

BRISTOL CHANNEL CUTTER

SAM L. MORSE CO.
COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA



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Yacht Builders

Bristol Channel Cutter

"about our boat"

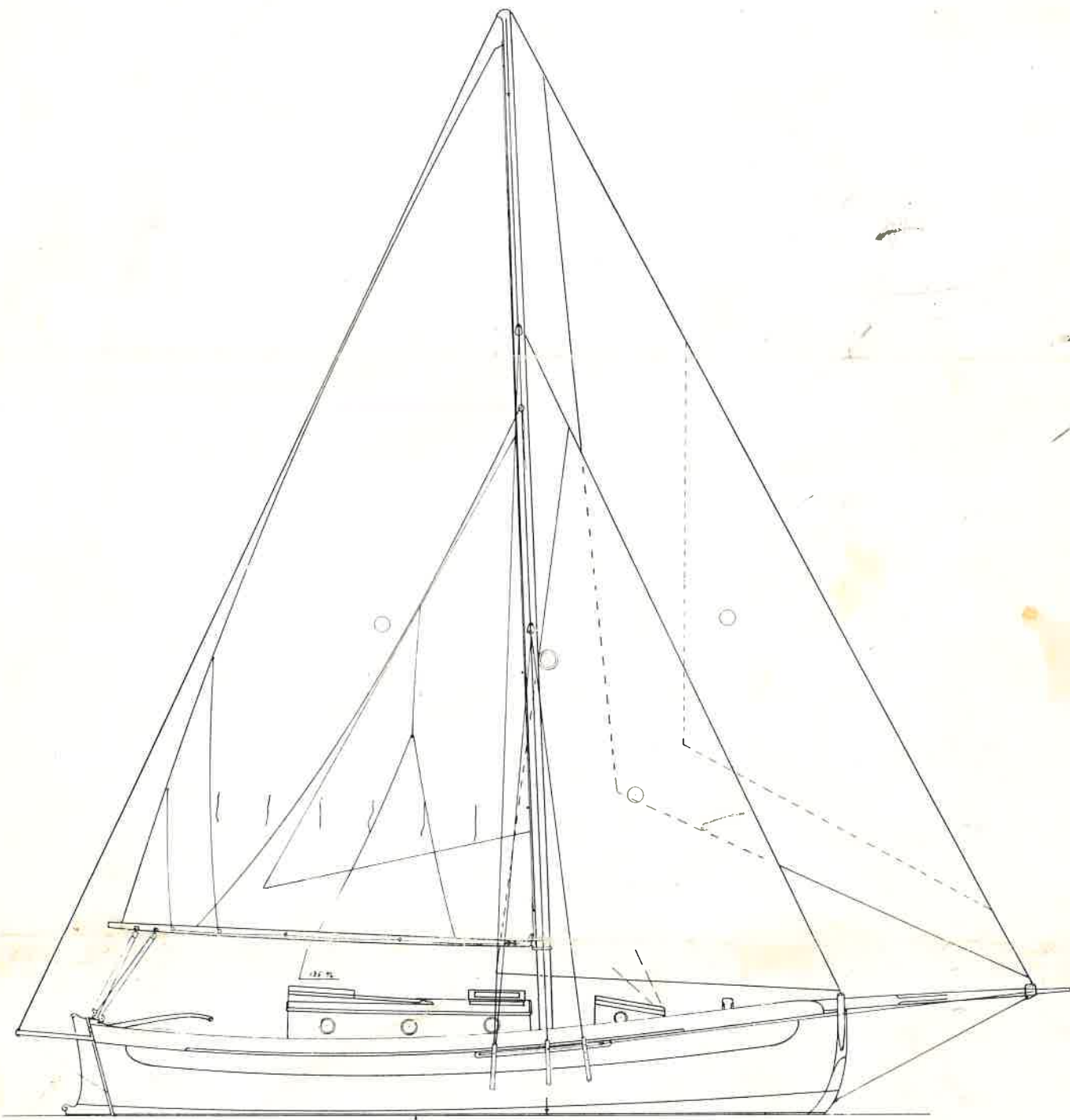
Nineteenth-century England produced many fine cutter models, some of the best of which were working boats from the West of England, such as those of Itchen Ferry, Falmouth and the Bristol Pilots. These were beamy vessels with firm bilges to enable them to sail well with cargo and to stand up to wind and sea in heavy going. The fishing smacks and other small craft were worked by one man, so the easily handled cutter rig served them well. Speed was an important consideration as weather can rapidly deteriorate in the English Channel and some of these models, particularly the Itchen Ferry, were notable for their performance.

A modern designer who has always admired the traditional English Cutter is Lyle Hess of Fullerton, California. The lines of these craft may be seen in his new design of our Bristol Channel Cutter and also in her smaller 24 ft. predecessor, best known through the outstanding racing record of "Renegade" and through the literary contributions of Lin and Larry Pardey, world cruisers on "Seraffyn".

Our Bristol Channel Cutter, a refinement of little sister Seraffyn, has been created for construction in fibreglass to combine the best of modern materials with the beauty of traditional design. Her many standard wooden components: bulwarks, taffrail, hatches, bowsprit and boomkin give her that classic look rarely seen in today's production yachts. Here is a boat that is built (viz. Herreshoff) to conform to the "Rules of the Sea" and not those of the racing association. Result? A boat which is seaworthy, comfortable and fast. Her easily driven hull, with a waterline of over 26', has a hull speed of approximately 7 knots — exceeding that of many boats with on-deck length of 32' and more. Her bowsprit and boomkin give her a long base on which to carry her powerful rig, and carry it she does with her wide beam, firm bilges and solid lead ballast deep in her hull. The traditional and sensible cutter rig with its variety of sail combinations is easily handled by one seasoned sailor and her full keel gives her the directional stability to make steering easy. Heavy displacement gives her the load-carrying ability a cruiser needs and an easier motion at sea; the Big Boat feeling. Yes, she is a BIG little boat, of a proven design tested by the English Pilot Cutters for over one hundred years.

The hull is hand laminated with a minimum of 10 layers of fibreglass material, the number of layers increasing below the boottop. Thickness below the boot, and in her bows and transom is one half inch and is even greater in her stem and keel. A husky 3½" flange at the sheer provides the support for the bolted down deck, heavily built with many layers of glass fibre enclosing a core of plywood for stiffness and insulation. The strong coach roof is in one piece with the deck unit for maximum security; no leaks here, ever.

Our Bristol Channel Cutter has a great heritage, proven sailing performance and timeless beauty. We will build her in accordance with the highest standards of the industry so that the new owner will receive a quality product of which he may be justly proud.



BRISTOL CHANNEL CUTTER
DESIGNED BY LYLE C. HESS
MAINS'L 254 SQ. FT.
STAYS'L 130 SQ. FT.
JIB 195 SQ. FT.
TOTAL 579 SQ. FT.

LENGTH ON DECK 28' - 1"
LENGTH, WATERLINE 26' - 3"
BEAM 10' - 1"
DRAFT 4' - 10"
DISPLACEMENT 14,000 LBS.
BALLAST 4600 LBS.

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