

Flightline 2 – The First Nelson 42 Mk2

John & Harriet Anderson

Like many other Nelson Owners, John and Harriet Anderson are converts from sail, the moment of decision come at the end of an arduous passage home to the solent from Dartmouth in their Dehler 36 yacht. "In Hurst Narrows we saw a Nelson going the other way, and looking very relaxed about it. Her crew were drinking coffee on the deck."

They ordered one of the new Nelson 42 MKIIs, to be fitted out to their requirements by Bucklers Hard Boat Builders, and say they cannot speak too highly of the yard, being particularly impressed by their attention to detail. "We have never been so pleased with a boat. Every aspect of her is perfection."

Flighline II was launched in 1992, and is based where she was built, on the Beaulieu River. Many readers will have seen her at the Southampton Boat Show, where she was exhibited in 1992 and 1993.

The MKII's extra beam has been used not to cram in more berths but to make the boat as comfortable as possible for up to four people, which is the most that are ever on board overnight. There are just the four berthsm in two fully en-suite cabins forward and aft.



Flightline II

More often than not John and Harriet are cruising on their own. Fortunately the boat is easily handled by two people, which John puts down to the relatively low freeboard and low windage. She is powered by two 350hp Caterpillar diesels, which give a top speed of 21 knots. The Andersons cruise at 15-17 knots.

Flighline II is a good sea boat, as was discovered on a passage across Lyme Bay in a Force 7. "The boat performed better than we did. She really handles very well. In head seas you get an impressive amount of water coming over, but you just shut everything and get on with it. So far we have only been out in following seas in winds up to Force 5, but she runs like a dream."