

KELPIE



Sail No: 2

Launch Date: 1904

Type: Solent One Design

Owner: Pelham Olive

Designer:	<i>Alfred Mylne</i>	Builder:	<i>J G Gay</i>
Construction:	<i>Carvel</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Gaff</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>19.81m / 11.58m</i>	Beam:	<i>3.3m</i>
Draft:	<i>2.34m</i>	Displacement:	<i>19.3 Tonnes</i>

History

KELPIE is a Solent One design, drawn by Alfred Mylne in 1903 as a day racer, all were slightly different, but designed to race as scratch boats against each other. Only eight of these boats were actually built.

The lines of KELPIE closely follow those of a 52 linear rater of the time with the scantlings similar to a First Rule 12. KELPIE was built in 1904 by JG Fay & Co Southampton, which became Camper & Nicholsons. She was re-rigged in 1923 to rate as a 12 metre and compete in that class, as 12 metres were still gaff rigged with an enormous spread of sail. KELPIE was reasonably successful for a year or two but was outclassed once the 12 metres moved to a Bermudan rig. Before the Second war, there was a fire at the boatyard where the Solent One designs were kept, and most of them were burnt. In the 60's KELPIE herself suffered from an internal fire during which much of her original interior was destroyed.

The boat was restored by Adrian Stone under the ownership of Brian Keelan about 25 years ago. At some stage a steel RSJ was inserted as a sort of keelson. A more substantial interior was fitted at this time as well, which weighed the boat down to well below her marks. Half a ton was taken off the back of the keel and another half-ton from the front in order to lighten her. However, when the current owner acquired her she still weighed circa 19tons compared with her designed weight of 17.5 tons. Some BCYC members will have seen KELPIE racing at Cowes in strong wind and have that a combination of low freeboard, overweight, and lightened keel resulted in KELPIE at times giving a very good impression of a submarine.