

YOURMBY

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Edited by Hugo Andreae

CONTACT MBY

Email mby@timeinc.com

Write Motor Boat & Yachting, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU

Allowed to dream

I enjoy Dave Marsh's Testing Times (*MBY*, December 2015) very much and empathise totally with his views about boat shows. I have been a 'tyre kicker', supporting the boat shows both in London and Southampton since the early 60s but regrettably I have never owned a boat myself.

Dave's boat report on the Fleming 75 in the June 2002 issue of *MBY* titled Passion for Precision led me to start buying your magazine regularly and I converted that to a subscription in 2004. It also started my interest in Fleming and I visit its stand every year at Southampton.

On the first occasion I had the pleasure of being shown around a Fleming 55 by Tony Fleming himself and some years later his 65 *Venture* // the day before it set sail on a circumnavigation of Iceland. This year I spent a long time being shown around the flagship 78 by Duncan Cowie and David Miles.

Although they both know that the Fleming fleet is currently out of my league, they and their team have always made me and anyone who shows an interest in their boats welcome. So I agree with Dave Marsh about 'dreamer visitors' and

Dreams start here with the 55, and fortunately Fleming recognises it



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although mine are more limited, my dreams start at 55ft and stop at a modest 78ft. Thank you for continuing to provide an excellent magazine for us dreamers. **Bernard Thompson**

You and me both, Bernard, and even though I am lucky enough to own a small boat it hasn't stopped me dreaming about something bigger. **Hugo**

An Italian welcome?

I enjoyed reading Peter Cumberland's article

get a visitor's berth on the Italian west coast in the summer. I have a 10m boat so this has always deterred me from going there. Is that your experience? I should be very grateful for your view. **Nigel Pitt**

It's true that some of the more glitzy marinas can get very full but places like Base Nautica Flavio Gioia at Gaeta or the MDL Marina di Stabia south of Naples should always be able to accommodate you for a short stay. I have never