

AUSTRALIAN

multihull world

POWER & SPEED

FREE POSTER CALENDAR INSIDE

#153 Nov/Dec 2018

Registered by Australia Post QBP 4835

\$9.90

(NZ \$11.10 incl GST)

DRAGONFLY 25

DAGGERBOARDS VS KEELS
SAILING PIRATE ALLEY
LAGOON ESCAPE
DRONING ON



CRUISING
RACING
DESIGN
TRADES



ISSN 1835-7989



9 771034 510001

www.multihull.com.au

THREE'S COMPANY

DRAGONFLY 25



A white trimaran sailboat is shown from a side-on perspective, sailing on a deep blue sea. The main sail is white with a subtle grid pattern and a small red crown logo near the bottom. The boat's hull is white with a dark stripe along the waterline. In the background, a distant shoreline with hills is visible under a clear blue sky.

Trimarans are ideal boats for Australia's shoal waters thanks to their shallow draft, large deck space and performance, so the Dragonfly 25 should feel right at home here, writes **KEVIN GREEN.**

The 25ft Dragonfly is a thrilling trimaran for cruising or racing.
Image Corsair Marine



TOP: The deep, long cockpit can fit two crew with the steerer usually on the tramps.
Image Kevin Green

ABOVE LEFT: The steerer can easily control the mainsheet from inboard or outboard on the trampolines. *Image Kevin Green*

ABOVE RIGHT: For a kite run back to the harbour we hoisted the asymmetric from its bag, pulled up the lifting keel and skipped along at 13kts across the sparkling seas.
Image Kevin Green

As record breaking trimarans demonstrate these craft have performance as their central premise, so adding some liveability as found here on the Dragonfly 25, creates a fast passage maker with enough space for a small family. The downside can be mooring them but this isn't a problem with this Danish made trailer-sailer that has a patented folding system which allows them to use a monohull berth, or be legally towed on Australian roads on its breakback trailer. For launching, the rig can be stepped by leveraging a spinnaker pole against the mast, something I've done with similar boats including Corsairs and Farriers in the past. Another attraction is their stability, as trimarans' wide beam and weight centred in the main hull means these smaller designs are more stable than similar catamarans; an important consideration for going offshore.

THE DRAGONFLY 25 THAT LAUNCHED IN 2016 COMES IN TWO VERSIONS: A TOURING ONE AND SPORT VERSION WITH 1.3M TALLER CARBON RIG

The trimaran concept of the deep central hull with swing keel gives the sensation and performance that monohull sailors will relate to while also having the enhanced stability that the generously proportioned amas create, to reduce the chances of the dreaded pitch-poling; that multihulls can suffer from.

The Dragonfly 25 that launched in 2016 comes in two versions: a Touring one and Sport version with 1.3m taller carbon rig. Our review boat was the latter, imported by The Multihull Group (TMG) for both fun sailors and those keen on the silverware. As I found out when offshore from Sydney, it's a lively performance trailer-sailer with three berth accommodation and the feel of a big dinghy, so ideal for newbie multihullers. These quality Dragonfly trimarans command a fairly hefty price but what you get is a well made boat that will last and shouldn't break down on remote voyages along the Australian coasts; something they are ideal for. The range also has a 28, 32 and for 2019, a 40



TOP: Going to windward was easy on the Dragonfly, thanks to the self-tacking jib and 8:1 purchase on the mainsheet.

Image Kevin Green

ABOVE: With no ballast, launching and retrieving the Dragonfly is easily done, while the folded amas retain enough stability to support the mast. *Image Kevin Green*

model. These have succeeded a 35 model that TMG also has in stock and I found to be a sturdy offshore cruiser, ideal for fast off-the-wind passage making along our coasts.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Approaching the mooring, the first thing I noticed was the large length of the amas in relation to the hull, which gives both good lateral and forward stability on the Dragonfly



TOP: Sail controls are well laid out, allowing crew to easily unfurl both head sails and adjust the mast rotation. *Image Kevin Green*

ABOVE: The Dragonfly's carbon mast rotates to create a smooth luff profile and is designed for quick unstepping. *Image Kevin Green*

THE BUILD IS **HAND-LAID BIAXIAL GLASS CLOTH** SET IN POLYESTER RESIN AROUND A **DIVINYCELL CLOSED-CELL FOAM CORE**; WHICH GIVES POSITIVE BUOYANCY WHILE THE HULL IS HEAVILY ROCKERED TO **PROMOTE MANOEUVRABILITY**

25. Large curved composite beams connect the structure while elevating the amas up to reduce water-drag. These also retract backwards via lines and jammers to fold the boat

into a monohull shape that is stable enough to sit at a marina berth with the mast stepped. This proved a solid structure when deployed in the lumpy seas off Sydney, with no groans or shudders as our three crew pushed the boat hard to windward. Hull finish also looked good, with a large lip over the deck join. The build is hand-laid biaxial glass cloth set in polyester resin around a Divinycell closed-cell foam core; which gives positive buoyancy while the hull is heavily rockered to promote manoeuvrability. The ama wings and structural bulkheads are set in vinylester and heat-cured in an oven to stiffen them.

Powering to windward under self-tacking jib and flying an ama reduces the wetted area on the Dragonfly.

