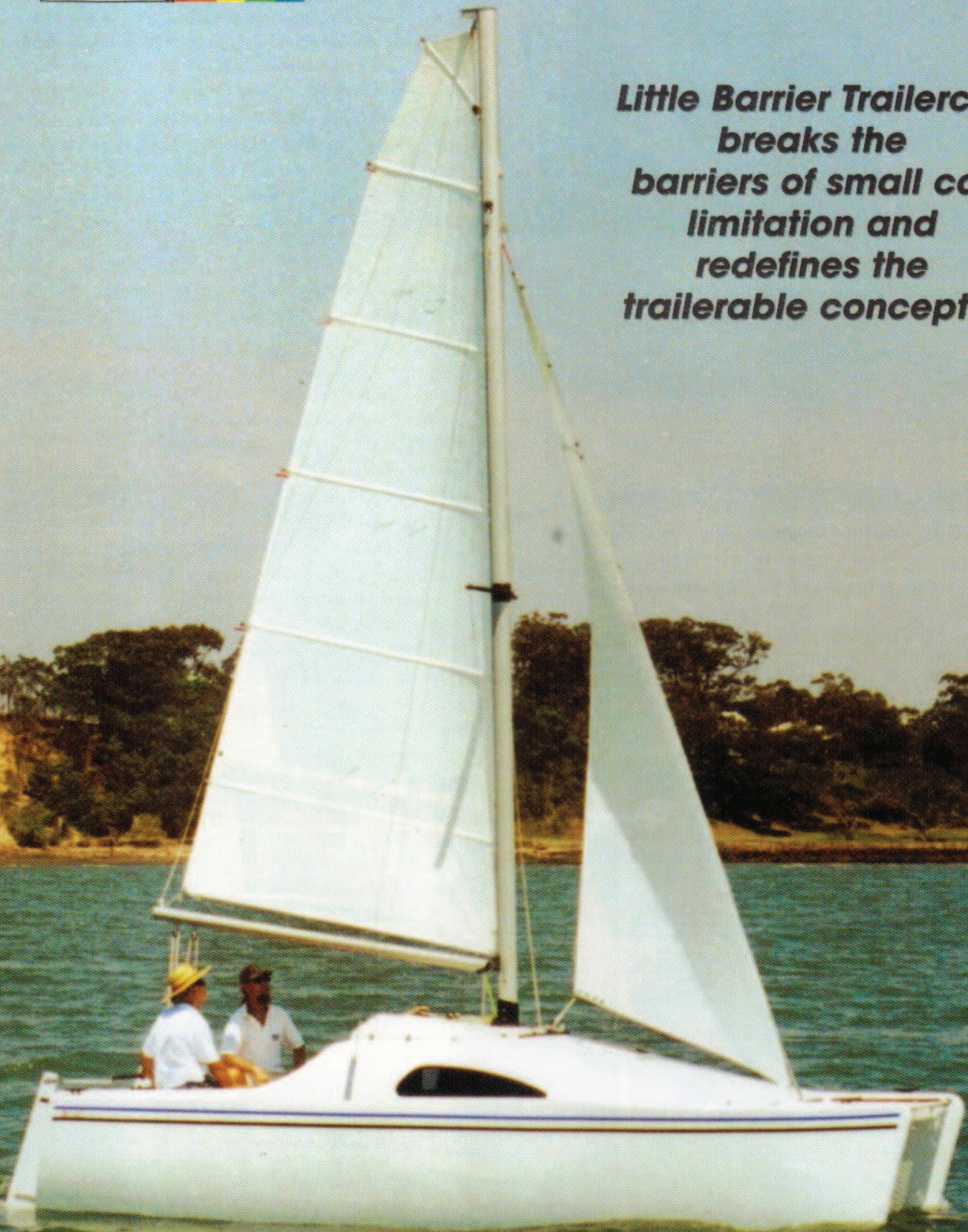




LITTLE BARRIER

6m Trailercat

**Little Barrier Trailercat
breaks the
barriers of small cat
limitation and
redefines the
trailerable concept...**



by Express Multihulls



FULL frontal - wide stance

Extracts from
Multihull World Magazine #54 -
December 2001 Boat Test
by Jo Djubal

“One double? Two single? Large cockpit? Food prep area with full standing headroom in two large companionways? Six metres long by two and a half wide ...? Come on - what is this anyway - a twin hulled tardis?”

John Brown's new mini bridgedeck cat sounds too good to be true but this zippy unit is as comfortable as it sounds and sails well to boot. There's no doubt that market demand for an efficient trailer cat has grown considerably since new laws on trailerable width knocked a number of designs off the road and back to moorings or marinas. The two and a half metre beam restriction, however, challenged the innovative team at Express Multis who set about creating a feasible design. In line with John's philosophy, the mini cat had to 'look good and work well'. With John's enthusiastic approach and Express Multi's prompt workmanship, it wasn't long before a 'plug' boat emerged from the factory in the sleepy seaside hollow of Sandgate, Queensland.

