



Yacht Mir is the flagship for Biosphere Foundation (and its division: the Planetary Coral Reef Foundation). Her home port is Raffles Marina, of which the organisation has a memorandum of understanding with, to support Asean conservation and educational programmes. Mir was constructed in 1910 and came to Biosphere Foundation in 2009. One of her former owners, Commander Claude Woollard, called her The English Rose. The vessel has a remarkable history with the Commander so we have reprinted an article obtained from the Poole History Library (UK). Next time when you're at the marina, look for Mir - one of Raffles Marina's tallest ships.

~ 12 February, 1947

Lying at a mud berth on the East coast and due to arrive at Poole is the 121ton ketch-rigged oceangoing yacht, The English Rose. She has been acquired by Commander C.L.A. Woollard, RN of Lilliput, who is having her fitted out as a cadet ship for the Girls' Nautical Training Corps (GNTC), of which he is founder and technical advisor.

The English Rose (then the Maruna) was refitted last year with sails, masts, hydraulic windlass and a fire cylinder Gardner diesel engine of 60-70hp. A radiophone, wireless direction finder and a large refrigerator are also being installed, and she will carry the latest instructional devices. Auxiliaries comprise a 14ft motor boat, 10ft and 12ft sailing dinghies, two 9ft pulling dinghies and two outboard motors.

ROUND THE COAST

Cadets from the Parkstone unit of the Sea Cadet Corps will help to sail the yacht to Poole, where it is hoped to hold the commissioning ceremony and dedication on 16 April. Among those to be invited are the Minister of Education, Admiralty officials and mayors of

CADETTES WILL TRAIN IN HER! It is understood to be the first seagoing cadette ship in this country, commanded by an officer who served in square-rigged ships. The four officer-instructors will be chosen from ex-WRNS boats' crew who has had wide experience in handling boats under sail and power. Preference will be given to those applicants who carried out their pre-entry training in the GNTC.

CHANNEL CRUISES

On her first cruise, the ship will be entirely manned by cadets from the Bromley unit. The accommodation is being altered so that normally 24 cadets can be carried. A cabin is being installed on deck for the captain-superintendent.

The course will last a week and the vessel will normally cruise in the Channel, with visits to Portsmouth, Portland and Torque. It also hopes to visit Cherbourg and Paris (the masts of The English Rose are fitted in tabernacles).

ALL ELIGIBLE

Not only will GNTC trainees and officers be able to avail themselves of holiday training; the concession is also extended to all members of the National Association of Girls' Clubs, women's sections of TOC H and the Linguists' Club, daughters of the Association of Retired Naval Officers and daughters of bona fide members of a recognised yacht or sailing club in England. 5

~ Commander Claude Lombard Aubry Wollard 1988-1966 spent his career in the merchant navy. He was one of a select group of mariners who took full-rigged sailing ships around Cape Horn. As a member of RNR he commanded naval vessels in the Mediterranean during the 1914-18 war. In retirement he devoted his energies to maritime related work, and in 1946 founded the English Rose Training Scheme for Girls, based in Poole. He authored five books on naval subjects.