

GULVAIN



Sail No: GBR260R
Launch Date: 1949
Type: One-Off
Owner: Chris Mannion

Designer:	<i>Laurent Giles</i>	Builder:	<i>Sussex Shipyard</i>
Construction:	<i>Aluminium</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Sloop cutter</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>16.5m / 13.10m</i>	Beam:	<i>3.5m</i>
Draft:	<i>2.85m</i>	Displacement:	<i>24 Tonnes</i>

History

GULVAIN was designed in 1948/9 as a radical new lightweight Class one offshore Ocean racer by Jack Laurent Giles (design 104). She built on his earlier designs, "Myth of Malham" in particular. Radically, she was constructed from Birmabright Aluminium alloy and designed to win North Sea and Ocean races as well as being a comfortable cruiser. She had radical ideas with a reverse shear and reverse transom, adding a high freeboard and lighter displacement. The reverse shear along with 6'6" freeboard forward lead to a very dry cockpit almost at the stern with a novel curved helmsman's seat.

GULVAIN's maiden race was the 1949 Cowes regatta. She joined a fleet of 68 on 17th July and went on to win Class 1 against Latifa, Bloodhound, Lara, Maid of Malham, and Ortact, beating Latifa the holder of the sustained world speed record in the racing/cruising class. She won her class and the King Edward VII Gold Cup. GULVAIN was shipped to America for the 1950 series and later raced on the east coast of America. John Tassos bought GULVAIN in 1964 and had her shipped to Greece where he raced and extensively cruised with her in the Aegean.

She was then bought by Robert Schyberg who restored her to be capable once again of winning major offshore races, but as a classic. In the 1991 Fastnet race she placed a respectable 2nd in class after a hiatus of 50 years, then cruised the Mediterranean before returning to Florida where she was club raced and cruised extensively by the Schyberg family.

I discovered GULVAIN covered in old tatty tarpaulins and algae on a swinging mooring at Roche Bernard in western France. Repatriation was achieved back to Suffolk where we now have a permanent berth at SYH following the rest of the summer on a swinging mooring. GULVAIN now races regularly in BCYC events with increasing success.