

# INFANTA



**Sail No:** 44  
**Launch Date:** 1947  
**Type:** Bermudan Yawl  
**Owner:** John Hall

<b>Designer:</b>	<i>Philip Rhodes</i>	<b>Builder:</b>	<i>Krestzer</i>
<b>Construction:</b>	<i>Carvel</i>	<b>Sail Plan:</b>	<i>Ketch</i>
<b>LOA/LWL:</b>	<i>15.5m / 9.8m</i>	<b>Beam:</b>	<i>3.6m</i>
<b>Draft:</b>	<i>2m</i>	<b>Displacement:</b>	<i>16 Tonnes</i>

## History

Infanta was commissioned by Houlter Hudgins, fleet captain of the Indian Harbour Y.C., Connecticut in 1947. She was named Infanta after the Spanish flagship of the Havana fleet. An "infanta" is a Spanish princess who will not accede to the throne. The admiral of the original battleship "INFANTA" was good friends with the owner's father. The story goes that on the night before going into battle during the Spanish American War, the admiral gave the ship's coat of arms to his friend. He also gave his friend, who was a budding news correspondent, information relating to the battle that would sink the battleship "INFANTA" on the following day. This launched the correspondent's career and recognition as a reporter. When his son had a yacht built, Infanta would be the name. So far not much is known of her history for the first 40 years.

She competed regularly with the iconic yachts of the day in races like the Bermuda Race, and was cruised by the Hudgens family from India Harbour. Houlter Hudgins died in the mid '50's, and for 25 years her history is indistinct. In the 1981 she was acquired in a very dilapidated state having been left ashore for some time. This owner did a lot of work including new keel bolts, floors, reframing with laminated frames, refastening, rebuilding the forward coach-roof, new hull ceiling and cabin sole and sailed her extensively. In 1991 she came into the ownership of the Pease Classic Charter Company Inc. based in Chatham MA, comprising a Chatham boat yard called Pease Boat Works and a family, who seem to have shared the task of looking after INFANTA for seventeen years, during which time there has been continued renewal and improvement including a new mainmast, decks and engine, adding to the status of this fine yacht.

Tim Blackman of the BCYC saw her advertised, and in late 2006, she was imported to the UK. After intensive restoration and remedial works in 2008/9 she competed in the 1st Transat Classique, racing from Brest to Agadir (Morocco) and across to St Barts. After cruising the Caribbean, she returned to Connecticut, visiting India Harbour YC where she received a heroes' welcome, and met again Bill Hudgins the son of the original owner, now 72 years old. She was sailed back to Cowes by September 2009. A new engine and mizzen mast were fitted. New owner from early 2012, John Hall, immediately continued to keep up and improve INFANTA, with a new suit of sails, and structural work to the planking ahead of taking her to compete in the Mediterranean.