

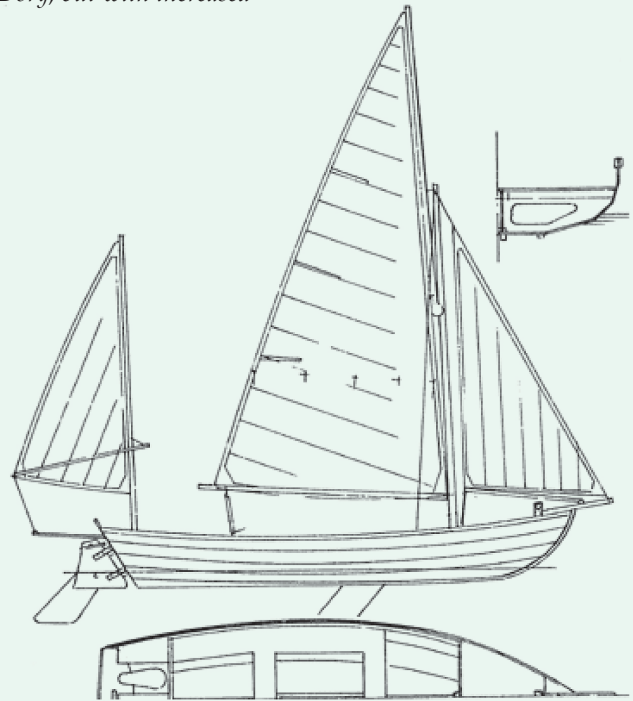
## Selway Fisher's *Petite Brise 16*, by Maurice Burgess

A quick snapshot of a handsome cruising yawl design, which Maurice built and named *Osprey*. The PB16 version grew from the original Selway Fisher 12ft 4ins PETITE BRISE and both boats are developments from the classic Swampscott Dory, but with increased beam, stability and aft buoyancy

**T**he PB16 was developed by Paul Fisher for the late Derek Harvey, whose article *Building a Swampscott Dory* appeared in *Boatman* No.27. In this he describes building the stitch and glue version of the boat. When I received my PB16 plans, Paul had already modified the rudder. The original Swampscott Dories had a tombstone transom and were steered with an oar. A barn-door rudder then appeared. Most boats were alpha-rigged. I did see a couple of them in Swampscott some years ago, but they were afloat alongside the jetty, and looked rather unloved.

I have replaced the mizzen sprit boom with a conventional boom, which has long jaws like gaff jaws and the parrel is a piece of bungee cord. I can brail up the mizzen and boom with a tug on two brails. The boom is thus brought up parallel to the mast. This, plus Wykeham-Martin gear on the jib, means that I can easily and quickly reduce sail. I can also ship and recover the bumpkin easily from inboard – no hanging over the stern.

My current rudder blade is about No.5. I did start with the revised drawing, then larger ones. After that came a galvanised mild steel version modified a couple of times. I put this on when my brother-in-law kept it on a tidal mooring in Newport, Pembrokeshire for a couple of years, where the wooden blade suffered when scraped on the sand as the boat yawed in the wind when it was just afloat. When *Osprey* returned to East Sussex, I made the current blade, which is a good foil shape and works well. Incidentally, friend Clive Marsh found the rudder blade lodged in the reeds in Norfolk. It just needed some reshaping, and bingo, a lovely piece of timber appeared. I found the yoke and wire system for the steering didn't work for me. The wires got in the way of the outboard, and it was difficult to take out the slack. I did a bit of welding of scrap metal, galvanised for a couple of pounds, and I had fittings for the rudder stock and for the tiller. Two steering joints from ride-on mowers plus a length of rod threaded at each end, and I had a system that has worked well. **MB**



**LOD 16ft – 4.8m**

**BEAM 5ft 9ins – 1.75m**

**SAIL AREA 110 sq ft – 10.25 sq m**

**DISPLACEMENT (approx) 300lbs – 136 kilos**

**DRAFT 8ins / 3ft 2ins – 0.2m / 0.97m**

