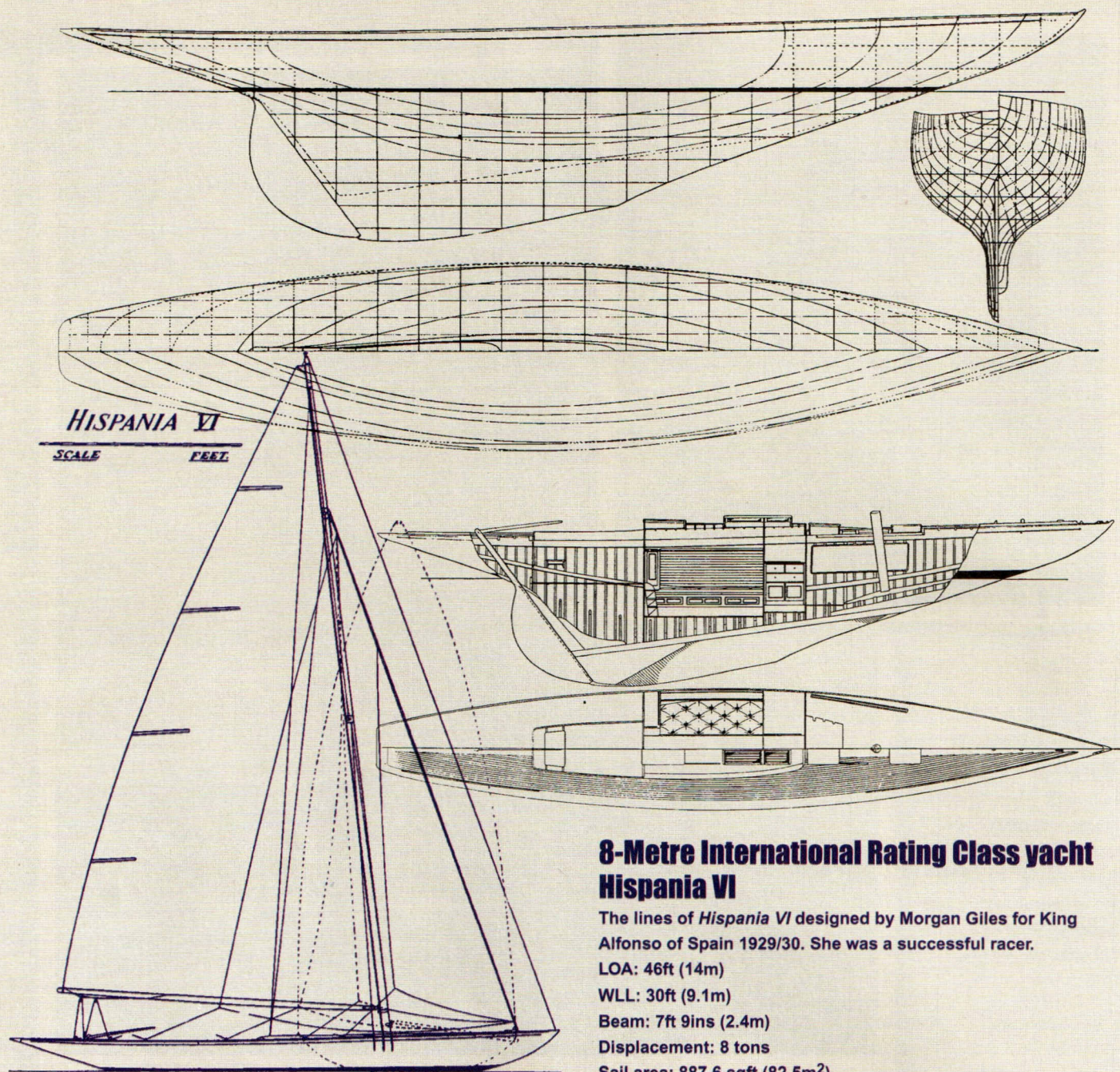




8-Metre International Rating Class yacht *Hispania VI*

The lines of *Hispania VI* designed by Morgan Giles for King Alfonso of Spain 1929/30. She was a successful racer.

LOA: 46ft (14m)

WLL: 30ft (9.1m)

Beam: 7ft 9ins (2.4m)

Displacement: 8 tons

Sail area: 887.6 sqft (82.5m²)

Morgan Giles Ltd before entering and winning the first Fastnet Race in 1925. But Giles had little interest in this form of racing and preferred the inshore classes, persevering with the 6-Metre *Dana* and a second 8-Metre named *Siris II* in 1927.

Of the many IR racing yachts designed by Giles, the 8-Metre *Hispania VI* was, perhaps, the most appealing. She was built for the Spanish King Alfonso who owned a succession of racers between 15-Metre and 6-Metre rating, each named *Hispania*. These yachts were usually designed and sometimes also built and partially manned from Britain, so when Giles received the commission he no doubt felt he had reached a peak in his career.

Newly launched, *Hispania VI* raced at the three-day Bembridge Sailing Club regatta in July with King Alfonso at the tiller. But racing was dominated by the new *Cutty*, designed and built for Capt Dowman by Camper & Nicholson and sailed by Capt RT Dixon who had owned Giles' *Jonquil*. The royal cutter *Britannia* graced the anchorage off Bembridge in honour of King Alfonso and no doubt Giles was present. On the third day in a fleet of nine 8-Metres, *Hispania VI* finished second and the King went home pleased with his new racer but unfortunately was soon after deposed in a revolution.

Giles had continued to design and race 14-footers, trying to retain the basic seaworthiness from the earlier boats. But by the late 1920s his boats were being challenged in performance by the creations of the young Cowes boatbuilder Uffa Fox and his right-hand-man Bill Waight. Feelings regarding the merits of the older style Morgan Giles boats and the often extreme Fox boats ran high. The argument erupted in print with Fox challenging Giles to a race over an open sea course. Giles declined.

By 1931 the Prince of Wales Cup for 14ft International dinghies was well established as a premier sailing event raced that year at Ryde. Giles sailed the course between Ryde Pier and Wootton Creek with his son Michael as crew in *Catherine*. It was a hotly contested affair and on the last long run for the line *Catherine* swept past *Swift* to win the Prince of Wales Cup by six seconds, capsizing immediately afterwards.

Perhaps because of his design of the *Hispania VI*, Giles was asked in 1932 to prepare a design for a 12-Metre IR Class yacht. This was the largest racer he would design and *Devonia*, as she was to be called, was potentially a fast yacht. Unfortunately, the prospective owner became ill before the yacht was ordered and she was not built, so Giles never broke into the 12-Metre class.