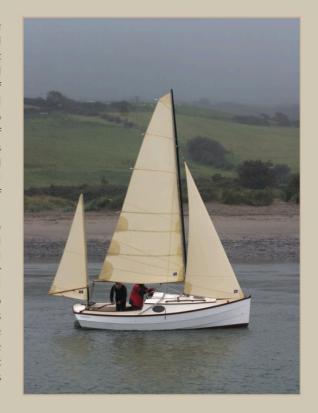


## With photographs by Peter Chesworth

t was interesting to eavesdrop on the conversations at the Southampton Boat Show this year. Once I'd got my head out of the off-cuts bin at English Braids – always my first port of call – it became obvious that, as well as those who'd come to gawp at the Super Yachts, there was a nucleus of visitors who were actually looking to buy a boat. I soon found myself following the same bunch of people from stand to stand; evidently we were all interested in the same type of boat. We were the Small Boat Posse. No VIP Range Rovers would whisk us off to an executive lunch – we either did without or had a sandwich while perched on a trailer wheel – but everyone seemed quite happy and there were plenty of trailer sailers to look at this year.

În my opinion, a good trailer sailer is easily trailed, launched and recovered – otherwise you won't be going anywhere – sails well single-handed, has accommodation and facilities for extended cruising, looks good on the water and can comfortably ride out an Atlantic storm. I have to tell you that no such boat exists but in 2006, I came close to most of these criteria when Matt Newland of Swallow Boats in Cardigan came up with the Cardigan Bay Lugger... and the Four Sisters and I have been happily trundling around Europe ever since. Now, 3 years later, Matt has had another look at the concept of an easily trailed cabin boat – and I, posing as an expert in such craft, was going to have a test sail.



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