

The dramatic story of Gipsy Moth IV  
from her epic first circumnavigation  
to her restoration, wreck and triumphant return.



Paul Gelder, editor of *Yachting Monthly* magazine, launched the *Gipsy Moth* project in 2004, to rescue the famous 53ft ketch, rotting away in dry dock at Greenwich, and sail her around the world for a second time, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chichester's voyage and the magazine's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the success of the campaign he was presented with the Ocean Cruising Club's Award of Merit (2006) and the magazine won 'Campaign of the Year' from the Printing and Publishing Association in 2006.

He has written two other books about round the world sailing events: *The Loneliest Race*, about the 1994-95 BOC Around Alone Challenge and *InterSpray's Race Around the World*, about the 1992-93 British Steel Challenge, in which he sailed on the first leg, from Southampton to Rio de Janeiro.



Gipsy Moth IV  
Paul Gelder



# Gipsy Moth IV

A legend sails again Paul Gelder



The plan was simple: rescue *Gipsy Moth IV* from her dry dock in Greenwich after 39 years and sail her round the world again on her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of *Yachting Monthly*.

- She'd be shipwrecked in the South Seas
- They'd was a fire aboard in the Tuamotus
- A piracy threat in the Red Sea
- A 50-knot storm in the Tasman Sea
- The sailors aboard would include kids recovering from cancer, drug addicts who'd kicked the habit, ex-prisoners, millionaires a Princess, a Dame and a Duke...
- Who was to know it would cost £1 million?

*Gipsy Moth* traveled 28,264 miles, during her 610-day circumnavigation with 10 skippers, 19 mates, 32 crew leaders and 96 crew. They visited 32 countries with more than 11 languages and needed inoculations from nine potentially fatal diseases.

This was a life-changing journey for scores of youngsters – some from disadvantaged backgrounds. And the man they all looked up to was a 65-year-old legend reborn on the voyage – Sir Francis Chichester who did it all singlehanded in 1966-67.

The bunks were 'fiendishly cruel medieval torture machines'. Crew referred to them as 'caskets.' The boat was called many things: from 'the vomit comet' to Lady Thatcher – 'the lady's not for turning!' A violent motion produced a rich crop of what one skipper called '*Gipsy Moth* love bites' as you ricocheted from one sharp edge to another.

It was the most exciting maritime heritage project of modern times and brought back to life a yacht that is a significant milestone in the history of world sailing. *Gipsy Moth* is one of the world's most famous small boats. She warmed the hearts of hard-bitten modern racing sailors, grizzled old seadogs and inspired landlubbers around the world.

ISBN 978-0-470-72443-9



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£25