

VENYA



Sail No: NW6
Launch Date: 1939
Type: 40sq Metre
Owner: Rufus Gilday

Designer:	<i>Jac Iverson</i>	Builder:	<i>Jac Iverson</i>
Construction:	<i>Pitch Pine</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Sloop</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>10.69m / 8.53m</i>	Beam:	<i>2.49m</i>
Draft:	<i>1.72m</i>	Displacement:	<i>6.5 Tonnes</i>

History

VENYA was built to the rule of the 40sq M Spidsgatter Klasse originally designed for the KNS in Oslo in 1938 by Jac Iverson. Various Norwegian builders built yachts within this restricted measurement rule. Interestingly the regs for the sail plan are brief and to the point "per 6M Class". Approximately twenty yachts were built in the class, at Sarpsborg, and at Skjeborg between 1939 and 1947. VENYA was the sixth built. She continued in family ownership until the mid-50's when she was bought, and shipped as deck cargo to Vancouver, where Fred Davies, a well-known Vancouver sailor, cruised the West Coast with his young family and raced in regattas in Vancouver. She ended up on Vancouver Island and went through a number of owners, one of whom continued the tradition by naming his daughter after his favourite yacht.

I discovered her in scruffy, but sound, condition at a Marina in Sidney on Vancouver Island in 1994 and, it was love at first sight. We bought her to cruise in the Gulf Islands during summer vacations and enjoyed several years of cruising before the yacht required a refit and had to be laid up. It was decided to ship her to the UK and after an epic journey by Canadian Pacific Rail from Vancouver to Montreal, and container ship to the Thames she arrived in Aldeburgh in November 2005.

There is no such word as speed in the world of wooden boat restoration. Relunched in December 2007, and fully fitted out during 2008, VENYA resides at Aldeburgh, during the summer, and winters afloat at Suffolk Yacht Harbour. In the summer we cruise the East Coast rivers and take part in the Classic Regattas at Suffolk and in Cowes. She is a much loved and still elegant lady who having turned heads in the Pacific Northwest is now still looking lovely, on the East Coast. Like her owner she is gently approaching, what we both hope, will be the prime of life.