

# **BELLE EPOQUE**

Bates Star Craft Cruiser

Length 33ft Beam 10ft Draft 3ft

Lloyds registered No 358836

Built in 1961 for WA Howell (the third boat built for him by Bates) and named after his daughter Deirdre Louise. The original purchase price of £6071 plus £67 for teak decking.

Only a few of the distinctive Star Craft fleet were ever constructed with an aft cockpit, the majority of these being the smaller 30ft model. It is believed that only two were ever constructed in the larger 33ft size. Tradition has it that the sister ship to Belle Epoque was irreparably damaged during craning, rendering her now the sole surviving example.

## **1961 – 1969**

Built for WA Howell

## **1969-1972**

Owned by W Bates and Sons and used by Mrs Beryl Bates

**1972-1975** Purchased by Michael Martin and re-engined

## **1975-1994**

Purchased by Mike (a founder of Star Craft Owners Club) & Sylvia Morrell.  
1979 BMC Vedettes replaced with Ford Watermota Sea Tigers.

**1994** Purchased by Roy Griffiths, Sunbury.

**1995** Purchased by Brian Hawkins, Farnham, Surrey.

**2004** Purchased by Gloria & Tony Mayes, Wargrave who completely restored her hull, topsides and interior over 14 months.

**2007** Purchased by David & Sheila Newing-Ward

**2012** Purchased by John Reeves & Sharon Honeyman. In excess of £30,000 spent on stripping hull, decks and topsides and re-working heads to fit style of vessel.

**2016** Current owner Jo Ledbrooke