



Drayton Boat Services

30FT SEMI-TRAD

The smallest narrowboat at Crick was also the cheapest – a 30ft boat for £36,950.

The well-proportioned shell is substantially built in 10/6/5/4mm plate, with a semi-trad style stern. Sensible raised handrails are set some way in from the cabin edge. Pole and plank holders are in

steel, with brass vents and fittings. The paintwork (by Midland Canal Centre) is in International Paints and was faultless, showing the standard of steelwork to its best. The forward cockpit is protected by a cratch and cover as standard. The cratch, along with the front and rear doors are made in solid oak – not quite what you might expect in a boat of this price!

The aft cockpit includes the steps down into the cabin, offset to starboard. Under the deck boards sits the small 11hp Vetus 2 cylinder engine, which will be probably quite busy at canal speeds, but should have enough power for rivers in normal conditions. Unusually for a small boat, the electrics include a decent battery bank, a 40A charger and 1600W inverter, along with shoreline connections, in the basic cost.

The aft cabin door leads to a side corridor, with a fairly spacious bathroom set to port with cassette loo, washbasin and enclosed shower. The sliding door maximises space. A compact galley is forward, with a full-size gas cooker, large fridge and deep sink with a proper sized drainer and a lot of cupboards for such a small boat. Water comes from a stainless steel tank, with hot water from a calorifier, which is also fitted with a 1KW mains power immersion heater.

The open-plan cabin has two long bench seats, with storage under which converts to a double bed. There is a solid fuel stove (maybe a bit close to the occupants of the bed) and a TV shelf with 12V, 230V and aerial connections pre-fitted.

The cabin is lined in ash T&G boarding, diagonally placed on the cabin side, which makes the interior feel light and spacious. Ash-faced ply is under the gunwales, with flooring that looks like wood but is actually a hard-wearing vinyl-style material. An oak fit-out is an option, but I feel that the light ash finish suits the boat much better.

With the specification of a much larger boat, this, the smallest narrowboat at the show looked like good value when put against many bigger boats. **Mark Langley** 01827 262042, www.draytonboatservices.co.uk

