

1 Introduction 6

You don't have to spend a fortune
 Personal experience
 Sailing for fun – not to prove something
 Drift away into relaxation
 Family fun
 Excitement if you want it
 Scope of the book

2 The parts of a boat 12**3 Choice of boat 16**

Considerations
 A selection of sailing boats
 Sailing dinghies
 Day boats
 Small sail cruisers
 Family sailing or a boat for one?
 A caravan afloat?
 Hazard awareness – booms and winches
 Where will you sail?
 Moving on and upgrading to cruising

4 Buying a second-hand sailing boat 32

Where to keep it
 Second-hand for choice and value
 Where to look
 Finding a bargain
 Thorough inspection and testing
 Osmosis and blisters in GRP
 Painted GRP
 Decks and deck fittings
 The rig
 Sails
 The interior
 Electrics
 The motor
 Equipment included
 Safety inspection
 Negotiating price and purchase

5 New boats 50

Buying new
 Boat shows
 Minimum standards for new boats
 Self-build

6 Running costs 54

Insurance
 Navigation licences
 Mooring costs
 Boat Safety Scheme inspection charges
 DIY or maintenance by professionals?

**7 Moorings, storage and transport 60**

Trailer sailing
 Roof rack transport
 Storage at home
 Low-cost slipways and boating locations
 Harbour moorings and marinas
 Boat storage on land near the water
 Sailing clubs – cheaper than marinas

8 Introduction to Sailing 68

Preparation
 Rigging and launching the boat
 Using the wind
 Returning to the shore
 Racing
 Sailing a cruiser
 Safety
 Rules of the road
 Dinghy cruising
 Small sail cruisers – boats with berths

9 Basic maintenance and repairs 80

Perfectionist or pragmatist?
 Safety aspects
 DIY or not?
 Where to do the work
 Practice makes perfect

10 Construction, self-build and materials 84

Boat kits and plans for self-build
 The European Recreational Craft Directive and self-build
 GRP construction

11 The hull and decks 94

Repairs to wood and plywood
 Painting wood
 Varnish and alternatives
 Epoxy repairs to wood
 Cleaning, polishing and preservation
 Oxidation
 To paint or not to paint?
 Painting GRP
 Painting other surfaces
 Painting the bilges
 Antifouling paint
 Non-slip deck paint
 GRP damage repair
 Osmosis again

12 Fittings and their maintenance 112

Sailing dinghies
 Sail cruisers

13 The rig 122

Mast and spars
 Mast lowering
 Wooden mast and spars
 Aluminium mast and spars
 Mast step
 The boom
 Standing rigging
 Halyards
 Ropes
 Care and maintenance of sails

14 Anchoring and mooring equipment 138

Anchors, chain and rope
 Moorings
 Mooring tackle maintenance
 Types of anchor
 Winter precautions

15 The cabin and covers 144

Leaking window seals
 Window damage repair
 Window replacement
 Damp, mould and smell reduction
 Water and waste
 Cooking equipment
 Fire precautions
 Sanitary equipment
 Bunks and cushion care
 Floor coverings
 Curtains
 Covers
 Laying up and winterisation

16 Electrical equipment 160

Electricity on small boats
 Navigation lights
 12V electricity
 Charging – using sun and wind
 Safety
 Maintenance
 The future

17 Engines 166

Use and simple servicing
 Petrol outboard motors
 Two-stroke and four-stroke motors
 Outboard motor maintenance
 Winterising an outboard motor
 Electric outboard motors
 Inboard engines
 Winterising an inboard engine
 Electric inboard motors

18 Boating equipment and accessories 184

Equipment in a sailing dinghy
 Equipment in a day boat and sail cruiser
 Lifejackets and buoyancy aids
 Distress flares and signals
 Mobile phone and VHF radio
 Bilge pumps
 Fenders
 GPS
 Clothing and footwear
 Locks and security devices
 Echo sounder or fish finder
 Boat shows and boat jumbles

19 The future 196

Selling and trading up to a bigger boat
 Selling a boat
 Future ambitions

Appendix 200

Sources of information and contact details
 Sources of safety information and other boating information
 Companies mentioned in this book

Glossary of terms 204**Recommended further reading 207****Index 208****Acknowledgements 210**