

SASKIA



Sail No: K26
Launch Date: 1931
Type: 8 Metre
Owner: Murdoch McKillop

Designer:	<i>William Fife</i>	Builder:	<i>William Fife</i>
Construction:	<i>Carvel</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Sloop</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>14.6m/9.5m</i>	Beam:	<i>2.6m</i>
Draft:	<i>2m</i>	Displacement:	<i>8.9 Tonnes</i>

History

Built as a Royal Northern Yacht Club challenge for the Seawanhaka Cup so very hotly contested at the time. She was shipped to Oyster Bay, New York in 1931 and she won. Saskia returned to Britain where she raced very successfully in the Solent. There were nine 8-Metres racing on the Solent at the time and eight on the Clyde. A sterling silver model of the boat now resides in the Royal Yacht Squadron. She was chosen to represent Britain in the Berlin Olympics of 1936, the sailing events being held at Kiel. It is rumoured that in Kiel, Hitler came aboard the German 8-Metre that was competing there and also visited Saskia, commenting unfavourably.

Saskia raced hard and in 1938 alone she competed in over 50 races during the season. Sir William Northam bought the yacht and shipped her to Sydney, Australia, in order to win back the Sayonara Cup from Melbourne, the most prestigious cup in Australian big boat racing since 1904. Saskia won the regatta in 1955 and remained in Sydney Harbour for the next 52 years. There is a magnificent silver model of SASKIA on the bar in the RSYS.

She was shipped to the UK in 2007 for the 8M worlds on the Clyde where she won the Sira Cup and went on to win her class at the Metre Centenary Regatta at Cowes. She was then sold and sent for restoration to full racing trim at a Portuguese yard. Her current owner, Scottish 8M enthusiast Murdoch McKillop, acquired her in 2011 and after a rude awakening during the windy 8M worlds at Cowes, sent her to Holland for a further major refit, including a stunning Sitka Spruce mast. The result was a clean sweep of the boards at Cowes in 2013 when she won the Metre class, IRC class 2 and overall best in Regatta. She now competes in major international events, and is admired as a beautifully restored and very quick example of these most beautiful 8 Metre yachts.