

La Bohème Sailing

Sailing

This is one of the great joys of owning a classic schooner.

La Bohème was of course designed and built to handle rough Baltic seas, famed for short steep swells and unpredictable weather.

Her hull is classic Swedish or fish form, wide and blunt at the stem, and tapering towards a relatively narrow stern.

This shape was regarded as providing the fastest cut-through in short steep seas.

Add to this her long, low working sail plan, and you have a vessel that can hold her canvas when others are forced to reef.

Without her commercial load of 30 tons of granite, she seems light, and jumps easily to a breeze.

Hers is a dry deck in seas that would normally see other helms coursing water.

Here are some of her many moods of sailing.

1. Leading the fleet, and the photograph used for a famous book of Swedish classics.



2. Powering through Force 5 under all working canvas to show her real speed



3. Motoring in to anchor in a quiet fjord



4. Powering along under a brisk offshore morning breeze heading for sea



5. Picking up the early afternoon sea breeze and will soon overtake the trading ketch



6. Showing her swan-like grace as she moves under just a modicum of breeze, looking magnificent in afternoon light



7. As others heel under the wind load, La Bohème retains her optimum balance to ensure her speed



8. Force 4 and barely heeled under full sail



9. Gleaming new sails filled with late afternoon light



10. A classic encounter of almost equals. The black vessel is a Danish-inspired galeass - a ketch with enlarged mizzen.

