



'During the early years of the International Rule, a yacht designer generally took about 100 hours on the design of a new Six Metre.'

Source: The Six Metre - 100 Years of Racing (Edited by Pekka Barck and Tim Street)

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Photo courtesy of Neil Rabinowits & Tony Griffin





William Fife III, known as 'The Younger', was the third member of his family to design and build yachts at the yard, started by his grandfather in 1907.

The Younger apprenticed and designed many successful yachts, including America's Cup challengers. It was after the First International Rating Rule in 1907 that he started to design and build successful Metre Rule yachts, which led to a huge demand for his boats. He built his first two Sixes for royalty!

After the Second International rule in 1911, his boats reigned supreme until 1934, with Fintra II and Saskia II among his last boats in this period. He was responsible for designing and/or building some sixty-two 6mRs.

(Source: 'THE SIX METRE - 100 YEARS OF RACING Pekka Barck & Tim Street)



Saskia II, KC 19, (1934)

Designer: William Fife III

Builder: Fairlie Yachts

Originally built for Sir A.S. Young to race in a very active fleet of 6mRs on the Clyde in Scotland, she represents the superb craftsmanship of the Fairlie builders at their peak. A testimony to the skills of the hardy men who produced these 'Stradivarius' of yachts, these boats are still being appreciated and revered.

Saskia II was chosen as part of the 1934 British team to compete in the British American Team Race Challenge in 1934 and was shipped to the US. She was not successful against the American 6mRs that were then starting to dominate the class. She found her way to the Northwest in the 50's where there was an active fleet. For a time she was the flagship of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

Discovered at anchor off Lasqueti Island in 2002 and rescued, she underwent a 3 year restoration to 'heritage classic' perfection, winning an award in 2005 for best restoration at the Victoria Wooden Boat Festival. After sailing in local waters for several years and in anticipation of sailing at a World Championship level, Saskia II underwent a minor refit. Modifications included revised running rigging, an aluminum mast and boom painted a light gold and contemporary sails. She remains a beautiful 6mR: sprung teak deck, Honduras mahogany combing, king plank and covering boards, with her original wood hull in white.

In September 2009 Saskia II was shipped back to Newport, Rhode Island for the ISMA World Championship, placing a very respectable 6th of 24 in a highly competitive fleet. In 2010 Saskia sailed in Port Townsend, Washington where she won the Olin J Stephens II trophy for Classic 6mR North Americans, and then travelled to Helsinki for the 2011 ISMA World Championship finishing in 13th spot. Saskia II continues as an active participant in local and Puget Sound regattas from her home in Vancouver.

She will be racing in the 2017 ISMA World Cup in Vancouver and is looking for a new owner to take her to victory in the Classic division.