



Upside down tinkering

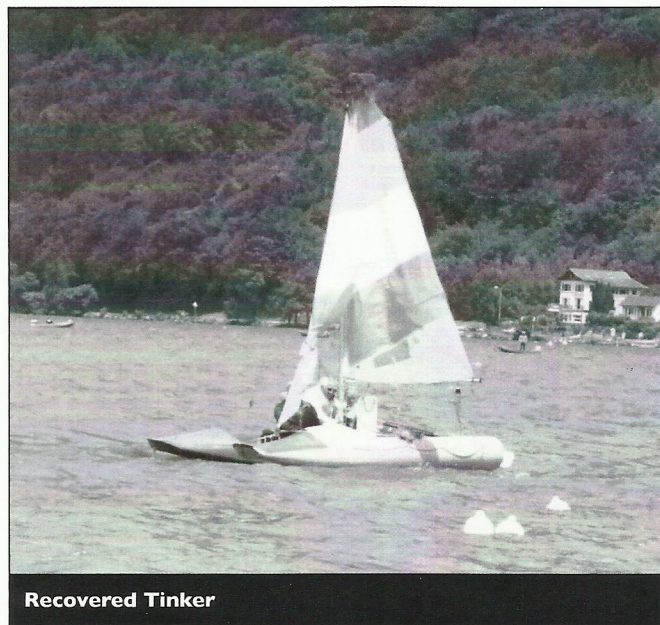


Ken Robey provides useful advice.

After the main Annecy rally in 2011, several of us stayed on to enjoy a few more days sailing on the lake at Lac Bleu.

One afternoon was rather blowy and one of our number got caught by a nasty gust and an unplanned gybe, which inverted the Tinker. Fortunately, we were able to launch the Commodore's Tinker as a rescue boat and get to them fairly quickly to recover the crew and dinghy with no ill effects. However, I learned a couple of lessons, which I think, are worth passing on.

Firstly, one of our victims had a PBA, (personal buoyancy aid) which provided adequate support in the water but it was not belted around the waist. The effect of this was that they could not get any bounce out of the water to clamber on to the rescue boat, and the rescue crew



Recovered Tinker

PHOTO CREDIT: RIKI WESTENBURG



Up it comes

PHOTO CREDIT: RIKI WESTENBURG

could not pull on the PBA to assist them out of the water. - we had to tow them to the shore. **Remember to keep that waistband tight.**

We found the inverted Tinker mast was firmly stuck on the bottom and I could not right it by the usual technique of working my way up a shroud. Fortunately, the Commodore had equipped his Tinker with a spare length of rope that we could wrap around the shrouds and pass over the bottom of the Tinker to allow me to lever the boat up with my feet on the lower tube.

A final thought for those sailing alone; mounting an empty 1.5 litre bottle at the mast head will provide enough buoyancy to prevent an overturned Tinker from inverting and will make righting it very much easier using a jib sheet or a line from the mast head. Not very elegant I know but effective.

Thanks for the photographs of this incident are due to Riki Westenburg, the nice Dutch lady on the front pitch who had the sense to reach for her camera.

Ken Robey



Tinker with thatch

PHOTO CREDIT: RIKI WESTENBURG



The shore party

PHOTO CREDIT: RIKI WESTENBURG