

ACHILLES 750

Having built many hundreds of the classic Achilles 24, we are now producing an alternative version.

The new Achilles 750 gives more spacious accommodation below and a larger and more comfortable cockpit.

A taller mast allows headsail roller reefing with no loss of sail area, so that the Achilles 750 retains the sparkling performance of the 24; indeed it increases it if a conventional genoa is used. What is more, a self-tacking jib system can be fitted, or an inner forestay to carry a self-tacking staysail to give the benefits of a cutter rig, a particular advantage when combined with headsail roller reefing. In effect, a choice of four sailplans is offered.

To balance the taller mast, the weight of the keel ballast has been increased to maintain the seaworthiness expected of an Achilles yacht. Naturally, we have retained the full depth skeg found on all Achilles yachts since 1969.

A four berth open plan lay-out has been adopted for the accommodation with a dividing curtain for privacy in the forecabin. With more headroom than the Achilles 24, the main saloon is made still more spacious by using the hull sides as the specially padded backrests. The galley is compact, but efficient, with a fixed two-burner stove and grill; the sink is removable for waste disposal, or may be fitted with an optional pump-out waste. The dining table is removable to maximise space. The timber is varnished stripey Sapele and Mahogany.

Unusual on a yacht of this size is the fixed chart table, but its presence indicates the use that we envisage the Achilles 750 to be put; namely to sail enthusiastically - be it ocean going or cruising closer inshore. The Achilles 24 demonstrated the long distance potential of this classic hull, when two were sailed independently to New Zealand, single-handed across the Atlantic and the Pacific.

For this reason we have included the option of a deeper keel, as well as the standard keel and the triple keel version - the latter two ballast keels having been designed with a form of bulb combined with wings to increase efficiency. Further design work has resulted in the side fins of the triple keel version now having a smaller wetted surface area and a larger base area for greater stability; these are given the protection of a steel shoe.

The cockpit is especially comfortable and well laid out for ease in operating the foresheet winches and mainsheet. Generous stowage is provided below the cockpit seats, part of which is accessible as main saloon locker space, the rest being normal cockpit lockers. A locker built into the cockpit sole is primarily intended for warps and fenders.

If an inboard engine is not fitted, a locker can be installed for liferaft stowage, but this locker space becomes the engine access if an inboard engine is fitted.

Either the Bukh saildrive 8 hp diesel engine can be fitted inboard, or an outboard engine can be used.

Top quality fittings equip the deck, to enable the yacht to be sailed to maximum efficiency, with minimal effort. Plenty of natural interior light is available through the coachroof side windows and the sturdy framed "Perspex" forehatch. Anchor, chain and warp are contained in the anchor well. An alloy stemhead roller; forward and stern pushpits with double lifelines and stanchions are all fitted as standard.

Altogether the Achilles 750 will provide a keen yachtsman and his family with happy and exciting sailing, without pretending to be a racer - though we feel sure she will be raced - or comfortably cruised anywhere, according to the whim of the crew!

