

History of the yacht “Severn”

1912 Severn was one of ten Rivers Class Yachts built by William Crossfield and Sons in Arnside in 1912 for the River Mersey Yacht Club, at a cost of £50 each. All the boats are named after rivers.

The design of the boat is based on the Morecambe Bay Prawner, though at 23 feet long she is smaller than a prawner, which is around 35 feet long.

1914 Severn is thought to have sunk in a race at the end of July just days before the outbreak of World War I.

1927 She lay beneath the Mersey for 13 years and was rediscovered by a dredger. When the boat was raised to the surface it was in good condition with all equipment intact, except the sails. The Receiver of Wrecks sold the Severn to 25 year old Joe Wallace of West Cheshire Yacht Club for £25.

1970s By the 1970s Severn is recorded in Essex, firstly on the Thames Estuary at Leigh-on-Sea and then on the Roach Estuary south of Burnham-on-Crouch.

1986 Severn is mentioned in Jon Wainwright’s book “Only so many tides” written about Deva, one of Severn’s sister boats. Jon recounts taking part in a race in 1986 which also involved Severn.



1999 The Severn was taken to the River Medway in Kent.

2013 The Severn was taken back to Essex. She was in poor condition after several years of neglect, but was restored to a very high standard with the help of two professional shipwrights at Sutton Wharf Marina in Rochford Essex.

2018 Arnside Sailing Club purchased Severn in April 2018 for £5,500, with a grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund. She was brought back to Arnside by road.



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