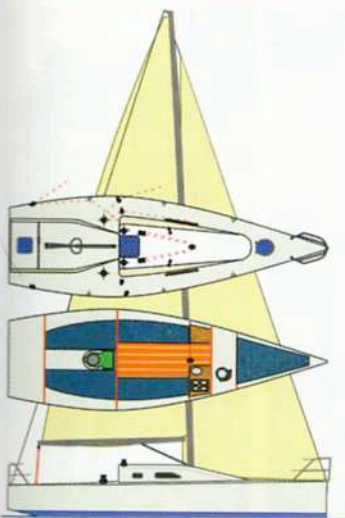


CORBY 29



Corby also on VOR trail

Cowes-based John Corby was also poised to press the go button for a VOR 70 built to his design for a UK project linked to a Joint Services effort. "I thought the deal was in the bag before Christmas," said Corby, who now reports a slackening of interest although, once again, the Ellen Effect may reinvigorate things.

In the meantime, Corby has been looking east to Poland, where a local yard has just produced the first Corby 29, which he describes as a modern Hunter Sonata.

"We've sold five off the drawings [at £33,000 ex VAT and sales]," said Corby, who stressed this was not a sportsboat – "a bog-standard boat, nothing clever, with a symmetric spinnaker and a pole".

Four boats have been sold in the UK and one to the States. Corby is impressed with finish quality in Poland where labour costs mean prices can be kept very competitive.

He is also responsible for the Axion 33.5, a new one-design cruiser-racer being built by Swiss national Karl Lion in Latvia. The 33.5 will be an epoxy-built boat baked in an autoclave, will be fitted with a carbon spar and will be offered with tiller or wheel steering. Lion is also producing the Corby 25, which used to be built in Cowes by Nigel Harley.

Contact: www.johncorbyboats.com; www.corby29.com; www.lion-yacht.com



SODERGREN 40

Swedish ego trip

Swedish designer Hakan Sodergren is delightfully candid when he describes the origins of his Sodergren 40 on his website and what's more he has an appealing mission statement – 'the science of putting a big smile on your face!'

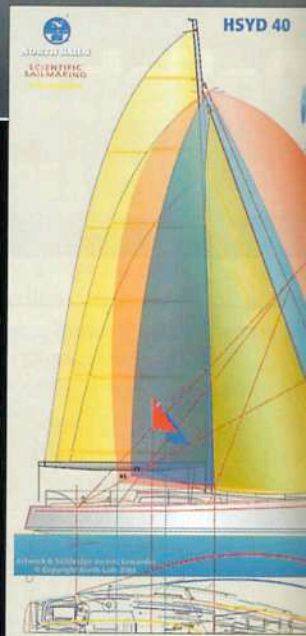
"Designing a boat exactly as you want it and then putting your name on it – I know it's an ego trip, but let me explain..." He goes on to outline the feature of this good looking, very powerfully rigged cruising yacht.

Sodergren writes: "The significant sail area is in the mainsail. The yacht is equipped with a self-tacker [headsail] with a

large J measurement. She has a remarkable sail area:displacement ratio (26.50)." The yacht displaces just 6.6 tons.

She is fractionally rigged to keep the headsail size down but an overlapping genoa can be set. A fixed bowsprit can be used for an asymmetric and it has a built-in boarding ladder, typical of Scandinavian design. The 40 draws over 6ft and the big bulb should keep the boat on her feet.

Considerable effort has been put into the sail wardrobe with North Sails crunching the numbers. Contact: www.yachtsodergren.com



The colour-coding in this diagram (above) relates performance shown on the polar diagram with the sail plan

Aluminium cruisers from Alliage

A new range of lift-keel, aluminium-hulled cruising yachts which can be fitted with

a race package is being marketed by Alliage Cantieri Navale under the Azzuro brand.

AZZURO 50



Aluminium is the material of choice for this fast cruiser

Simple accommodation, lightness and high performance are the selling points and there's no doubt the 50-footer, with her furling headsail option for easy 'gear changing' looks the part.

However, the yacht seems particularly shallow and there may be a shortage of stowage space if you're going in for long distance sailing.

Contact: Alliage. Tel: +33 (0)2 97 86 46 00; www.alliage-yachts.com