

**Yachting
Monthly's
guide to used
boats**



ALBIN BALLAD 30FT
Cruiser/racer. A nice example of these lovely yachts. Raced regularly. Generous inventory. Recent survey. Lying Ashore Cornwall. £16,500. Tel: 01248 602410 873895.

Albin Ballad

Norman Douglas sold his Ballad after just three-and-a-half years, not because he was unhappy with her, but because he had a chance to join a syndicate for a wickedly fast one-design, which he just could not resist.

'The Albin was the 10th keel-boat I've owned, and one of the best,' he says.

She was raced out of Fowey where there is a strong Ballad presence with six boats competing regularly.

As well as being thrashed round the cans she took part in weekend races to Dartmouth, Salcombe, Plymouth and Falmouth. There were also cruises to France and the Channel Islands.

'She's outstandingly good in heavy weather, but also goes quite well when it's not blowing too hard,' says Norman.

'They are very safe and comfortable – once we were beating up to Plymouth and only decided to turn around when the wind reached 60 knots.'

Norman, who was secretary of the Ballad Association for several years, has not heard of one boat to suffer from osmosis.

'The build quality is superb,' he says, and the facts back up the claim. His boat was built in 1972 and still has the original engine, mast and rig.

Below, there are berths for six with a small forecabin and two saloon and pilot berths.

ALBIN BALLAD

Designer Rolf Magnusson

LOA 9.14m (29ft 11in)

LWL 6.90m (22ft 7in)

Beam 2.96m (9ft 8in)

Draught 1.55m (5ft 1in)

Displacement 3,300kg

Some 1,500 Ballads were built by Albin Marin in Sweden. The cockpit is large for a boat of this generation with long bench seats and deep cockpit lockers. The mast and rigging were strongly built with massive galvanised webs under the deck to take shroud loads.