

CATALAC 11 metre

-an open letter to Alison Percy of Hythe Marine Services Ltd., builders of the Catalac 11, from Adrian Alty.

Dear Alison

Thank you very much for taking me on a test sail of your Catalac 11. You asked me for a report on how she compares with my 10 metre. That was very dangerous for I love my baby but you asked for it so here goes!

My Catalac 10 metre. *Nomad's Cat*, was the second to last Catalac 10m to be built. She was born at John Williams boatyard in 1989 and from there she has taken me over the North Sea to Holland, cruised the Northern French coast, visited the Channel Islands and played around the Solent.

In 1992 I took her through the French canals to Port St. Louis, cruised the Cote D'Azur and sailed her to Spain. She now lives in the sun at Alcudia, Mallorca. In all I have sailed and motored some 4000 nautical miles in her and have experienced weather ranging from flat calm to 55 knots of wind with waves as large as houses.

Never have I had any cause to doubt her. She is fully seaworthy. She is very easy to handle. Her spacious cockpit is the envy of cruising folk everywhere. Her comfort and size is perfect for my requirements. Her twin engines, twin rudders, and almost twin everything make her supersafe in any condition. She is fast, 1 passage plan at 6 knots but regularly cruise at 7+. She has all the toys that I could buy for her, she is lovely, she is kind, she is pretty and she is mine!

So what about your Catalac 11, what chance has she got compared with *Nomad's Cat*?

To start with I must admit she is prettier. That rakish tail, go-fast stripes and timber bits all go to make her look very modern and classy.

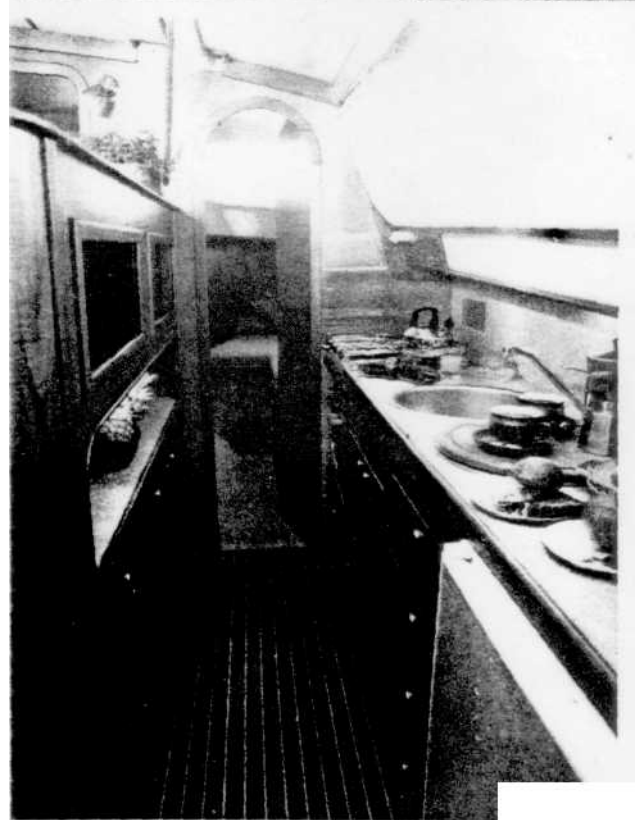
Inside the layout is, as you would expect, a standard 10 metre. The finish is excellent and there are lots of novel bits and pieces which show the attention to detail that has gone into building this latest big cat.

I really admired the new electric panel, the ceiling lining and the cockpit roof lining. Yes, OK, she compares well with *Nomad's Cat*. The proof of the pudding, so they say, is in the eating. So how does she sail?

Well it's very hard to compare two boats unless they have the same crew and are sailing in the same conditions. But I have to admit that she scampered along very nicely in a gentle force 2/3, tacked well and pointed well into wind. In a broad reach with 15 knots of apparent wind she touched 7+ with ease.

Does the new extra water length make any difference? As I have said it is hard to tell when sailing but when the skipper turned the engines on I have, to say that I was staggered. *Nomad's Cat* is equipped with Yanmar's 3GM's giving 27hp each, as opposed to the 2GM's on the Eleven metre giving 18hp. She will motor easily at 7 knots on a two-thirds power setting but give her any more power and all she does is dig her stern in, while the eleven metre took all the power given to her and raced forward at 8+ knots. The water flow past her twin sterns is smooth and unruffled. I feel that given more power she will easily motor at 10 knots! Yes, that extra length really works.

To sum up, the Eleven is well built, very, very.



The galley

attractive to look at and performs very favourably under sail and power compared to the old 10 metre.

Is there a down side ? Come on I must find something to moan about! The extra woodwork looks pretty but all that varnishing! The- extra metre will add some 10% more to berthing charges. Oh yes. berthing stern-to should be great fun to watch if you are short handed!

Alison, your company has produced a great addition to the Catalac range