Image Kevin Green



The deck layout on the Sport version has all sail controls running via jammers to the cabin top with the main track bisecting the cockpit which allows the steerer to sit behind; or more likely to be outboard on the trampolines with twin tiller extensions. A hefty 8:1 block setup ensures there's plenty of purchase on the main sheet and the track uses the full beam of the hull to create enough scope for useful trimming. A very similar arrangement to a Corsair I've enjoyed doing regattas with in the past. The rudder is in a sleeve for

easy deployment while alongside on the transom is enough space for the 6hp outboard. Sensibly, there are sturdy liferails on the pushpit and the pulpits of the Dragonfly. Hatch space is also good with man-size ones in each ama (for storage and in case of problems) while the cabin has a rounded one ahead of the mast. The Sport's rotating mast creates a smooth luff profile while the carbon build reduces weight aloft and improves stiffness. This is greatly aided by sidestays running to the aft quarters of each ama. The sailplan used

TWO WORLD LEADING ANCHOR DESIGNS



SARCA EXCEL



SUPER SARCA

The **SARCA EXCEL** and **SUPER SARCA** are certified type approved Super High Holding Power

Designed and manufactured in Australia

www.anchorright.com.au 03 5968 5014



Elevstrom EPEX laminate sails with slab reefing in the main while up front the Code 0 flew from the bowsprit with self-tacking jib inside it. These are controlled by sizeable Andersen winches and all lines are of a good diameter for handling.

LIVING ABOARD

Trailer-sailers give you the freedom of both the open sea and the open road, so I've lived in mine while travelling around Europe in the past. Similarly here with the Dragonfly 25, on your way to the Whitsundays you can climb aboard to use its three berths. Up front the porta potta is not the most savoury item in the small cabin but in an emergency will do. Near the companionway is a single burner metho stove and what is most remarkable is the lack of an intruding keel box under the foldable table. Danish designer and company

owner Jens Quorning has cleverly offset it into the bench seating so there is floor space and even head room if you perch below the main hatch.

The Touring version can have a boom tent to increase the living space and protect from the searing Aussie sun. I didn't see any instruments or lights on our review boat but a couple of solar panels with a small battery can run a myriad of LED's and would not be onerous to fit. For simplicity there is clamp-on LED navigation lights that are standalone as well. For victuals, there is storage, including space under the cockpit for one of those new eskys that keeps ice for several days.

OFFSHORE AT SYDNEY

Along with my crew of Jack and Rowan, we sped past North Head in a lovely 12kt northerly breeze which



FROM TOP:

Fairly high volume amas create good stability and allow spacious trampoline decks on the Dragonfly. *Image Kevin Green*

A Vee-berth and couches either side comprise the berths, while a metho stove and space for a cool box is under the cockpit sole on the Dragonfly 25. *Image Kevin Green*

Thoughtful design and quality build denote the Dragonfly 25, so it will appeal to discerning sailors. *Image Kevin Green*

suited the Dragonfly perfectly. Lacking the twin tiller extensions I had to perch in the cockpit but this proved fine enough to enjoy the Dragonfly, with main sheet at hand which allowed me to ease it before each tack as we worked our way towards Manly Beach. The self-tacking jib took care of itself so it was easy sailing, which is good for both cruisers and racers on the Dragonfly. Hard on the wind at about 40° the windward hull flew a couple of feet off the water while the sharp bow and chines of the hull kept us tracking safely. Switching on my phone Navionics showed us moving at 10kts and the tiller felt balanced and responsive, just like a skiff or racing dinghy. This gave us the confidence for a kite run back to the harbour so we hoisted the asymmetric from its bag, pulled up the lifting keel and skipped along at 13kts across the sparkling seas to inside the Heads where it was easily floated and gybed round the forestay before we did a letterbox drop. Alternatively, in the past I've simply dropped them down the forehatch of similar trimarans for quick deployment on the next run. Under power on the way home, I found that operating the 6hp outboard was fairly easily done and it's well clear of the water when tilted up. Clearly the fun factor was apparent in spades on the Dragonfly 25 and the ease with which this is achieved should give this 25ft trailer-sailer wide appeal.

DRAGONFLY 25 SPORT SPECIFICATIONS

Price	\$215,000 (Touring version \$180,000)
LOA	7.65m
LOA folded	8.95m
Beam sailing	5.80m
Beam folded	2.30m
Trailer beam	2.30m
Mast Sport	11.80 carbon rotating (Touring alloy rotating 10.50m)
Draft board up	0.35m
Draft board down	1.50m
Bowsprit length	1.40m
Engine	6hp outboard
Mainsail Sport	29m ² (Touring 24m ²)
Jib	12m ² (10m ²)
Code 0	30m ² (25m ²)
Gennaker	60m ² (45m ²)
Weight	1,100kg
Weight inc trailer	1,800kg
Design	Jens Quorning and Steen Olsen

www.themultihullgroup.com

Melfi Designs

Helm Chairs

LEADING THE WAY TO BRILLIANT DESIGN AND ENGINEERING



Helm Chairs by M Melfi Designs are the new SIENA and PORTOFINO models – not only comfortable, but elegantly styled and brilliantly engineered. Completely 'Australian made' with an Italian influence. Displaying high levels of comfort, functionality and durability. M Melfi design manufactures and designs not only helm chairs but also custom made boat interiors, soft furnishings and all your upholstery needs.

M Melfi Designs : 0412 862 447 | info@mmelfidesigns.com
Building J, Unit 7, Boatworks Drive, Coomera, Q 4209

www.mmelfidesigns.com

FEATURED ON
Maritimo
Montebello
Riviera
Palm Beach
motor yachts