

# TOUGH ENGLISH ROBUST SHIPS



Sailing in a boat from the same shipyard creates a bond. Many boat types also have their own boat owner club. In the Watermerk section of Mootorboot we highlight these boat clubs. In this issue we pay attention to the Kentenaren, the Kent motorboaters club. A high bow, heavy rubber bumper and the rounded rear, when you see that you know for sure that you are dealing with a Kent motorboat. Derived from old English pilot boats, these robust boats guarantee good sailing characteristics, also on larger waters. "In addition, for their limited length they are surprisingly spacious ships with standing height in the cabin, toilet and shower and a spacious self-draining cockpit", says Elza van Dorsser- Benne, secretary of De Kentenaren.

## EXPERIENCED BOAT BUILDERS

Cory Yachts has been building these boats since 1966. Founder Brian Cory first built a boat for himself in 1957, which is how he discovered he wanted to make boat building his occupation. Each boat is built with craftsmanship and love for the boats "We build boats as if they were for ourselves", current owner Simon states on their website. In 1985, son Simon took over the shipyard. They built a large range of Kent boats from 27 to 28 feet, which were sold throughout Europe. Today, they only build the Kent 35 and fast boats of the Invicta type. You can also contact them for refits and annual maintenance. Elza continues: "Sometimes the Kent boats were completed in the Netherlands at two different shipyards, under the type name Kent but also under the type name Cantia".

## A NEW MOTORBOAT CLUB

Put the crews of Kent motorboats together and you immediately have recognition, pleasure and exchange of tips. A number of Kent owners decided to set up the international boat club "De Kentenaren" almost 25 years ago to promote contact between owners. Originally 17 boat owners were members. They are mostly ex-sailors, who are charmed by the good sailing characteristics, which also make larger waters accessible. From the start, there has been a club magazine every six months and a club weekend once a year, usually centrally located in the Netherlands. In the meantime, an annual meeting has been added in the spring,

followed by a pleasant get-together or outing. After some discussion, it was decided originally decided that the boat club would be exclusively for owners of the Kent 27 and the Kent 28. "Fortunately, from 2005 onwards, owners of the other Kent boats were also allowed to become members, so my husband and I could also join with our Kent 31", says Elza laughing. Currently, the boat club (without legal construction, so not registered with the Chamber of Commerce), has 3 honorary members and 24 members. Unfortunately, we are seeing the age of the members rising. "But fortunately, new owners also know where to find us, they are very welcome!". According to Elza.

## **A LOT OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE**

There is a lot of technical knowledge about the boats in the club. Many members bought the boat new or as a second owner and the contacts with the English shipyard owner Simon Cory are good. He even attends a Kent weekend now and then. That also provides extra knowledge about the boats. In addition, there are boats that have had a refit, or have had certain parts replaced, that is also the subject of the conversation. Elza continues: "During the summer event, but also during our spring meetings, there is a lot of exchange of information about the boats. And it is always fun to look on board other boats to get new ideas."

## **KEEN ON TRAVEL**

There is a well-maintained, up-to-date website [www.kentenaren.jouwweb.nl](http://www.kentenaren.jouwweb.nl) . It shows that the Kent owners are keen on travel. Some have the time to travel for a few months at a time. For example, you will find interesting travel reports of sailing trips through the Netherlands, Belgium and France. But also trips via Germany and Poland to the Baltic Sea and then on to Denmark and Sweden. The website also contains information about events, club magazines, tips from members, manuals, boats for sale wanted/offered. But of course also how you can become a member. Elza says: "And I would like to make an appeal for that, if you own a Kent or Cantia and you are not yet a member, join us. In addition to fun, you will also get enormous expertise about your boat. For the money you can't go wrong, membership is only €25.00 per year per boat." New members can register via the website [www.kentenaren.jouwweb.nl/lid-worden](http://www.kentenaren.jouwweb.nl/lid-worden) .

Photo1 Kentenaren weekend. 2 A Kent has a surprising amount of space and headroom. 3 The Kent 31 of Elza van Dorsser-Benne, secretary of De Kentenaren. The Kent boats are originally ships built in England by Cory Yachts. They built the following types: Kent27, 28, 31, 33 and 35 in the Cabin Cruisers or Launch variant. Until 2005, most hulls were made in England and assembled in the Netherlands.