

OPPOSITION



Sail No: K3266

Launch Date: 1971

Type: IOR Two Ton One-Off

Owner: Jamie Matheson

Designer:	<i>Sparkman & Stephens</i>	Builder:	<i>Clare Lallow</i>
Construction:	<i>Carvel with laminated wood frames</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Sloop</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>12.5m / 9.5m</i>	Beam:	<i>3.81m</i>
Draft:	<i>2.04m</i>	Displacement:	<i>12.59 Tonnes</i>

History

OPPOSITION was built for the then British Prime Minister Edward Heath as his second Morning Cloud and was launched in the spring of 1971 with a view to competing in that years Admirals' Cup as part of the British team. The British team won the Admirals' Cup that year and the boat went on to achieve a number of notable successes under Edward Heath's ownership including Burnham Week and the Round the Island Race. After two years the boat was sold and renamed OPPOSITION and for a further two seasons she raced in the Solent. Thereafter OPPOSITION moved to the Clyde and towards the end of the seventies OPPOSITION was sold once again and started her life a cruising yacht spending some time in the Mediterranean. She returned to the Clyde in the mid-eighties and towards the end of the eighties was brought ashore for a major refit. She remained ashore for several years where she suffered further during several hot summers under cover. In the mid-nineties she was then sold to the current owner's late brother-in-law and was once again made sea-worthy and continued her life as a cruising yacht in the West of Scotland. Within a couple of years' the current owner bought an interest in OPPOSITION eventually becoming the outright owner and she continued to be used for cruising in the Clyde and the waters of the West Coast of Scotland.

By the Spring of 2007 it became clear that OPPOSITION had become very tired indeed. Perhaps this is not surprising given that she was now 36 years old and as an out and out racing yacht had perhaps only been built to last five or six years. That summer, discussions took place with Lallows and the decision was made to return the boat to her birthplace to undergo a complete restoration. She arrived back in Cowes for the first time since the seventies at the end of Cowes Week that year and a few days later was hauled ashore up into Lallows shed to commence her re-birth. The following Spring she returned to the water looking every bit as splendid as she had done some thirty seven years before and resumed her racing career a few weeks later by entering the JP Morgan Round the Island in which she came third in her class. Her return to the sea was celebrated with a party at the Royal London where all her original crew with the exception of Edward Heath who had passed away were able to see her. We were very privileged in particular to have Owen Parker raise a glass to OPPOSITION. Owen had suffered ill health for some time and sadly this was to be the last time he would be seen in public but perhaps this was a very special occasion for him. OPPOSITION is now to be seen participating, and still winning in classic races and regattas in both the waters of the Solent and the West Coast of Scotland.