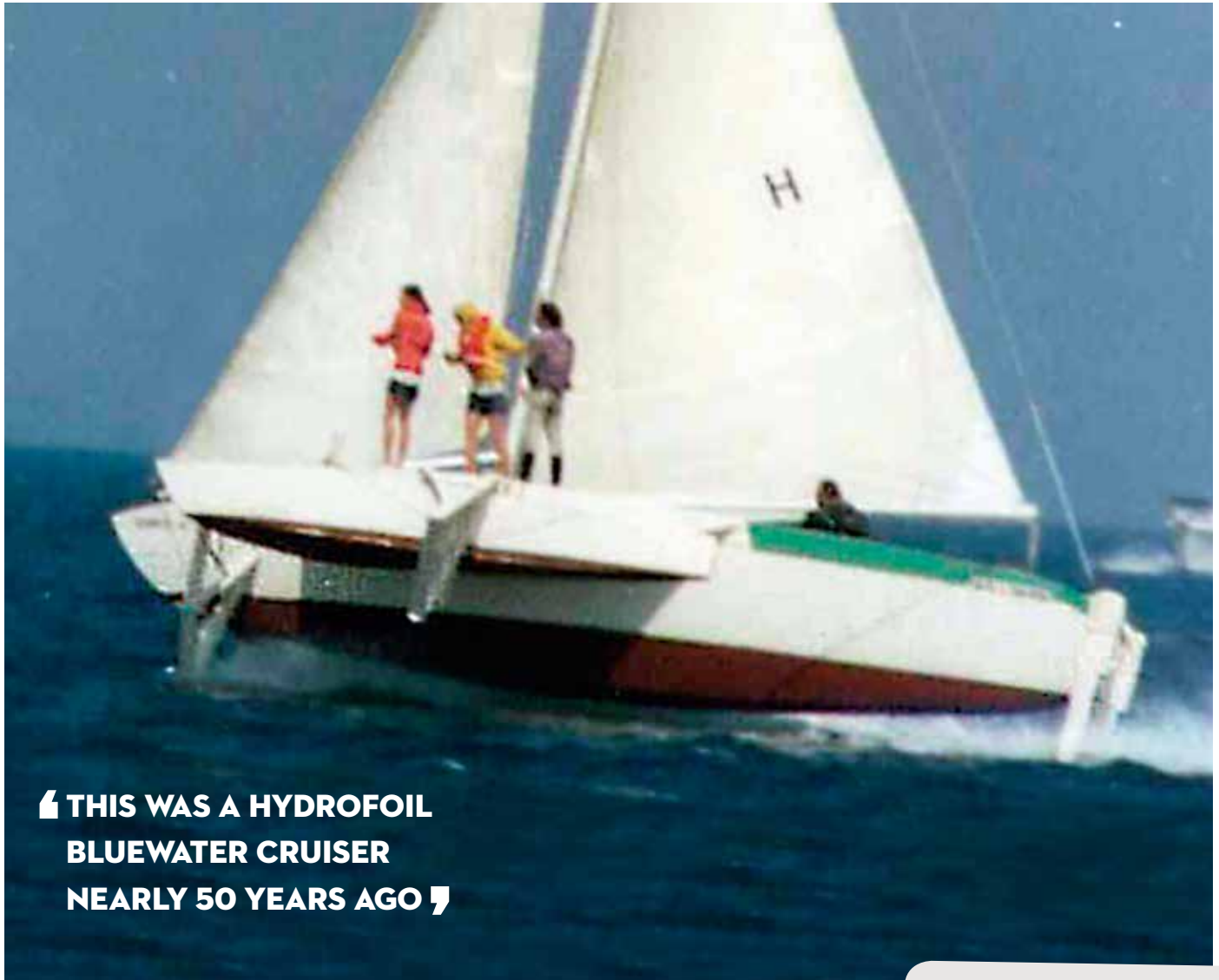


WORLD'S COOLEST YACHTS

We ask top sailors and marine industry gurus to choose the coolest and most innovative yachts of our times



THIS WAS A HYDROFOIL
BLUEWATER CRUISER
NEARLY 50 YEARS AGO

ROB HUMPHREYS NOMINATES **WILLIWAW**

My choice of the coolest boat is *Williwaw*, a 31ft foil-borne plywood trimaran designed by unsung hero Dave Keiper in the late Sixties. He built the boat himself and cruised her for 20,000 miles in the Pacific in the early Seventies, finding that her performance in a heavy sea state was much improved with foils deployed and working rather than retracted!

Yes, that's right – 20,000 miles of fast, hydrofoil bluewater cruising nearly 50 years ago!



Rob Humphreys is one of the world's leading yacht designers. He started out writing for *Yachts & Yachting* magazine after a degree in industrial design. The 31ft *Roller Coaster* was his first big success in 1979.

As a matter of interest, the boat was one of my inspirations when I carried out my major student project in the early Seventies, the design of a foil-stabilised (rather than flying, like *Williwaw*) family cruising boat, and then in an indirect way signalled my confidence when we dreamt up the Blue Arrow foiler for Peter de Savary's and Tony Berry's America's Cup challenge in the late Eighties.

Sadly, Keiper is no longer with us but he deserves to be better known.

Among many varied designs have been the Whitbread Maxi *Rothmans*, the 72ft Global Challenge design, Ellen MacArthur's Open 60 *Kingfisher* and the latest range of Oyster cruising yachts.

TOP TRUMPS RATING



TOP SPEED **22 knots**

LOA **9.4m**

LAUNCHED **1966**

BERTHS **4**

PRICE **UNKNOWN**

ADRENALIN FACTOR **80%**