

DIONE: A LABOUR OF LOVE

by Lucy Tulloch

Back in 1964, as Si Macy sailed aboard his grandfather's magnificent schooner *Freelance*, he did not take much notice of the carpentry that went on around him.

Twenty-seven years later, when he undertook the refit of his own classic boat, *Dione*, he probably wished he had paid more attention.

But in 1991, when his eyes first fell upon a picture of *Dione* in an ad in *Classic Boat*, he wasn't thinking about the restoration work she would require. His only thought was that he was surely looking at one of the most beautiful yachts ever built.

Dione (formerly *Enara*) was designed and built by William Fife in 1912 in the famous Scottish Fife yard. Originally commissioned for Edwin Teacher of the Scotch whisky family, she was a gaff-rigged yawl with a nine-foot bowsprit. At fifty-two and a half feet on deck and a twelve-foot beam, she is now a Bermudan sloop and still gives many much newer



TIM WRIGHT

When the winds came up, Dione took line honours.

yachts a good run for their money.

During a two-year refit in the Hamble, England, Si was involved in the refastening of *Dione's* hull under the waterline and the replacement of her decks, covering boards, king plank, toerail, and a top plank. He designed and had cast all new bronze stanchions, and also replaced her sails with her current distinctive Egyptian cotton-coloured ones.

Once she was launched again, Si

sailed *Dione* over to Antigua where his family have been coming since the 1950s. He raced her in the Classic Regatta in 1994, only to have her tiller break. It was a hair-raising sail back to the harbour, but almost as soon as he was safely anchored, he began working on a new tiller. With the help of John Shearer (from *Eilean*), he laminated mahogany and teak into an exquisite curve.

Last year, after extensive structural rebuilding belowdecks and a rebuilding of the rudder precipitated by the discovery of

Teredo worm, Si entered his pride and joy in the Regatta again.

Dione, meticulously varnished from her elegant fantail to her bow, took the trophy for the oldest yacht in the fleet. But that was not enough for this ageless greyhound. On the third day, thanks to her long counter stern and her waterline length increasing dramatically in the freshening breezes, *Dione* led the fleet for the entire race. Line honours were hers.