



ELLIOTT TOURER 1650

Single-level cruising

Jackpot, the new Greg Elliott-designed Tourer 1650 launched in New Zealand, continues the designer's distinctive, single-level, indoor-outdoor flow between cockpit and saloon. Rebecca Hayter reports from Auckland

Greg Elliott believes that once you have cruised on a yacht with this configuration, you will never go back to a conventional layout which, in his terms, sends those below decks into a cave. "Gone are the days when the woman disappeared below and occasionally poked her head out to talk to people," he says.

As a performance cruiser suitable for coastal or offshore passages, *Jackpot* is easy to sail, even for one or two people. There is a bridle instead of a traveller on the coachroof; it needs no attention. Most control lines,

including the single-line mainsheet, run under the decks to emerge at a set of jammers in front of the starboard helm station. There are three winches – one of which is electric – handy to the centreline. The headsail is furling; the mainsail has Leisurefurl and the gennaker has a sock.

Berthing is easy thanks to the Swingthruster. This bow thruster resides inside the hull beneath the forward berth. When required, it pivots down on its piece of hull section to immerse the propeller. When raised, its section sits flush with the hull,

so no drag is created. Its installation suits *Jackpot*'s shallow forefoot, which would be unable to take a conventional bow thruster in a tunnel.

Smooth operator

It's a smooth move from *Jackpot*'s cockpit to her saloon, galley and nav station; this area enjoys almost all-round views, even from seated. The galley has plenty of bench space and stowage; high points include an itemised cutlery drawer and twin, slide-out rubbish bins.

The boat's impressive windward performance comes

from her generous 3.5m, which can lift the lifting keel is well designed. The saloon bulkhead is quiet that many guests are unaware of its presence.

In shallow-draught water, the large, gleaming pin keel weight of the keel. To raise the keel, the skipper pushes a button. The hydraulic ram takes the weight, which allows the keel to rise. A second pin lowers the keel.

The keel has a slight constant tolerance around within its central slight wedge shape of



Right: smooth-lined Tourer is a powerful and fast sailing yacht. Below right: the saloon area has almost all-round views

Specifications		
LOA	16.5m	54ft 2in
Beam	4.8m	9ft 3in
Draught, keel up	2m	6ft 6in
Draught, down	3.5m	11ft 6in
Disp, light	13 tonnes	
Ballast ratio	40	
Price from	NZ\$1.2m	
Delivery in NZ	6-9 months	



keeps it snug, which means that there's no knocking as the boat goes through a tack.

High-tech fit

To achieve the perfect fit, the boatbuilders made the fin out of fabricated steel and faired it by hand to a computer-cut programme. The keel then became the mould for the centrecase.

Elliott says the boat will motor or sail at 10-11 knots, although that's not economical for the Yanmar 110hp engine: 8 knots is about the sweet spot. The propeller shaft has an Aquadrive

bearing, which really helps to minimise noise and vibration.

It's easy to customise the Tourer 1650 in layout. *Jackpot* has a huge locker to port in the cockpit; the equivalent space to starboard is taken up by a double cabin and day head. Forward of

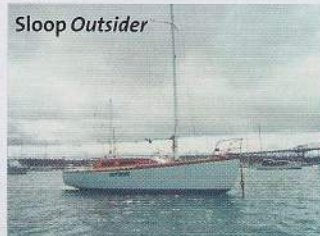
the saloon is an office-cum-sea berth, a cabin with two stacked 1.5 berths, a separate head and shower and large owner's cabin.

The Tourer range is built in medium-tech construction for strength, stiffness and lightness, and is a dream to helm.

Greg Elliott



Sloop *Outsider*



Elliott 52, also *Outsider*



Interland Cocorin



Auckland-based Greg Elliott is probably best known in the Northern Hemisphere for his involvement in the concept and design of the extraordinary super-schooner *Mari-Cha IV*.

Some of the thinking for that yacht came from another design, the 16m schooner *Elliott Marine*, which became *Primo* in 1996. After 40,000 miles of competitive sailing, she is still winning today in Japan as *Interland Cocorin*.

The boat was way ahead of her time. Greg has been sailing all his life and one of his first designs was a neat little sloop called *Outsider*. Coincidentally, one of his latest designs, the Elliott 52, is also called *Outsider* and was the first boat home in the Nordbank transatlantic race last year.