

LEGS ELEVEN

Thinking back to the day in May 2005 when I decided to buy a Hurley 22, my wife Vicki and I had been out sailing and had arrived back on our mooring when a really nice looking H22 motored past us into Gillan creek and anchored off St Antony. I had seen other H22s but she looked so nice with her polished sides with the water



reflecting off her hull. Having gone home I decided to go back to St Antony and take another look at her at low water, she was now dried out on her fin keel with beach legs for support.

From the day in September 2005 when we first bought "Gala" our H22 I had intended to fit beach legs having seen the 22 in St Antony, I asked on the Yahoo Hurley Owners Group and HOA Newsletter with out any replies. I was quite happy to go ahead and fit them myself but what worried me was how far forward in hull the legs should be. Looking at our SCM H22 there were ply blocks glassed in just aft of the bulkhead, I think I would have gone more aft of this but since the blocks were there that's where I fitted the legs. Since we were going to use the legs when cruising they needed to be shaped in fit around the hull to make stowage a little easier, I made a ply template to fit the hull and over the rubbing strip and at the



water line splayed the legs outwards. When happy with the shape I got my local joinery shop to cut them out of a 4in thick Iroko plank, having got the rough shape I worked on them to get them fit for painting.

For the though hull bolt I got my local stainless steel guy to make two skin fittings, this he did by using a large threaded bar (M25) and drilling out the centre for the leg bolt (M15) with a plate welded over one nut each side as a cap to stop the water coming in when healing over. I had to think twice about drilling holes in my lovely boat but having fitted the stainless skin fitting with sealant I was much happier, I placed each leg in turn in place and drilled the bolt hole from inside out though the leg to make sure the holes lined up.

To cover the inside of the skin fitting when the

legs are fitted I used a series of plywood packing discs screwed together to spread the load of the leg bolt coming through the hull.

About 3in from the bottom of each leg I drilled a hole through in line with the boat to fit short cord with bowline each side, these are used for attaching the bow and stern lines, job done.



Having made and fitted the legs one winter when the boat is high and dry on a trailer, the first time I used them was another worry. I had decided to dry out on flat hard ground (sand and gravel) near my sailing club, I motored in dropped anchor and fitted the legs and waited for touch down. Well, with there being no swell I did not notice it at all until I realised she was not swinging anymore. I decided to get off her into a punt before the tide dropped away too much and headed in the clubhouse for a pint. After lunch there she was dried out and sitting pretty.

Having now dried out on the legs for 25 tides I know our H22 to be very stable on them. The problems are setting down and floating off again if there is any swell running (jumping from one leg to the other), another problem was getting onboard at low water but we now carry a telescopic ladder.

We mainly only use them around the Isles of Scilly which are very shallow and if you have to anchor in deep water you are a long way off the shore and shelter in a blow. Photo below is Green Bay, Bryher and Tresco the other side of the water.