It was this boat, only three months old and striking not only in its diminutive size but also its pleasing lines that greeted us.

Our concerns evaporated as we drew closer then dissolved completely as we stepped aboard. So buoyant! So stiff with Steve's 100kg hardly tipping the LB's scales and more cockpit space than many trailer sailers double the size. Down below the 'tardis' effect really takes hold ... a sensible use of available space and the signature GBE windows make for an airy, light cabin with a two metre long by one and a half metre double berth the central feature. A large hatch overhead is just another big boat feature working well in a far smaller space and the food prep area is well allocated directly between the companionways allowing easy servery to the roomy cockpit.

The boat's comfortable practicality is also evident topsides in everything from the mini duckboard to the two wet lockers and comfy Ferrari tramp up forward. A self tacking headsail with optional furler and loose footed, fully battened main by Fraser Sails show this little cat is no 'toy' as testified by its very first sail. John nominates that day as the most memorable of his many years sailing experience on everything from Caper Cats to GBE speedsters to Comfy Cruisers. The Little Barrier with a crew of three soared to an exhilarating 14.3 knots under spinnaker in 15-25 knots. The bows lifted beautifully, crew stayed dry and none of the expected 'gremlins' showed up to ruin the day. "... It was so special because it was so unexpected ..." No doubt an added bonus was the entire Brisbane to Gladstone fleet being on hand to witness their form as the mini marvel zipped between the starters that day. Always nice to have an audience when the good stuff happens!

Unfortunately, conditions weren't of the 14 knot calibre as we putted away from the marina. Our wind was next to zero but despite this, John confidently hit the kill button on the Johnson 5 within metres of the pen and we began sailing, albeit at half to one knot - against the tide!

The tiller was responsive, tacking effortless despite our lack of momentum and the boat's true sailability overall an unexpected pleasure. Wakes from passing boats hardly registered and the relaxed frame of mind coming with a 0.35m draft had us skimming the shallows leisurely. (... and inevitably nudging the bottom a few times when John's agile



LOOKING forward showing storage, double berth and porta-pottie compartment

leaps overboard set us free almost immediately. Ah, the joys of 550kg displacement and shallow draft!)

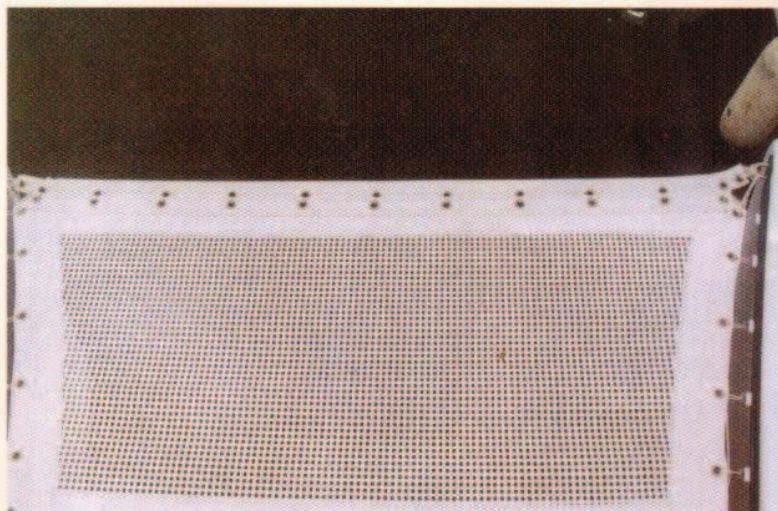
As we pottered around the bay, John explained a little about how he went from 'cheesecake baker to boat maker'. Selling up his New Zealand based business in the late 70's to bring Malcolm Tennant's GBEs to Oz. Dozens of John Brown Great Barriers have since been created and delivered as far afield as the United States. His small team at Express continue to deliver quality, value for money catamarans that 'look good and work well'! The Little Barrier is John's most recent project and his excitement is obvious as we fire up once more to chase some wind beyond the lead markers.

Once we hit some breeze, the LB truly impressed, reaching four to five knots to windward in a bare five to 10 knots. Reaching was a dream and it was clear the boat could easily attain reasonable speeds with exciting pace possible in the right conditions. It wasn't long before the continuing light conditions urged a spinnaker try out and after a few seconds hesitation, we hauled it on out.

