

## GERMAN 12-METRES

# Westwind lies, Sphinx rises

Here's a sad/happy tale of two boats. Both are 12-Metres, built by Abeking and Rasmussen some 70 years ago and, until recently, used by the German Navy as sail-trainers. In 2005 the navy decided to sell them off, and a consortium hoped to buy and restore them, and keep them together in Flensburg.

However, for the unlucky boat, *Westwind* (ex-*Inga*), the consortium was outbid and the boat removed – to a then unknown destination.

Just recently, she was discovered in a sorry state in Southampton. We gather that her frames are rusting out and, to be restored, she would have to be virtually dismantled. Her owner, a UK-domiciled German, has not been heard from for some time. The deck was shrink-wrapped by the yard as an emergency measure to keep out the rain.

The more fortunate boat, known to the Navy as *Ostwind* but originally, and now, again, *Sphinx*, was bought by a group including Oliver Berking of the Robbe & Berking Classics and 12-Metre World Championship, where she was due to make her restored debut on 5 July.

*Sphinx* was also built by A&R, in 1939, using funds subscribed by the people of Hamburg, for the Norddeutscher Regattaverain

(NRV). Following the war, when there were limits on the size of yachts Germans could own, *Sphinx* was sold to two club members who had Chilean passports and a well-stocked woodyard; payment was in larch, oak and mahogany, from which A&R built many boats for the club. In 1958 *Sphinx* was sold to the naval college, Mürwik, which renamed her *Ostwind*. Relaunch, post-restoration, was on 22 May.

## IBTC, LOWESTOFT

# Replica of James Caird

The International Boat-building Training College at Lowestoft (see p62) has just been awarded a contract to build a replica of Shackleton's whaler the *James Caird*, for a reenactment of his 1916 Antarctic expedition. The project is to feature at this year's Earls Court boat show.

