

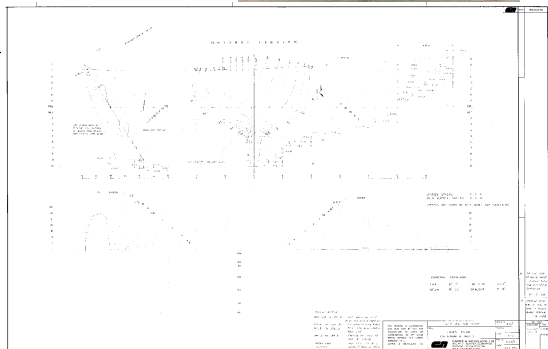
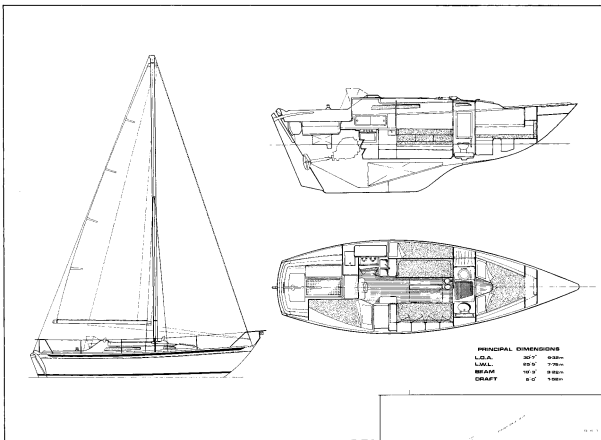


# One Boat – Ten Stories

**SOUTHAMPTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
BOAT SHOW**  
16-25 SEPTEMBER 2022

17 Saturday

## **Nic31 Design & Development: Michael Wright**



# Nicholson 31 Association

“The classic blue water cruiser”



## Nic31 Design & Development

### Start of the Story

In 1966 Peter Nicholson, of Camper & Nicholsons, approached Raymond Wall to work for C&N; by then he had designed some handsome yachts under his own name. Raymond is the Associations Hhonoray President.

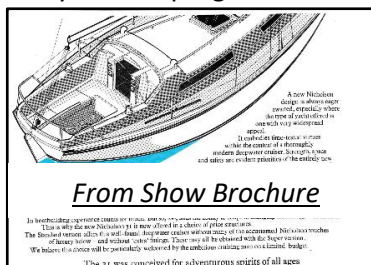


The Nic31 story starts when in 1975 the C&N senior management decided to replace the Nic32; the brief was for a true cruising yacht. By then Raymond was for the design of all GRP production sailing yachts and for the Nic 31 his “proposed general arrangement” drawing is dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 1975 with the first production drawings being completed a month later. Followed by a race to get everything finished for both the Nic31 and Nic39 in time for the London Boat Show in January 1976.

### Production Phase

Robert Ives, Christchurch, were suppliers of all the GRP mouldings. However, unusually for C&N, they built the “hull plug” at their Gosport yard. Also, it was the first time they had built one with centre line and section moulds, which gave a very stable plug over which to make the hull mould. The deck plug, being was a lot more complex, was built in the Southampton yard where Raymond kept an eye on its progress. All the other plugs were made in the C&N Gosport yard. Whereas the ballast keel was made by Henry Irons, Cornwall.

The first boat, hull #001 (Trenarth), was at the January 1976 show where it was sold with delivery on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Then the second one, hull #002 (Belle Ile) was exported to Holland on 15<sup>th</sup> March.



# Nicholson 31 Association

“The classic blue water cruiser”



## Michael Wright

Between 1976 and 1986, 120 Nic31's were built.

The production run over 10 years was:

76 - 20; 77 - 37; 78 - 30; 79 - 16; 80 - 7; 82 - 7; 84 - 2; & 86 - 1

### Development Phase

From the start C&N offered options including: colour choice of hull & deck; upholstery, curtains & blinds.

The design evolved through four Marks, with variations within them: MkI through to hull #060; MkII to hull #101; MkIII to hull #106; MkIV completed the run.

However, the last boat (#120 – Baraka A) was built for a circumnavigation; whilst based on the MkIV there were various modification.

This ambition was achieved thereby becoming the first Arab sailors to sail around the world.

### Source Material

The paper compiled by Allan Trelford, the Nic31 Association founding Honorary Secretary, with it being reviewed by him and Raymond in 2021 can be read at: [www.nicholson31.com/about/aboutnicholson31/](http://www.nicholson31.com/about/aboutnicholson31/)

# Nicholson 31 Association

“The classic blue water cruiser”



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

## Ten Stories

16 Friday

**Ownership Since New:**

Dolly V 092     Alex Moore

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/>



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