

Olly & Mavis Ashton Namorada

"When Horace 'Olly' Ashton was looking for a boat seven years ago, the Moonraker 36 was not on his list of possibles, because he doesn't like aft cabins. He prefers aft-cockpit boats. With their safe outside seating area, as well as enclosed accommodation, he reckons they offer the best of both worlds. But, persuaded by a friend to go and look at a Moonraker that was for sale, he discovered she was one of the rare aft-cockpit versions, and

bought her with his wife Mavis.

Olly says he has been on many other motorboats, but never on one so easy to handle. "I have been out in winds up to Force 6 and 7, but she has never slammed on me." And he reckons Moonrakers are not as bad as they are made up to be in following seas. "It's up to the person behind the wheel. If he knows what he is doing, there's no problem. You have to know when to accelerate and when to ease of, to keep the boat going."

The builder's manual, still on board, includes detailed instructions on handling a 36 in different sea conditions. Olly and Mavis keep the boat in their hometown of Boston,



on the River Witham, and cruise in the Wash, northwards to the Humber, and around the Norfolk coast into the Broads. Last summer Namorada completed the Boston to Great Yarmouth leg of the Voyage Of Hope round-Britain relay in aid of the foundation For Children With Leukaemia, after Olly received the crystal baton from the Mayor of Boston (above).

Built in 1972, Namorada is powered by two 145hp Perkins T6.354s. Without the weight of a flybridge or an aft-cabin, her top speed matches that of most of the more powerful models, at over 20 knots. She cruises comfortably at 17 knots, at which she burns an average of 8gph (36lph).

The Ashton's usually have three or four people on board with them when cruising, or as many as nine for day trips, when the all-round cockpit seating comes into its own. "You can comfortably seat nine people there," says Olly "or twelve if you squeeze them in."



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