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The Mirror dinghy makes friends with the French

PARIS, Friday.

THE jaunty Mirror dinghy, Britain's most successful small boat, has gone Continental.

Frenchmen love it—and so do the French girls.

While the dinghy, with its cheery red sail, was stealing the thunder of larger boats at the Boat Show in London, I put one on the roof rack of my car and drove to Paris.

Admirers

Today the dinghy is on display at the Paris Boat Show, surrounded by a big crowd of admirers.

One pretty girl, Gigi Tanguy, an air hostess, told me: "The boat is so becoming. And a man with a pretty boat is so much more attractive than one who has only a fast sports car.

"With a boat like this, which is so inexpensive, anyone can sail away from it all."

The dinghy was launched only a year ago, but already over 900 have been sold.

And that makes it the boat of the year, and the fastest-selling class of dinghy in Britain's sailing history.

Now the boat is being made in France, sponsored by a leading French sailing magazine, Nautisme.

Keen

The French are keen to have the Mirror dinghy in kit form because a wave of do-it-yourself is sweeping the country.

Electric drills are becoming cheaper, and Frenchmen are demanding kits for home construction.

M. Guy Valery-Radot, an executive with the French magazine, spotted the dinghy during a visit to London.

He was so impressed that he asked the Mirror if he could introduce it into France.

At the Paris Boat Show today he told me: "The kit form of the dinghy is so easy to build that I decided it was just the thing to appeal to Frenchmen.

"And as you can see, French girls like this little boat, too. It is very appealing.

"It was certainly the most interesting dinghy at the Boat Show in London."

'The Best'

And M. Marcel Marhl, who is making the dinghy kit in France, told me: "We consider the British are the best boat-builders in the world, and I am delighted to be given permission to produce the kit.

"It seems to me that suddenly everyone at the show wants a kit.

"The dinghy will be very successful."

The gay Mirror-class dinghy—now a hit with the French.

—from— PAUL HUGHES

Viewpoint

YOUR ANGLE ON EVENTS

I WAS "glad all over" to see in the Mirror that Dave Clark, leader of the Dave Clark Five, is a teetotaller and enjoys milk.

Pop idols, by their example, can do more to influence young folk than all the parental lectures and Government warnings.—**Grateful, Wembley, Middlesex**

Lonely Wives

WHEN I married my husband, a seaman in the Royal Navy, we both knew there was a strong possibility that he would be drafted abroad and we would be separated.

Feeling the way we did about each other this thought was pushed to the back of our minds. Now he has gone abroad and we are both unhappy

It is obvious from the letter written by an RAF Corporal (Viewpoint, Tuesday), in which he makes sarcastic references to Service wives, that he has never known what it is like to be separated from a loved one.—**(Mrs.) P. R., London, S.W.19.**

Next, Please

ISN'T it about time doctors' waiting-rooms were equipped with a system showing which patient is next, thereby avoiding arguments and bad temper?

I have in mind a simple idea of cards numbering 1 to 50 in a rack at the entrance. Patients take a card on entering

As patient No. 1 enters the surgery he leaves his card face out in a rack by the surgery door; patient holding card No. 2 knows he is next.—**A. Hosking, Greenford, Middx.**

Dance Ban

THE Mirror reported last Saturday that the Vicar of Puriton, Somerset, banned a Youth Club because they held a dance without telling him, and no adult was there to supervise.

In my opinion the decision to close this club was long overdue. Supervision in the past has been unwelcome by many of these youngsters and there has been hooliganism, including the wrecking of equipment and attempts to drown cats in cesspits at Guy Fawkes celebrations.

I am not condemning all young people but the need for supervision remains; but not surprisingly few people want to volunteer for the job.—**E. Cox, Puriton, Somerset.**

Who's Who?

I HAVE an uneasy feeling about my generation—the teenagers. More and more girls are wearing their hair cropped, starting to smoke cheroots and wearing masculine clothes. The boys grow shoulder-length hair.

It is no longer the Battle of the Sexes but the Reversal of the Sexes.—**B. Burton, London, S.W.15.**

Slipping

I CAN go one better than the viewpointer's sale price cardigan. In November I bought a pair of pillow slips from a shop at 5s. 9d. a pair. The same pillow slips are now in the sales windows at 2s. 11d. each.

Marvellous, isn't it? They must think we can't do simple arithmetic.—**(Mrs.) E. C., Salop.**

TWISTWORDS

Yesterday's solution: The opposites were SAGE (fool) and REND (repair). Twistword was DERANGES.

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