

## ***Elizabethan 23 – Cara***

***Geraint Davies***



I bought Cara from a boatyard's overflow field in Itchenor. She was sitting on a trailer and looked like she'd been there some time. The story was that she was built in the 1970s, but not launched at all until 2013, and then sailed for only 1-2 seasons. The story seems likely to be true, as there are minimal internal features (no cooker, plumbing, seacocks, electrics etc), the standing and running rigging is all new, and the hull is in very good condition apart from the UV fading, with very few of the scrapes and dings that you'd expect after years of use. She has faded British Racing Green hull, and I have no sail number or serial number (unless there is some plate on the boat that I haven't discovered – if anyone can tell me how to find out more, I'd be happy to hear from you). Charles has been searching through his spreadsheet, and found a report of a green E23 in Bosham in 2012, which had never been launched, so that matches my story. He also mentioned that there was a problem with its keel. I assume this has been fixed, as it was sailed in 2013-14, the bilges are clean and dry, and the keel nuts have been painted.

Before launching in May, I spent some time tidying up the gel coat, and then used a cutting compound to bring out the shine in the hull. Apart from antifouling, and servicing the outboard and winches, there was very little else to do on the boat.



Cara has been repatriated from Itchenor to her birthplace at Lymington, where she now sits on a river mooring when not being sailed around the western Solent.

If anyone has any further information on Cara, please let me know.