



CRUSH East Croydon station

Punches and swearing as rail hell bites

BY TAYLOR GEALL

TEMPERS were frayed on rail platforms in the south yesterday as strikes, engineering works and mechanical failures caused commuters chaos.

Services were reduced by more than a third as union the RMT began a three-day strike over a contract row.

That, combined with overrunning line work between Brighton and Gatwick Airport stations and a broken-down engineering machine, made for hellish journeys to London.

The mood was ugly in East Croydon. Ellie Odurny, 32, posted a picture of the chaos, saying: "This doesn't begin to do justice to the bedlam. Swearing and punches thrown."

A spokesman for Southern said: "We put queuing systems in place at East Croydon. We apologise to passengers affected."



GAME-CHANGER Car brakes

Pokemon Go test pass for driverless car

BY SAM BLEWETT

A DRIVERLESS car has had its first public UK test and managed to avoid an oblivious Pokemon Go player.

The electric two-seater steered a one-mile course on pedestrianised streets using cameras and Lidar – a radar-like system that uses lasers.

A technician at the wheel in case of error braked when a passer-by in Milton Keynes jumped out in front – but the pedal was already down.

Oxford University robotics unit developed the system.

Prof Paul Newman said the test showed it can help improve road safety.

He said: "We had someone playing Pokemon Go go in front of it. The vehicle sees them then stops and they didn't even see it."

The motor industry hailed the test saying the technology could be worth £51 billion by 2030 and stop 25,000 accidents.

You little boaty



RED-TOP
Mirror sails
the blue in
Jamaica



FLAT PACK
Future sailor
unpacks his
kit in 1969

Mirror dinghy named one of most influential yachts of all time



HIGH AND DRY A Mirror at the 1968 International Boat show, Earls Court

BY NICOLA BARTLETT

TINY in size but mighty in stature, our Mirror dinghy is one of the vessels that has changed sailing forever.

The plywood, build-it-yourself boat revolutionised sailing by opening it up to ordinary people.

And the 10ft 10in vessel has made the grade again in a list of the 50 most influential boats ever by prestigious magazine Yachting World.

It features alongside a 1911 125ft racer, now worth over £3million, and Dame Ellen MacArthur's 75ft triple-hulled trimaran Castorama.

The Mirror dinghy, created for the paper by TV DIY expert Barry Bucknell and boat designer Jack Holt, was launched in 1963 and cost £63 11s, close to an average month's wage.

They could be built at home using copper wire, stitching and glue and had a distinctive red sail and M logo to match the Mirror's masthead.

It was advertised at the time with the boast: "And remember she weighs less than most wives."

It was big enough for two adults and two children but compact enough to fit on top of a small car.

More than 70,000 have been sold globally. A fully-built new fibreglass one costs from £4,300 today.

The very first Mirror dinghy, sail No1, Eileen, is in the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth, Cornwall. In 1997 a teacher sailed and rowed a Mirror

4,000 miles on canals and rivers from Shropshire to the Black Sea.

Double Olympic silver medallist and round-the-world yachtsman Ian Walker, 42, said: "I owe all my sailing to the Mirror. Its real advantage is you sit in it rather than on it. Children like the security."

Jeremy Pudney, 78, President of the UK Mirror Class Association, said the dinghy had transformed the sport of sailing in the UK.

Mr Pudney, who taught four children to sail in his Mirror, said: "Schools used to take on the kits and produce Mirror dinghies as part of their woodwork classes. You could see Mirrors on the top of Minis so you didn't have to buy a trailer."

Yachting World's Helen Fretter, said: "The Mirror had to be on the list. It enabled people to build their own boats. It was aspirational".

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TOP 10

1. Mariquita, 1911 William Fife III
2. Abn Amro One 2005, Juan Kouyoumdjian
3. TP52 Patches 2007, Reichel Pugh
4. B&Q/Castorama 2004, Nigel Irens
5. Ragtime J/24, 1976, Rod Johnstone
6. Tribe, Gunboat 62, 2001, Peter Johnstone
7. **Mirror Dinghy, 1962, Jack Holt**
8. Endeavour, 1934, Camper & Nicholson
9. Tarantella, 1967, Sparkman & Stephens
10. Pen Duick V 1969, Michel Bigoin/Daniel Divergie

Yachts that changed the way we sail according to a Yachting World magazine jury, year and designer

Not always plain sailing but it got you hooked

IT SEEMED like a good idea at the time. Join the 1960s trend, buy a boat kit, spend the winter building it and then sail off into the sunset. The concept was a huge success. It sold in its thousands and my dad was one of those who gave it a go.

Putting together the kit, using fibreglass tape and resin to make joints watertight, was the fun bit. But the reality of being the proud owner of a Mirror dinghy was, well,



BY MIKE ALLEN
Mirror Sports News Editor

anything but plain sailing. A gravel pit that was later to be carved in half by the new M25 motorway was all very well, but it was a long way from the glamour of Monaco.

Regularly bringing up the rear in club races, my dad decided his sailing days were

over when he was nearly dunked in the ice-cold water once too often. But for every one like him, there were others who were smitten and enjoyed years on the waves.

The Mirrors, with their red sails and distinctive flat bows, are still very much in evidence 50 years on, fulfilling their aim of encouraging novice sailors. And that is why the Mirror has been named one of the world's most influential boats.