

CERESTE



Sail No: 523R

Launch Date: 1938

Type: Limited Edition 10 Tonner – $\frac{3}{4}$ Sloop

Owner: Jonathan & Scilla Dyke

Designer:	<i>Robert Clark</i>	Builder:	<i>Sussex Yacht Works</i>
Construction:	<i>Carvel</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Bermudan</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>12.08m / 8.73m</i>	Beam:	<i>2.6m</i>
Draft:	<i>1.75m</i>	Displacement:	<i>7.138 Tonnes</i>

History

CERESTE was built in 1938 by Sussex Yacht Works at Shoreham, and originally believed to be Melody, to a Robert Clark design based along the lines of his innovative Mystery design. Research shows that several other Robert Clark designs were in build at Sussex Yacht Works at the same time, and that the then Yard Manager was Austin Farrar, who had trained with Robert Clark at his design office in London.

Constructed of mahogany topsides and pitch pine below the water line on steamed oak frames and oak centre line structure, CERESTE has had a chequered history. She spent several years in the Mediterranean where her structure deteriorated significantly, although some running repairs were carried out to keep her in commission, before returning to the UK in the late 80's. Some further attempts were made at restoration by the previous owner but we found her lying in Neyland, South Wales in 1998, in a very sorry state. A three-year restoration process was undertaken, with much of the original structure and joinery salvaged and thus she remains very much as original. The extensive refit included a new teak deck, cockpit and coach roof and the installation of wheel steering.

CERESTE is now re-rigged with the alternative three-quarter rig design which has greatly improved her performance and made her highly competitive under IRC and handicap racing. Her inaugural passage, following this major refit, from the East Coast to the Solent to witness the 2001 America's Cup Jubilee celebrations. CERESTE is a familiar competitor on the East Coast and the Solent, with an enviable racing record.