

MIKADO



Sail No: 6

Launch Date: 1904

Type: Clyde 30 Linear

Owners: Michael & Beverley Briggs

Designer:	<i>William Fife</i>	Builder:	<i>Fife, Fairlie</i>
Construction:	<i>Archangel Pine & Red Cedar on Oak</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Bermudan Cutter</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>12.55m / 8.85m</i>	Beam:	<i>2.56m</i>
Draft:	<i>1.91m</i>	Displacement (Fully loaded):	<i>7.75 Tonnes</i>

History

MIKADO was built for Sir William Corry and was one of two Fifes, designed and built as contributions to the new Clyde Linear 30 class in 1904. In her first season she came second overall. In her second season MIKADO achieved a total of 6 firsts, 3 seconds and thirds out of 36 starts, placing her third place overall out eight 30 footers. Until the 1920's MIKADO retained her original format as a day racer with two cockpits and a large gaff cutter rig, set on a pole mast with a short bowsprit.

MIKADO was then converted, like so many gaff rigs, to a cruiser racer with a Bermudan rig in 1924. There is a Fife drawing of MIKADO with a sloop rig but photos in the 1930's show that she in fact remained a cutter, retaining an enormous boom, short bowsprit, no fixed backstay and two or maybe three small headsails. MIKADO was acquired by Chris Cracknell and restored between 1990 and 1995 after she was found in a sad dilapidated condition in Exeter. Fortunately, much of her frames and planking survived, and amazingly so has her 1938 mast, but she has endured extensive work to restore her, including new floors and straps, new teak planked deck, new bronze and metal fittings (most made by Chris), a new Dolphin petrol engine, new interior and coach roof. The object of the restoration was to re-create her cruiser-racer configuration but with a wider coach roof loosely modelled on Fife's own *Clio* of 1921. The interior is oak panelled, with minimal modern intrusion, and the result is a two to three berth cruiser racer, well able to compete on the IRC rating without age allowance against modern yachts in light to moderate winds. MIKADO is as light as a dinghy on the helm, has awesome power in light weather, is very wet in heavy weather and is still winning races well into her second century, in the Solent, the Clyde and the Mediterranean. In Cowes Week over 10 years she scored two firsts overall in her IRC class, four seconds overall and never came lower than 5th overall. She has been a frequent class winner in the BCYC Regatta, and overall winner twice, and class winner in three successive Fife Regattas.