

In February of 2017, I took on the rather daunting task of purchasing an Island Packet 440, a 46ft cutter rigged sailboat. What made this daunting was the breadth of the Atlantic Ocean separating me from my future yacht. I am a US resident; the boat was on the Isle of Wight in the UK. Of surveyors, sail makers, riggers, diesel mechanics, electronics technicians, hauling fees, etc., I had not a clue. As I intended to immediately sail her back to Florida, I would require most of these services to inspect and outfit the vessel.

I googled surveyors in the area; located five and sent emails to each, asking about prices and timeframes. I called several boat yards, asking for a surveyor recommendation, but received little input. Rather than randomly choose one, I decided on a scientific approach. I would hire the first surveyor that responded to my inquiries.

Nigel Harrison was that surveyor. I count my lucky stars that Nigel is as prompt as he is. I cannot imagine having made a better selection. The sale turned out to be an incredibly arduous task. The owner denied Nigel reasonable access to the vessel; the inventory was, to put it kindly, incomplete; and the brokerage was unable to arrange a sea trial during the time frame we required.

Nigel brought on additional experts to complete the survey and sea trial in the little time he was allowed. He arranged for local tradesmen to help with any aspect of outfitting that I was unable to perform on my own. As the seller removed virtually all spares from the vessel; Nigel used his contacts to help me obtain necessary equipment at reasonable costs. Never was he further than a text away. He did not simply perform the survey, deliver the paperwork and collect his fee; he was involved for the entire period it took us to outfit and provision for an Atlantic passage.

I can give Nigel an unqualified recommendation for anyone requiring an engineer's eye on vessels, sail or steam, in the Hampshire UK area. I am happy to discuss my experience personally; by phone, text or email. I will be at sea through April 2017, and might be difficult to reach; but feel free to contact me by any of the following:

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