

sing

other interesting places to visit; the Isle of May for instance, and Inchcolm. You could even go foreign - nip across to Granton for a fish supper at Harry Ramsden's. Then again you might sail under the twa brigs, last year in that area we had two dolphins almost alongside.

Strong Currents

Tayport is at the mouth of the Firth of Tay, while Newburgh is 14 miles upstream. Currents in the Tay are strong, up to three knots in places, so to go cruising round Fife from Newburgh requires selecting a start date with a fairly early high water, say 0800. The ebb should help you to reach Tayport within four hours, there you will have to stay for at least one night!

Tayport is becoming rather crowded these days so ask around for a berth. A trust administers the harbour and dues are paid at a nearby grocery shop.

The next day, start from Tayport at say 0830, ie just before high water to get the ebb out past Broughty Ferry and while there is still plenty water over the sand. Then, with a shallow draft open boat there is a choice of two routes, which one to take will depend on wind direction.

The most obvious is to go to the bar, nearly seven miles out and marked by a buoy, then alter course south for Fife Ness or south west for St Andrews.

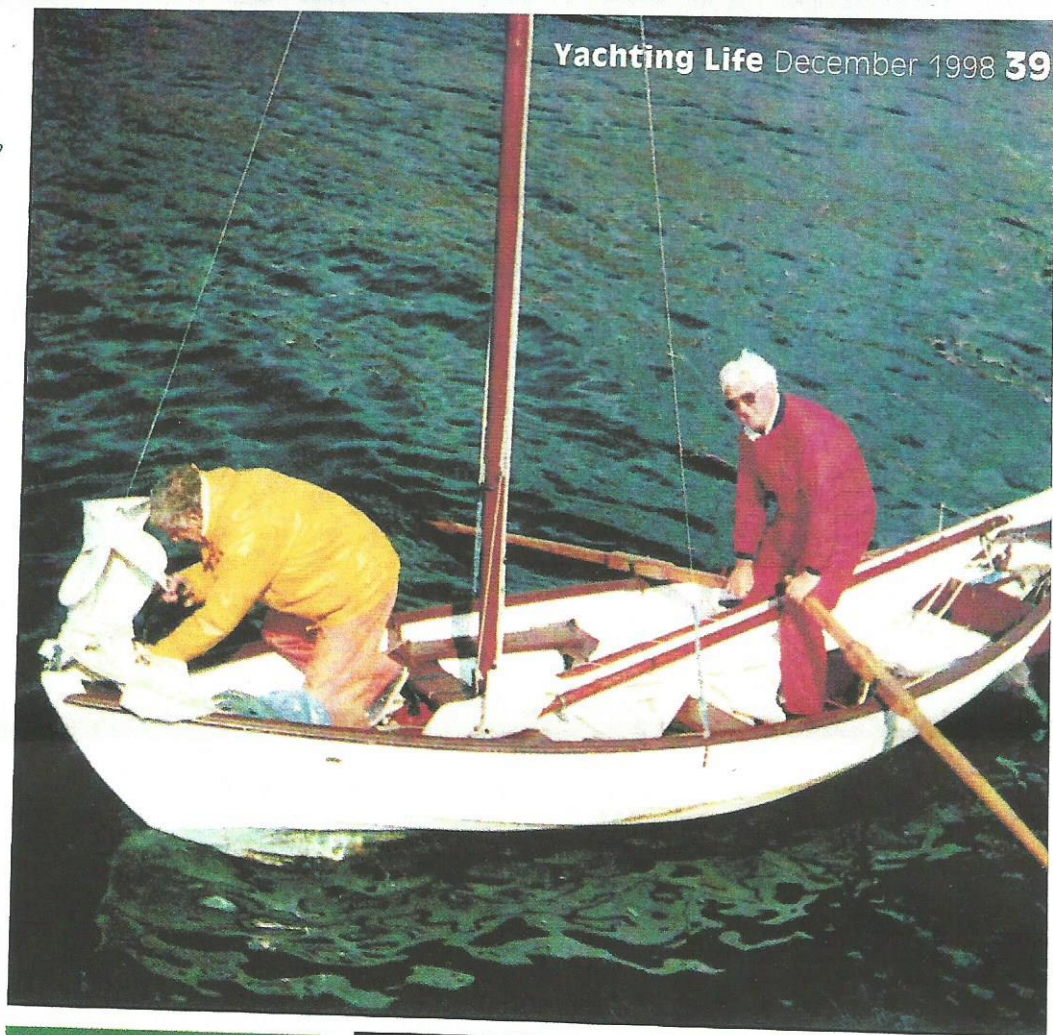
The other route, not suitable for deep drafted vessels, is to go to the Pool buoy, about two and a half miles, then alter course to 140°T to pass close to Tentsmuir Point. Continue to sail parallel and close to Kinshaldy beach, this takes you along a narrow channel between the beach and the Abertay Sands, a notorious sandbank.

A note on Admiralty chart no L(D^o)1481 states 'Mariners are warned that passage across the Abertay or Gaa sands is highly dangerous'. But assuming that you have kept close to Kinshaldy beach, when you have covered about four miles south of Tentsmuir Point, nearly five from the Pool buoy, Leuchars air base is likely to assault your eardrums.

You will find yourself at the mouth of the river Eden, when course can be altered for St Andrews. I have used this channel (locally known as The Pool) both going south and returning north, but I have also gone by the bar.

For open boat sailing around Fife you will need dry stowage for clothes and towels - all the harbours have lavatories where you can change.

The anchor warp can double as a bow line, you need a stern



Pictured from the pierhead as we leave Largo.

line too. In my boat both of these are ten fathoms long and I use a fisherman anchor with a length of chain.

Fenders are also required; I have two long round ones and two small tyres. Don't forget food to be eaten on the way, and hot drinks. Two, one pint thermos flasks are better than one quart one, if you can remember what a quart is.

It is important to keep a log, but paper disintegrates when wet. Use a piece of marine ply painted with white undercoat, then using permanent marker ruled vertically for time, true and compass courses, wind direction and force, with a large space for remarks, makes a good temporary log, the contents of which can be written up in a fair log book.

A pencil will write quite well on the white undercoat and can be rubbed off with an ordinary eraser, or failing that, cream cleaner.

When cruising like this, word must be left at home of what you intend to do, and on arriving at a harbour, someone must phone home to let them know.

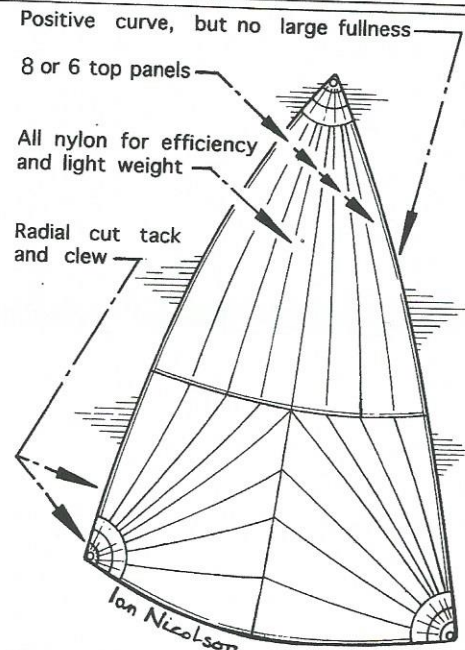
By starting fairly early in the morning sailing should be finished by mid-afternoon so the buses will still be running.

Try to find the harbour master and pay your dues as soon as possible, usually they are very helpful people if approached politely.

So there you have it, all you trailer sailors with bilge or lifting keelboats. The fleshpots of Fife await...

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