With the spinnaker set we enjoyed a quick ride home at six knots in a still lacklustre breeze ... amazing how many spots you can find to sit within a six by two and a half metre area! The forward tramp would have to be a favourite and the LB's respectable clearance should



AFT view, with one of the quarter berths/storage under the cockpit

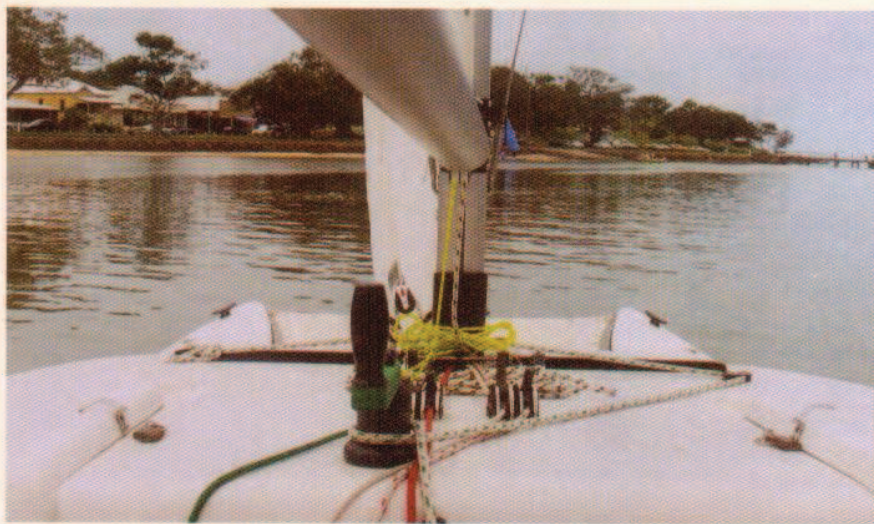


KIDDIE belly platform!!? (forward trampoline)

afford a dry foredeck in the majority of conditions. There's a sense of deck space aboard this little boat that weirdly belies its size. Cramped you are not with the best use of space ingeniously utilised without compromising function or aesthetics.

Its limitations? This boat is trailerable which means long offshore passages are neither necessary or sensible. This is a safe, fun boat for families, couples or entry level sailors who want to enjoy short cruises in relatively protected waters or the thrill of true speed when conditions (and constitutions!) allow. The room



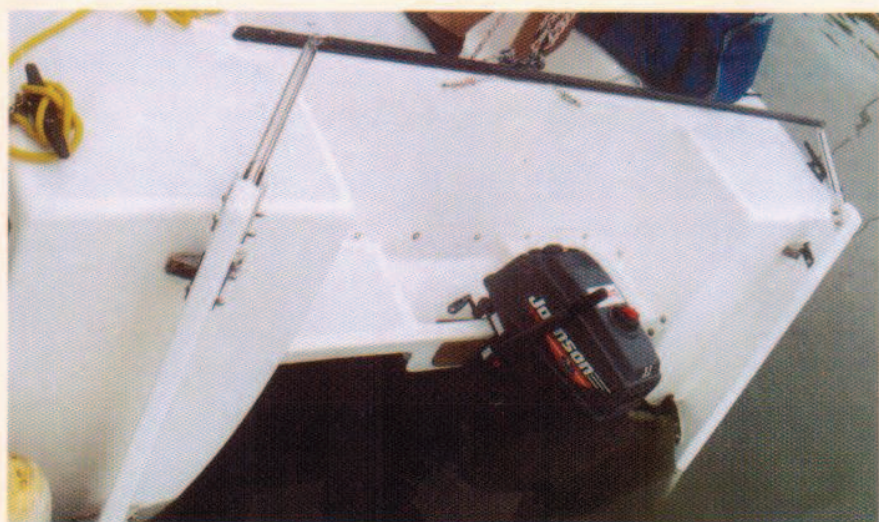


SINGLE winch and rope jammers

for customising to your needs is endless ... cockpit table, dodger and bimini, staunchion lifelines ... decorative touches... the possibilities are almost endless. An array of supplied options from furler, screacher, spinnaker to bunk cushions and porta pottie also allows a personal touch from the start. A professionally built and registered trailer can also be supplied although the LB is easily accommodated on most standard models. The boats are female moulded and of double bias, hand



LARGE cockpit



DUCKBOARD with motor well

laid construction with an attention to detail only possible from such a small and dedicated team. Delivery from just four to six weeks on order is another Express bonus. As a production boat, the LB guarantees resale value, along with loads of fun and some memorable sailing!

... Quality not quantity ... good things in small packages ... this little gem fits all the cliches but is in no way cliché in approach. The Little Barrier Trailerable - Short, Sleek and definitively Sweet! ❖

SPECIFICATIONS

Construction	GRP
LOA	6m
BOA	2.5m
DRAFT	0.35m
UNDERWING CLEARANCE	0.35m
DISPLACEMENT	550kg
SAIL AREA	16m ² (mast 7m)
ACCOM.	1 double 2 single
Galley Sink Module Standard	

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