

SCEPTRE



Image: Sam Field Photography



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Sail No: K17

Launch Date: 1958

Type: International 12m Bermudan Rigg'd Sloop

Owner: Sceptre Preservation Society

Designer:	<i>David Boyd</i>	Builder:	<i>Robertsons</i>
Construction:	<i>Mahogany</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Sloop</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>19.81 / 12.49m</i>	Beam:	<i>3.6m</i>
Draft:	<i>2.89m</i>	Displacement:	<i>36 Tonnes</i>

History

SCEPTRE's story began as a dream, in September 1956, of Hugh Goodson, Royal Yacht Squadron member and Commodore of Royal Dart YC, who formed a syndicate of twelve to challenge the New York Yacht Club for the America's Cup. David Boyd's design was built at Alexander Robertson's Yard and on April 11, 1958 SCEPTRE made her maiden voyage. Shipped to America for the America's Cup series commencing in September, SCEPTRE lost to Columbia. In 1959 SCEPTRE returned to the UK and was bought by Eric Maxwell who had her extensively modified. Racing on the Clyde and the South Coast, she was very successful, winning all her races at Torquay and Cowes in 1960. By 1965 SCEPTRE was still racing, winning 17 races out of 20 entered, and she was taken back to Newport, Rhode Island in 1967, to sail against American Eagle.

In 1972 she was bought by Mr King to convert into a cruising boat, but his unexpected death halted work. Metre boats being rather unfashionable in the early 1970s, it took until 1976 before Tony Walker bought her. She was transported to a shed in Lytham St Annes where Tony worked on her for nine years. By 1986 the conversion to a stunning cruising yacht was complete. However, finding her too big to sail and run himself, Tony Walker formed a consortium to purchase her - 'The Sceptre Preservation Society'. Since 1986 and the founding of the Preservation Society, SCEPTRE has been maintained to charter standards, sailed by a group of owners with some chartering and sail training to offset costs of ownership. She has also provided some exciting charter weekends for long-standing guests and others, who appreciate the special experience to be gained from sailing a classic 12 metre.

SCEPTRE is perhaps one of the most historic and infamous wooden boats in the world of yacht racing. Now owned by the Sceptre Preservation Society, her condition is restored and cared for, her history as a British yacht secured and preserved within a dedicated partnership, and her future on the water a certainty.