

The Story of Louise

Part 1

The story started at a CBYA committee meeting on Monday 15 June 2015. As chairman I had been contacted about a 14 foot sailing dinghy which someone in Javea wanted to sell with the proceeds going to a charity called 'Un Lugar de Esperanza en Javea' (The Harvest Store). I suggested to the committee that the CBYA could purchase this dinghy for the benefit of our members. After some discussion it was decided that we would allow the sale to go on the CBYA web site free of charge as the seller was not a CBYA member.

At that same meeting a discussion took place about the future of the CBYA web site and it was agreed to form a sub committee to look into all possibilities of creating a new web site. To achieve this several names were mentioned but the name of Fernando kept being mentioned. I then asked the question who is this Fernando and the answer came back Fernando Moneta is a keen CBYA member, a TOMS sailor and a web designer.

The scene is now set.....

On Tuesday 16 June my wife Sylvi suggested that as we were going to Norway for the summer in a few days time that we visit El Portet (we nicknamed it 'Paradise Bay' many years ago) for a last drink.

This is 'Paradise Bay' with Moraira Marina 'left of middle'.



Part 2

So off we went to 'Paradise Bay' and as I sat down I saw this.....!



So I went over to get a closer look having never seen anything like it here before. Then I started to think how I could possibly re float this boat if she was mine.....not much tide here to help!



and a closer look did not help !

In the end I gave up pondering and returned to Sylvi and my glass of wine. We chatted when Sylvi then said "I think the four men sitting at the table next door have something to do with that beached yacht". Then suddenly Sylvi recognised Fernando who she had met in Calpe when she was seeing me off on the Penion de Ifach race a couple of weeks before. She introduced me to Fernando who came over and sat down with us and explained what had happened.

The boat's name was Louise11 and it was owned by an elderly Danish man, called Morgens (we never got his last name) who had lived on her for the last 14 years. He had spent the last 4 years in the Med. Apparently he had arrived in Portet Bay on the previous Sunday afternoon. He had anchored in fairly rough conditions. His anchor cable had broken and before he was able to get the engine started the boat was washed ashore onto the beach. He was stranded.....and did not know what to do. Fernando who apparently goes to Portet Bay on most days for a swim, arrived to see the situation and went to see if he could help. Several others joined in and they got round to see if they could push Louise11 off into deeper water. After a lot of pushing and twisting all efforts failed. Suddenly they heard a 'crack' and water was then seen to come in through a fracture in the hull. All was lost.....!

The Dane was devastated and by the following day all hope of recovery was given up and Fernando and others help by removing personal belongings from Louise11. At this point in the story Sylvi went over and spoke to the Dane. His English was not that good and she was able to speak to him in a language he understood (Sylvi is Norwegian). He was suffering from shock and she did her best to comfort him at this tragic moment. He had decided to return to Denmark the day after.

The following day Louise11 was recovered from the beach at El Portet....minus her keel, as can be seen, and designated for the nautical crap yard ..!



Part 3

No, the story does not end there! I had been shocked by what I saw and what had happened so I decided to write a small blog and sent it round to the CBYA Committee Members....'them being a nautical bunch who would be sympathetic to the situation and my feelings'.

Well the next piece of the story is amazing. Johnny Tweedale, our beloved Treasurer, sent me some pictures which are below. He had some friends who had a boat and were moored in Portet Bay on the same Sunday. They had gone ashore to the Moors & Christian Fiesta and had returned to their boat to see her 'bucking and bonking' (that's a nautical term) in a heavy sea.



They decided to move to the protection of the Marina which they did. As they started to 'up anchor' they saw a Danish boat coming in and trying to anchor.



You can see the Danish flag.....no doubt Louise11.



This looks like Louise11 was eventually anchored.



Johny's friends ended up safely in Moraira Marina at the fuelling berth for the night.....lucky for them.

Part 4

One lostanother to be saved !!

Interesting storyespecially to us 'nautical ones'..... but it doesn't end there ? !

Whilst I was sitting talking to Fernando on that eventful afternoon, he told me he loved 'Paradise Bay' and planned to keep a small dinghy here...right there!



Not wanting to miss an opportunity I told him about the dinghy we had for sail on the CBYA web site (please refer to Part 1). Well one thing led to another and to try and keep this long story a little bit shorter.....we agreed between us that I should go and see the dinghy the following day (please bear in mind I was due to be leaving Spain for Norway in 3 days).

I went, liked what I saw and agreed to buy her. I then set up a deal for the boat to be collected and transported from Javea to Portet and soon after left Spain leaving everything in the hands of Fernando.

Well he will tell the story much better than me. He kept me informed as to what was happening, there were a few technical problems which he was sorting out, and I must say here with the help of other CBYA members and Pablo from RCNC, so a big thank you to all of them. My concern was that we were talking in our emails about 'It' so I asked Fernando if he had any ideas for a name. He came up with 'Louise' which I thought was great so now we have Louise resurrected in 'Paradise Bay' for the benefit of the CBYA members. I hope we can contact the Dane, Mogens and let him know our story at sometime.



But matters have moved on and Louise is now sailing and ready for CBYA members to use.



The end to this story.....at least for a short while.... is that Fernando has made many friends with Louise in Portet and has made friends with another boat owner there who wants to join the CBYA and make his boat available also.....so now we have two dinghies (a French equivalent of a GP14 and a 470) in 'Paradise Bay' for CBYA members to sail and maybe more in the future. The 'Dinghy Pilot' programme has arrived and will be coming out very soon!

Watch this space as to how it will all happen and how you can sail dinghies in 'Paradise Bay'.

Bob Gordon
CBYA Chairman

14 October 2015