

# WoodenBoat REVIEW

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## *The Six Metre— 100 Years of Racing*

*The Six Metre—100 Years of Racing*, by Pekka Barck and Tim Street. Bluewater Books and Charts, <[www.bluewaterweb.com/NauticalBooks](http://www.bluewaterweb.com/NauticalBooks)>. 220 pp., hardcover, \$140. ISBN 978-952-5045-31-4

Reviewed by Chris Museler

As a seventh grader in 1987, I distinctly recall the vision of a dozen Six-Meters tied like a quiver of arrows to a pier at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club. I had drooled over shiny maxi racers and new IOR 50-footers in my young life as a bowman, but the sight of these Sixes, so elegant yet ridiculously powerful, became a permanent fixture in my memory.

I did not know what it was about these boats that made them such an addictive attraction for me, especially since I had never sailed one. I was young and they were like candy.

It was probably this inspiration that drew me to TOTEM, the 1930 Luders Six I owned, raced, and cruised for four years with my wife, and the reason why, though I do not now own a boat, that I am heavily involved with organizing the class in New England. My only issue with owning TOTEM was that I couldn't decide if I enjoyed watching her sail more than sailing her. Watching the sinuous wave of her wake was almost better than sailing, as you could soak in the big picture.

It is no surprise then that I had butterflies in my stomach when I saw the nearly two-pound copy of Pekka Barck's and Tim Street's bible of the class, *The Six Metre—100 Years of Racing*. The vertical aerial shot of a bright-sided Six crashing through a wave and the shiny Six-Meter logo that began to appear in the light as I moved around it were drawing me in. I flipped to the chapter on yachts, and the opening pull quote summed up what I could not



previously describe and why most people, not just sailors, are inspired by these diminutive, peculiar works of art.

"The minute I saw SAGA, I fell in love with her. I thought she was the most beautiful boat I'd ever seen. I loved her shape, her sheer, her dainty transom, and her long, straight counter... It was terrible. All I could think of on the way back to the States were the lines of that darned boat. She literally haunted me." That quotation from Cornelius Shields accurately describes the basic appealing qualities of an International Six-Meter, and why, just over 100 years after the first one hit the water, the class is actually growing, albeit mainly with classic restorations.

The hardcover book itself is beautifully appointed with, as expected, pages upon pages of glossy, close-up shots of Six-Meters doing what they do best: sailing hard.