

RCC/Yachting Monthly dinghy design competition

In 1912 the Royal Cruising Club ran a design competition for a 10 foot dinghy to suit the cruising yachtsman. The Claymore Cup was awarded to the winner, the artist Arthur Briscoe with designs by Harrison Butler and other luminaries also being submitted.. More information about the competition and copies of the drawings are available in the journal for 1912.

To mark this centenary the Royal Cruising Club is running a design competition jointly with Yachting Monthly to be judged in the autumn of 2012. Yachting Monthly will be running a number of articles on the competition – see www.yachtingmonthly.com . The design brief is outlined below and is deliberately open - we wish to encourage innovative designs (including inflatables, dories, prams, canoes, catamarans as well as stem dinghies) with the focus being on ease of handling and practicality for stowage on a cruising boat.

The judges will be looking at a range of criteria, including those listed below:

- Carrying power (to suit the intended use and vessel for which the design is developed - indicatively three adults or two adults and two children)
- Whether the dinghy will be a pleasure to use – which implies handiness and good qualities for rowing, paddling and sailing depending on the nature of the design
- Able to carry a small outboard, though hopefully such a pleasure to use that this is seldom called upon
- Handy to stow for cruising. Designers may like to consider stowage on their own cruising boat or to consider how the vessel would be stowed on a typical 30 to 35 foot cruising boat
- Robust enough to handle being pulled up the beach or light enough to be easily carried by a couple

Designers might also like to consider other qualities and to highlight these if the dinghy has features that make it particularly suited for the purpose - examples might include being suitably fendered to lie alongside in a wind against tide anchorage, capable of laying out a kedge or features that make handling the vessel ashore or lifting on board easier.

To encourage entries from those without drafting skills, the skill of the draftsman will not be a factor in judging the competition, though care should be taken to ensure that sufficient detail is included so that the design can be fully evaluated, such as a description of the method of construction and an estimate of the weight. You may wish to use photos of similar vessels to illustrate any detail or feature that would be incorporated in the design.

Copyright of the design remains with the designer, but it is a condition of entry that the RCC and Yachting Monthly may reproduce the plans and details for the interest of members and readers.

Entries will be welcomed from amateurs, professionals and existing dinghy manufacturers who might want to submit a suitably modified version of an existing design as well as for completely new designs. Further details of the deadlines and requirements in respect of drawings will be published on this in due course.