

SEVERN 1912 – Rivers Class Yacht – a brief history



Key Statistics

Built 1912 Length Deck Level 23 ft (7.01m) Length Water Line 19 ft 6 in (5.94m)	Beam: 7 feet (2.13m) Draft: 3 feet (1.14m) Weight: 3.4 tonnes	Construction Wooden, carvel pitch pine planks on sawn oak frame and backbone. Rounded Nobby stern . Full keel	Rigg Gaff Rigged: Mainsail, two jibs
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The Rivers Class

The boats cost £50 each, with additional £12.7s for sails. (To build the boats today would cost around £20,000). Average yearly wage in 1912 was £67. All the boats were named after rivers. The design of the boats is based on the Fleetwood Jewel Class and is similar to a Morecambe Bay Prawner. The Rivers Class contract would have been a prestige job for William Crossfield as the Royal Mersey Yacht Club was one of the country's premier yacht clubs.

Her Story

Severn was launched in 1912. She was one of ten Rivers Class Yachts built by William Crossfields and Sons for the River Mersey Yacht Club. Her original name was Elwy, which was changed to Ribble in 1914.

She sank on an abandoned race on July 23rd 1914, just 12 days before Britain entered the First World War. The boat was rediscovered on the bed of the Mersey in 1927 raised to the surface and sold to Joe Wallace, a 24 year old for £25 and renamed Severn.

By the late 60s, Severn was in North Wales. Between the 1970s and 2018 she was kept on the East Coast in Essex and Kent.

In 2018 Severn was brought by Arnside Sailing Club for £5500 with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant.

Work started on her restoration in Autumn 2022 with the deck and cabin stripped off prior to reframing her.

Jump forward to 2026, and Severn has been meticulously restored by David Moss and will launch from Blackpool & Fleetwood Yacht Club on the 16th May.