

developed gradually from other dinghies, experimenting with rigging and hulls from the NS14 and the Nova. Eventually the Tasar became a consumerised Nova, which was a re-rigged NS14. In the end, the first production Tasar was exhibited at the Anapolis Boat Show in 1975.

In the Tasar's first year of production, 1200 boats were built in the UK and it still continues to be a successful class 30 years on. Frank Bethwaite has recently renewed the boat, introducing Mylar sails and reducing costs. In the Tasar's anniversary year so far over 50 sets of the new sails have been purchased, and the class are anticipating, more than 40 boats with the new sails at the Nationals. Apart from the sail change, the Tasar has altered very little from the original design, which goes to show how spot on Frank Bethwaite was all those years ago.

Additionally in this exciting commemorative year, active class member, Rod Porteous, has thrown open the offer to any sailors who competed in a National Championships in 2005 as a mixed team, to come and sail as the same team in the 2006 Tasar Nationals at Babbacombe, South Devon in late September for free and with use of a free boat. Interested? Email Rod at webmaster@tasar.org.uk.

With the World Championships to look forward to in Phuket, Thailand in 2007, the Tasar class certainly deserve to celebrate 30 years of being an established fleet that is modernising to remain competitive in today's world of dinghy sailing.

For more details go to www.tasar.org.uk.

Photos: Courtesy of Tasar Class Association

Tasar

The Tasar, launched 30 years ago, is a 4.5m high performance sailing dinghy, specifically developed and designed by Frank Bethwaite to be sailed and raced by a man and a woman. It was then described as light years ahead of its time. The dinghy is a lightweight, low drag, planing hull, with a rotating mast, jib and fully battened mainsail providing exhilarating sailing without the need for spinnaker or trapeze.

Frank Bethwaite's ideology behind the Tasar stemmed from the chauvinistic sailing scene in Sydney at the time and that there were no boats that appeared to be suitable for men and women to sail together. Therefore the aim of the boat is a fun, high performance boat that mixed crews can easily handle. The Tasar was

