

Things to consider when buying a trailer sailer

Our Story by way of introduction:

Our sailing experiences started in buying a 21 foot swing keel yacht which was great for a couple of years. We then decided it would be good if we had more room so we went to a Timpenny 770. Lovely boat, great to sail, but just that bit too hard to handle on the ramp for two people in all conditions. After reading a write up on the Ross 650 Mk II, it seemed to have all the features we had in the Timpenny but of course would be a bit smaller, much lighter and hopefully a bit easier to handle.

We were not disappointed and so began our involvement with the Ross 650 Mk II.

We have put down below some of the main points we took into consideration when buying our yacht and hopefully they will help you in your decision to purchase a trailer sailer.

Don't forget of course that some trailer sailers not only offer relatively cheap access to boating generally but with good accommodation can also offer the ability to explore far away places in limited time frames (a floating caravan). With trailer sailers one can just as easily cruise our great variety of inland lakes and waterways as we can the popular coastal areas. On various occasions, we have broken our journey by stopping overnight in a caravan park or even by the roadside.

For those with racing in mind, trailer sailers again offer a wide variety of events one can enter - either serious racing or cruising racing.

Towing:

We take a lot of care and ensure both ourselves and our equipment are well prepared for towing such an investment as our Ross 650 Mk II. We have never had any problems over the years of towing trailer sailers all over the country. We find it relatively easy and relaxing with the knowledge that our equipment is in good working order, meets the Government standards and our boat is easily towable with a standard 6 cylinder vehicle, i.e. you don't need a 4WD vehicle.

Sailing & General Handling:

The boat is easily managed and once rigged can easily be handled by one person. Of course like most things, it is easier with two people. The sails are easily managed as is anchoring equipment, raising/lowering the keel and generally handling the boat whether on open water or in confined spaces. This is important not only from a safety point of view, but also because it enhances the enjoyment of owning your own trailer sailer. As all controls lead back to the cockpit area, for cruising conditions, there is no need to go forward except for lowering/raising the anchor.

Rigging and Launching/Retrieving:

The Ross 650 Mk II mast is a comfortable husband and wife operation which can be modified to be performed single handedly. Indeed depending on the launching ramp there are times when little of the trailer is immersed in the salt water, meaning a longer life and less potential trouble for many trailer components. Retrieving is usually a comfortable two person operation

Accommodation:

How many bunks do I need? Most of the time when we cruise, there are only the two of us aboard however cruising with our adult family is not a problem. Sometimes we invite another couple for a night or two and the advantage of the Ross 650 Mk II is that it has genuinely comfortable berths for adults as well as children.

Boom Tent

A simple boom tent which easily clips onto the slotted toe rails of a Ross 650 MkII with shock rubbers is a good addition for cruising. It doubles the living area and is particularly useful for cooking and in the wet.

Storage:

Interior - It is important to us from a convenience and safety point of view that there are as many separate storage compartments as possible. We have under bunk storage all round and our personal boat has a 50 litre water tank located under the v-berth area. The galley area is quite spacious for this size boat and two layouts are available.

Exterior - The anchor locker is more than adequate for the anchor, chain and rope and there are port and starboard storage lockers in the aft cockpit area for things such as fuel tanks, buckets, fenders, mooring lines, stern anchor. Wide side decks provide easy and safe access when going forward to drop/raise the anchor.

Wal & Lynn