

CHARM OF RHU



Sail No: K12

Launch Date: 1963

Type: 8 Metre Cruiser Racer

Owner: Martin Thomas

Designer:	<i>Archie MacMillan</i>	Builder:	<i>Fife Yard, Fairlie</i>
Construction:	<i>Mahogany on rock elm</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Bermudan</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>12.74m / 8.9m</i>	Beam:	<i>2.94m</i>
Draft:	<i>1.95m</i>	Displacement:	<i>8.69 Tonnes</i>

History

CHARM OF RHU is an International 8 Metre Cruiser/Racer built in 1963 for Willie Lawrence, owner of Glasgow Rangers Football Club, to race on the Clyde. In all, 23 boats of this class were launched between the first in 1951 (Sonda) and 1968. The majority were built by McGruer of Rosneath. CHARM OF RHU was designed by Archie Macmillan who was William Fife's protegee and took over the yard at Fairlie on his death. She is the second of only two cruiser eights built in the Fife Yard at Fairlie, the other being Pinto. We believe CHARM OF RHU is the last Fife yacht ever launched as the yard then closed. Boats had been continuously built in the yard at Fairlie for 174 years since 1790.

REFURBISHMENT

CHARM OF RHU has undergone steady and continuing refurbishment. In the 20 years from 1997 she has been completely refastened and resplined, had a new mahogany transom, new beamshelf, coach roof and a complete, new teak deck. A new stem was fashioned in mahogany with rabbets cut for the hood ends, the whole glued and bolted for strength. She has a new rig designed to the 8 Metre Rule and built by Atlantic Spars. A new Beta Marine engine with larger propshaft and feathering propeller were fitted in 2016. Below she has a new Blake heads, galley and stove, water tanks and pipes.

CRUISING

CHARM OF RHU has cruised in Ireland, Scotland, France, Netherlands, Belgium (for a visit to the WW1 Battlefields), Azores, Canaries, Caribbean, Scandinavia and the Baltic up to Helsinki. In 2007 she crossed the Atlantic to Antigua for the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta where she won her first race. She currently lies to a swinging mooring in Chichester Harbour.

RACING

CHARM OF RHU has had some modest success in racing. She came 3rd in class at the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. As the only wooden boat, she came 10th of 20 entries in class in the AZAB. Again, as the only classic, she competed in a number of Triangle Races coming 2nd in class on several occasions. She won Falmouth Classics and was placed at Fowey Classics. In the British Classic Yacht Club Regatta she came 3rd in 2006, 2nd in 2007 and won in 2008; she was 3rd again in 2013. She won the Classic Channel Regatta in 2009 and came second in 2017. In 2015 Charm of Rhu won the prestigious British Classic Yacht Club "Je Ne Sais Quoi" Trophy. She won the Concours d'Elegance at the 2017 Cowes Classics Regatta.

