

WHICH BOAT IS BEST FOR YOU?

*It can be hard to make a **BIG DECISION**, but once made... all that remains is to do it!*

At this point you must be aware that apart from your house, this is probably the biggest investment you will ever make, so GET IT RIGHT!

Getting it right will ensure it is an **INVESTMENT**, not a **LIABILITY**.

OK, having come this far, a few questions need to be answered. Sit down with any other folk involved, be they partner, family or friends, and... **RELAX**.

The first question... **do you want POWER or SAIL?** If your preference is **POWER**, read on, if it's **SAIL**, turn to **page 36**. If you're undecided or feel you don't know enough about either, **take your time and enjoy reading about both, it will help you decide.**

Some people have been lifelong sailboaters, but as time passes, find it progressively more difficult to operate winches, change sails, or keep their balance as the yacht heels when underway. As it gets harder it becomes less fun... that's when they think of changing to power... far more acceptable than altogether **abandoning** their chosen lifestyle. Friends of similar ilk will be likewise inclined, and whilst all are entering a new boating dimension, **they can happily retain their social connections.**

The general consensus of the uninitiated is that cruising is all **FUN and SUN**, but viewed realistically, **it's not strictly true**. Much of the time it is just that, but when buying a boat, you must consider the unexpected and carefully assess the sea keeping qualities of the vessel, in the event you're caught in adverse weather,... **which can and will happen sooner or later**. **The thought of inclement weather should not turn you off as serious cruising is actually less hazardous pro-rata than an everyday land-locked lifestyle.**

Your safety and comfort is paramount and will depend on the right choice of boat at the outset, **so why buy twice?** **Getting it right will greatly improve the percentages** when it comes to **FUN & SUN... whilst ensuring survival** and keeping everything within your budget.

Trawlers come in many prices, shapes and sizes. By design, some are more seaworthy than others and overall condition varies enormously from boat to boat. When buying used, it doesn't follow that a boat is fault-free because the engine hours are low, or it's expensive. **You're advised to follow through with the survey check and not pay for anything until you're satisfied.**

Be warned, even **NEW** boats are never perfect.

How to check best value, fault find and save money is covered in the chapter on **SURVEYING**. Supplied is a set of "at a glance" survey sheets for comparison checks when several vessels are viewed. This way little or nothing will be missed, and you can always refer back to your book for further explanation should it be necessary.