

To Elizabethan 30 Owners

As you can see from the attachments, I have one of the tank test models for the Elizabethan 30. This fine 1/6th scale hull model has just been re-decked and repainted ready for sale. It has a lead ballast keel and a fixed rudder (as used in tank testing) and is being offered at £100 with free delivery on the south coast between Poole and Chichester.

As I understand it the Elizabethan 30 was originally intended as a Half Ton Cup racer and in 1968 designer David Thomas, always willing to try new ideas, arranged for the hull to be tank-tested and optimised by the yacht research team at Southampton University before the class went into production. After that work, a mould was taken off the wooden tank model and a few GRP hulls were produced for groups of undergraduates, such as myself, to use for laboratory work. Later, in 1977, when I was a lecturer at Southampton Institute (now Southampton Solent University), I used one of the models with my own students for further work on optimising keel designs.

Tank testing models make fine exhibits, but are large and do not normally fit on a mantelpiece. They often have a straight sheer line for ease of construction which may be curved on the final boats.

The tank testing experimentation is done on a model made to the designer's first version of the lines. Very often the final production boats differ from the tank tested hulls as the improvements gained from the tank testing process are incorporated in the design. This is especially true of keel and rudder shapes. But as far as I am aware, the hull design was not changed and the production Elizabethan 30s are geometrically identical to the 1/6th scale tank test models.

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