

KISMET



Sail No: K1898
Launch Date: 1898
Type: Gaff Cutter
Owner: Richard Matthews

Designer:	<i>William Fife III</i>	Builder:	<i>Fairlie Yard</i>
Construction:	<i>Carvel</i>	Sail Plan:	<i>Gaff</i>
LOA/LWL:	<i>16.9m / ?m</i>	Beam:	<i>3.09m</i>
Draft:	<i>2.22m</i>	Displacement:	<i>16 Tonnes</i>

History

KISMET is a 48ft gaff cutter designed and built by William Fife III in 1898. Decommissioned at the outbreak of WW2, KISMET spent over 60 years as a houseboat in a mud berth at West Mersea. During life as a houseboat KISMET had a shed on deck and her lead keel had presumably been removed and converted into ammunition.

KISMET was rescued from her mud berth in a derelict, near-wreck condition by Richard Matthews, who teamed up with Tollesbury boat builder Adrian Wombwell who undertook what became a four year project with a team of three other craftsmen to restore and re-commission KISMET. No drawings were available and David Cooper, a partner in the design firm of Holman & Pye, helped by recreating the ballast keel, rig, deck layout and interior detail.

Now beautifully restored and re-launched in 2009, KISMET participates in classic yacht regattas in the UK and the South of France. Now based in Lymington and under new ownership, she continues to provide exhilarating sailing to a new generation of owners.