

HOW THE SQUIB REALLY GOT ITS LOGO

I have previously written about Peter Duce and his enthusiastic input into the creation of the Squib Class One Design. Peter would come home from his teaching job in Chelmsford and, in those days of much less stress in the teaching profession, he would be back in Burnham before I had finished work at our garage. He was always keen to drag me away to Oliver Lee's to show me the progress on the Squib drawings.

Now I have heard many stories about how the Squib got its logo from folded sail cloth to spilt coffee stains but this is the true story. As the famous Welsh comedian Max Boyce would say "I was there!"

In the days when the Squib was designed those making the drawings would work on tracing paper pinned to a drawing board and utilise various instruments such as a T square, 45 degree and 30 / 60 degree squares coupled with French curves (look that one up for the correct description in case you have other ideas) coupled with flexible battens and various holding weights. A far cry from the CAD CAM work these days.

The resulting drawing on tracing paper would then lend itself well to reproduction using the machines of the time to create copies. Working on tracing paper on a wooden board does not lend itself to clarity so the drawing was always placed over a white backing sheet enabling the lines to be clearly seen.

Thus it was that we found ourselves in Oliver's workshop asking to see his latest drawings. Oliver pointed us to his board with the sail plan and hull profile drawing pinned to the backing sheet. After a couple of minutes Peter turned to Oliver and said he rather liked the logo that had been positioned on the mainsail in exactly the correct position. Oliver declared that he had not yet thought about the logo let alone designed it so came over to see what we were on about. After a few moments Oliver declared that what we were looking at was a test squiggle he had made on the backing sheet with a broad felt tip pen. He then said it actually looked OK and that he thought he would probably use it, and so he did.

I checked this story twice with Peter Duce in later years to confirm I had not made it up and / or misremembered it; he agreed that was exactly what happened.

A Squiggle for a Squibble; what could be more appropriate?

Jonathan Tucker
4 times Squib Champion