

# St Aubin's Boat – “Minneiah”

“Minneiah” is a typical mass produced vessel. Ideally suited to anyone wanting a boat that can accommodate a family with young or teenage children. A quick blast around the bay, a few thrills and spills skiing or wake boarding and the kids are happy. The boat is also versatile enough to make for some pleasurable fishing trips. Catch the incoming tide as St Aubin's harbour fills, motor out past the “Demie” and fish for a few mackerel before returning with the satisfaction of being a “hunter gatherer”. The Maxum 2300sc is not a master of anything but is a great boat for just messing about in and putting into practice that shore-based knowledge acquired in the classroom over the winter months.

Jim Naish bought “Minneiah” as a new boat and commissioned her in time for the beginning of the 2001 boating season. It would be an exaggeration to say that she stills looks as good as new. However, Jim was quick to point out, “She looks a little sad at the moment as the winter weather has taken its toll, but come back and see her in July after she's had her annual spruce up”. I asked about the mechanics and I could hear a more confident tone in his response, “G T Marine check her over every year. I'm a big believer in the old adage, respect the sea and it might just respect you, I don't take chances with the engine maintenance”.

Jim is acutely aware that “Minneiah” is under used and at times under loved. “I keep saying that I will sell her if I don't use her enough this coming season...but I've said that for many seasons so far, so we'll have to see!”...“It's the memories that make it hard to even think about selling her.” I gave Jim an inquisitive look, “We've had such fun with her as a family” quickly adding the remark, “often at my expense of course”

Encouraging Jim to tell me more he simply said, “One early evening after a stressful day in the office I went for a quick spin out toward the MInquiers and was greeted by a school of dolphins, which immediately lifted my spirit and was a real highlight to the short trip out”.

I questioned Jim as to whether he had any bad experiences or challenges, “ Not really, other than too little experience when I first had the boat. It was a very quick learning curve”. In Jim's closing remarks it perhaps triggered an emotion that I could identify with: boating often produces some quick learning curves but for most of us messing about in small boats is a lifetime of continued learning by experience and study.