



One Boat – Ten Stories

**SOUTHAMPTON
INTERNATIONAL
BOAT SHOW**

16-25 SEPTEMBER 2022

16 Friday

Ownership Since New:

Dolly V 092 Alex Moore



Dolly V (under her original name of Belle Ile) in the Solent in August 1992 with 13 family members on board.

As she is today



Nicholson 31 Association

“The classic blue water cruiser”



Ownership Since New

My father always favoured safe, solid, long keeled cruising boats. He started off with a SCOD. This had no engine and he cruised extensively in her. He fitted an engine later on to make his life easier! He and my mother even went on their honeymoon on her. In her later years Mum would often say that she would not recommend this!

They then moved on to owning two Twisters. The first had a wooden coach roof and despite looking beautiful, leaked like a sieve when it rained! So, they then moved on to all GRP model.

In 1978 Dad read an article, probably in Yachting Monthly, detailing Camper and Nicholson's plans for the new Nicholson 31.

With her good looks, long keel, roomy interior, and potential turn of speed, along with the capacity to look after her crew in all weathers, Dad felt she would be the perfect boat for them. It took a nudge from his brother, who owned an Elizabethan 31, for Dad to put down a deposit.

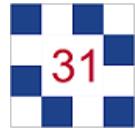
In 1979 we took delivery of Dolly V.

She was a revelation, so much more room than the older designs we had previously owned. As a family we would go away every year, sometimes for six to eight weeks. With her extensive stowage areas, we could easily carry enough provisions, and she would carry any weight with ease. We regularly cruised to Normandy, Brittany, the Channel Islands, the West Country and the Isles of Scilly.

With one reef in the main and a full jib, autohelm on, she would truck along hour after hour, stress free.

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Many years ago, on entering Morlaix River we bumped a rock. When we got up to the town, I spied a crane on the dockside. With my schoolboy French I was despatched to locate the driver and ask if he could lift us out, to check things over. I spend a lot of time explaining that this boat was a lot heavier than a lot of the local French boats! Anyway, he produced two large strops, and out she came, no problem. The mark on the front of the keel was minor, so the kindly Frenchman dropped us back in.

After Dad died, my brother and I started racing on another boat a lot more, and we thought about selling Dolly V. However, our old mother was very wise and persuaded us to hang on to her, and how pleased we are that we did. Dolly V lives in Cowes Yacht Haven, and is used every year. I now take my three sons away on her. My brother and I recently nipped over to Alderney and then St Peter Port for a few days.

The one thing you do notice with Nicholson's is the comments you receive from people who walk past them. Modern boats do not evoke such a reaction. The classic looks and lines always catch the sailing enthusiast's eye.

We have no plans to sell her, she is incredibly original. The engine is original and even the cooker is 1979 vintage and still works fine. Every Spring the topsides polish up beautifully, due to the quality and thickness of the gelcoat.

After 43 years of constant use, she still looks amazing and we love her dearly.

P.S. Funnily enough Dad's brother's family still have their Elizabethan! So, it must be a family trait!!!



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Amended following the death of Her Majesty *Queen Elizabeth II*

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Ownership Since New:

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17 Saturday

Nic31 Design & Development:

Michael Wright

18 Sunday

Argentina or bust:

Darteign 098 Eric Witheridge

19 Monday

***Funeral of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II***

20 Tuesday

Atlantic Crossing:

Misty Ord 047
Jack Gifford & Alice Pr at

21 Wednesday

Cruising UK: Liberty Jane 095

Michael Wright

22 Thursday

Sailing Maine, USA:

Blueprint 113
Bill Roesner

23 Friday

The Future:

The boat & Association
Ian Stone

Boat Show – Association Day

24 Saturday

French Passages:

Michael Wright

25 Sunday

Upgrades:

High Spirits 022 Ian Stone

Cruising Ireland:

Seal Morning 013
Mitch Cameron-Mitchell

Find them at: <https://www.nicholson31.com/>



Contact us: Michael Wright

hon.sec@nicholson31.com

+44 (0) 7768 037965