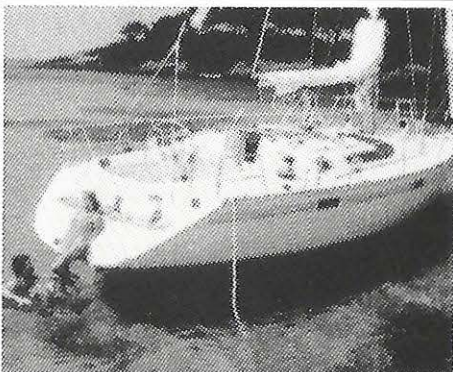
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Radiant Resurgam

David Barnfield

Radiant is a thirty-foot sloop built by Clausens in about 1927. On 18 May, 1993 I delivered her to Birkenhead so that Searles could grind off 66 years of accumulated antifouling. "She'll be here for three days, mate," they said. With the benefit of hindsight, they might have added, "... that's three days for every year of her life."

The jarrah below the waterline was in excellent condition, apart from a six inch by nine inch section of planking by the stern tube. On further inspection, the stern post (shaped from a grown mangrove knee) was rotten. Luckily the hardwood planking round it was sound. "Look, if we've got to take the knee out, you might as well shove in a new stern tube ... and I reckon it's the best chance you'll get to whack in a little diesel if you're worried about the petrol engine." The new laminated knee is cut from red gum and karri, expertly shaped, glued and bolted into position. Seasoned jarrah planks have been refitted, where otherwise good timbers were removed to obtain access to the old knee. The stately

Stuart-Turner has made way for a small Volvo Penta, and the vessel now boasts a reconditioned 10 hp diesel with new electrics. The distinctive exhaust note of the old Stuart-Turner will be sadly missed.

"Did you know the deck's leaking? And look at this! There's a bloody great hog in the sheer!" The old deck took ages to remove. Although the original jarrah and oregon trawler deck was strong, dozens of deck-spikes had rusted and grown into the wood over many years. It needed four or five days' work with a mallet and wood chisel, because somebody had added three layers of cork tiles to the original planks, and topped it off with marine ply! In places the deck was more than three inches thick.

"Cripe! these deck beams don't look too flash ..." The new beams, cut from a splendid piece of oregon, are glued and screwed to the inwale. ["A wale or rib of wood on the inside of a boat. In some boats it runs from stem to stern; in others only alongside the space occupied by the sculler (about 8 ft.)." — *Oxford English Dictionary*. The solitary citation is from 1875. — Ed.] After shooting



Unsuspected pathology

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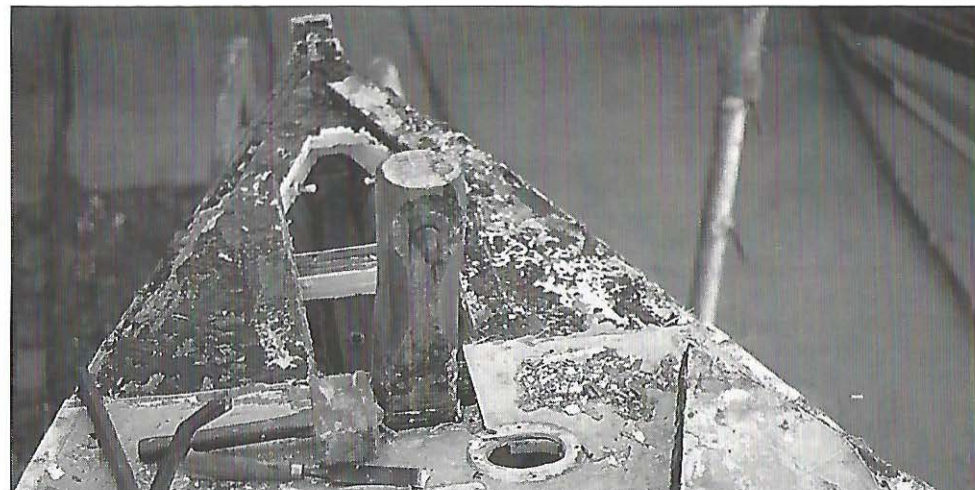
merCruiser

PHONE
PETER WHITE
TODAY ON

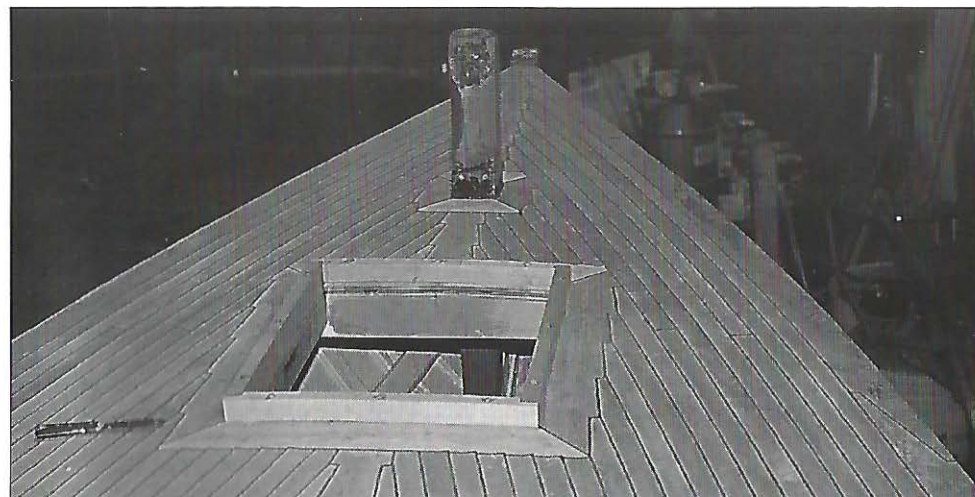
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the beams, the first layer of marine ply was glued and stapled down, forming a near-perfect fit between deckhead and cambered deck beams. [This was a small challenge, resolved by tracking down sense 39 of "shoot" in *OED*: "Carpentry and Joinery. To plane accurately (the edge of a board), especially, with the aid of a shooting-board." The first citation is 1667: "Prinatt City & C. Builder 61 For planing the boards, and shooting them for a Square, two shillings." — *Ed.*] A second layer of quarter-inch marine ply followed, with a final layer of fibreglass and epoxy added to seal the ply.

The plan was next to paint the new deck grey, just like the old one. "All that timber in the corner of the shed is beech. Seems a shame to waste it!" The new beech deck, laid over the ply, looks fantastic. Everyone is very happy with the result, and the boat looks smarter than before. Searles deserve all credit and congratulations for their encouragement and expert craftsmanship. Six months at Birkenhead have rejuvenated *Radiant*. With a bit of luck (and a bit of maintenance!) she should see out another 66 years at the Squadron. SQ



Stripping the old deck



New deck