

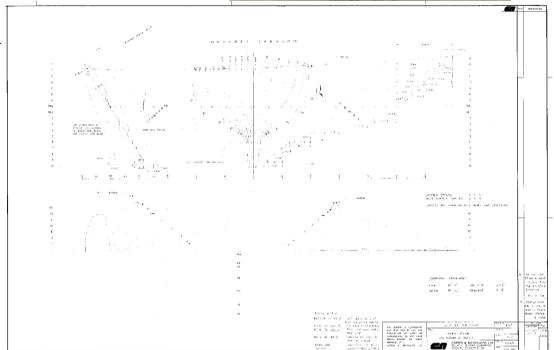
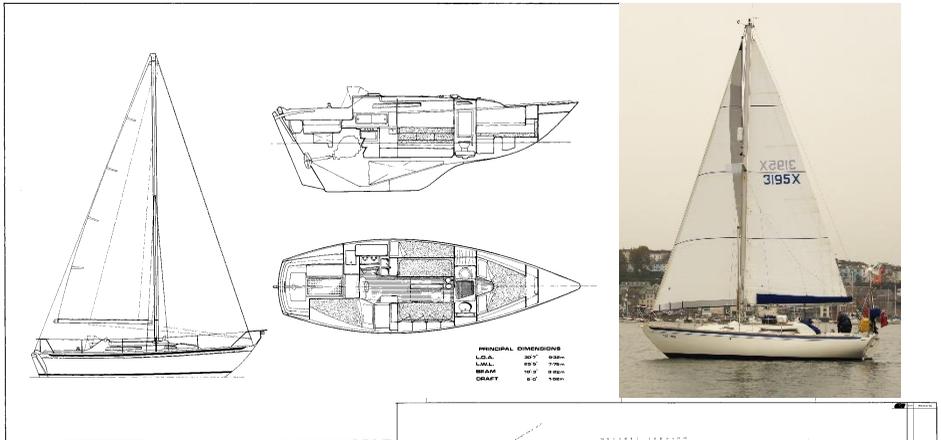
One Boat – Ten Stories

**SOUTHAMPTON
INTERNATIONAL
BOAT SHOW**

16-25 SEPTEMBER 2022

Pre-Show

Reflections on the Nicholson 31 Raymond Wall (Honorary President)



Nicholson 31 Association

“The classic blue water cruiser”



Reflections on the Nicholson 31

Reflecting on a design that is now 46 years old. When the 31 was created it was thought of as a traditional approach to a small cruising yacht that would be capable of voyaging wherever their owners desired. To be capable of carrying stores and equipment for ocean passage making but at the same time to have a sailing performance that would give pleasure when coastal sailing or short hops. The traditional aspect is the full keel with a transom hung rudder. The performance aspect is in part the cutaway forefoot of the keel reducing wetted surface as well as improving the keel fin for upwind performance. The building material GRP enabled the designers to maximize the desired form for both aesthetic and practical aspects. The coachroof shape and details together with the cockpit details are as relevant today as when they first took shape on the drawing board.

That the design has fulfilled its original brief proposed by the Gosport C & N management in 1975 is a reflection on their joint and individual experience. Soon after the first N31 launch owners were making long distance passages and this has continued. Major sailing venues throughout the World have been visited by a N31. In the process their owners have recorded feats of seamanship with some harrowing experiences.

Among the many long-distance passages there are some that stand out. Early on Tim Trail and his wife Renee took Queneah Guen, No.7 1976, deep into the Pacific calling in on the various island chains. On one occasion they encountered gale force winds and suffered a complete knock down, the galley stove flew off its gimballed mountings. Diet Thosen on taking delivery of Wooshee, No.31 1977, decided to sail from Gosport to British Columbia via Cape Horn. Arriving at the Horn he encountered bad weather and was pitched poled causing damage and loss of gear. Diet decided to return to Gosport to have Wooshee returned to as-new condition before completing the voyage, this time via Panama.

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J Gore- Grimes sailed Shardana, No.51 1977, with a full crew from Ireland to Norway and the Arctic Circle returning via Spitsbergen

In 1985 a young Saudi Arabian Jamil Adnan decided that he would undertake a circumnavigation; quite an undertaking for a young man in his early twenties with little sailing experience. His research convinced him that a Nicholson 31 was the ideal boat for the adventure. Jamil ordered the last 31 built No.120 Baraka A. After overcoming many obstacles and setbacks, Jamil and his girlfriend Sherry finally started their circumnavigation from Casablanca on 20th November 1986 and returned to Casablanca on the 9th September 1987.

William Roesner sailed Blueprint, No.113 1982, with crew from the US East coast to Ireland. Then on through Scotland via the Crinan Canal across the North Sea to Norway then onto Sweden and Finland, hauling out for the winter in Sweden. Returning next year to continue the voyage through Denmark, Holland and into France via the canal system to the Mediterranean. A truly epic voyage.

Footnote on Boats Referenced

Wooshee, No.31: Now named Sophia; her recent refit by owner, Rowan Stewart, was featured in the Association's April 2022 newsletter.

Shardana, No.51: Last know to be sailing out of Greystones Marina, Ireland.

Baraka A No.120: A summary of Jamil's circumnavigation can be found in the Arab News at - <https://www.arabnews.com/node/273479>

Blueprint, No.113: At the Show, on Monday 19, Bill's 41 years sailing the coast of Maine, USA, will be told.

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

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