

Louise Phillipe – Star Craft No. 40/22

The agreement to build Louis Phillipe was dated 18th June 1967, the purchaser being Brian Horace Lister of Lister Engineering fame. The overall price was £10,000 with the owner to supply twin Perkins HT 6.354 diesel engines with 2:1 reduction Borg Warner gearboxes. She is believed to be the only Starcraft built that was fitted out by others outside of the Bates yard.

The price list of the day in 1969 quotes a price of £12,015 for a complete craft to a similar specification.

Past owners of the boat have included Denny Lane (of “Wings” fame) and Graham Sellors who re-launched in 1998 after 12 years out of the water.

She was first registered as “Louis Phillipe” before her name changing to “RHM” and then to “JMJS” before finally reverting back to Louis Phillipe (note the unusual spelling).

Louis Phillipe won both the Bates Wheel and the Bill Gardham trophy at the 2007 Trad Boat Rally. She is regularly to be seen cruising the Thames as far upstream as Oxford. More adventurous cruises in recent years have included a memorable voyage across the Channel to Bruges in Belgium in 2011.

We were delighted and proud that Louis Phillipe was accepted to the Jubilee Pageant held in June of 2012, one of seven Star Craft in total. In May 2015, she ventured to Dunkirk as part of the support flotilla for the Dunkirk Little Ships who celebrated the 75th anniversary of the infamous ‘Operation Dynamo’.

Louis Phillipe is currently moored on the Thames at Wraysbury.