21 feet is 6.4008 metres, which was rounded up to an (un)even metric of 6.5 when in 1985 French enthusiasts set up the 6.50 Classe mini, post a biennial series of four ever more successful Mini Transat races organized by the late Bob Salmon and hosted by the Penzance Sailing Club in Cornwall.

To be a Mini 6.50 there really are only two requirements: one hull, 6.5m. Thus there are very many different, continuously evolving designs. SOL’s polar, first raced round Iberia in 2010, originates from one of these current at the time, and has an unusually strong upwind as well as deep downwind performance, making it a tricky little tiger to tame online.