

The Grand Sturdy series is generally considered to be the most successful series of motor yachts built in the Netherlands in the past decade. These boats have proved to be a reliable acquisition for all owners. Right from the start, they meet the considerable demands that the family firm of Linssen has been imposing for years on end: reliability, solidity, high quality and a constant aim to produce only the best, and in accordance with state-of-the-art technology.



Quality means value retention

...as the Sander's been proving for almost 40 years

TEXT AND PHOTOS THOMAS LACH

Our customers have always valued the above qualities and together with us they have made Linssen Yachts what it is today.

And what's great is that we now have a special opportunity



“...1976; the new Linssen line: the St. Jozefvlet 10.50...”

to highlight the fantastic history of our boats! The boat where the Linssen Sturdy era started in 1975, the mother of all Sturdys and our own number 1, can be admired once more!

A yacht in tip-top condition

But we don't just want to tell the remarkable story of a particular boat, we also wish to reveal what the Linssen brand stands for: sustainable value retention that is guaranteed for decades. And that is evidenced by the fact that the boat that returned to the Linssen marina after a long period in August 2010 did not resemble a worn-out wreck in any way. It shone like a yacht in tip-top condition and had changed

hands only once.

In 1975, Mr Wagemans from Schinnen issued an official assignment for the construction of the first vessel within the new Linssen series. The requirements of this customer were so high in every respect that the young boatyard director Jos Linssen wasn't sure how he could meet them. But that is the fate of a boat builder, you never stop learning. In the case of this design, a two-component coating had to be used, that had only just come on to the market at that time. The result was that the hull was lowered into the water unsprayed so that it could be taken to another company for sand blasting treatment, which already knew at that time how to perform such complex work.

In the course of time, Linssen made huge investments in its own cleaning and spraying booths, which may be considered some of the most advanced coating and preservation equipment in the entire yacht-building sector.

And it's no coincidence that this is still the basis for Linssen's best spaying procedure. It is sometimes alleged (in jest) that if you were to remove all the steel from a completed Linssen, you would still have a floating hull. After the interior had been finished in 1976 in accordance with the tried and tested quality standards, the boat was ready in April of that year and was christened with the name 'SANDER'.

The Wagemans retained the boat until 2008 and in that time they had only regular maintenance performed. Drastic refits or renovations were unnecessary. For decades, the original quality was maintained. In 2008, the Lach family from Mönchengladbach in Germany acquired the Sander and took the boat to the Province of Zeeland. That was exactly the same place where Mr Wagemans made his first voyage in 1976 to view the Delta dam constructions works from the water.

'Grande Dame'

The Lach couple enthusiastically used the boat often, and it also gave their three daughters and their dog Lucy a great deal of enjoyment. After all, as an ageing 'grande dame', she always provided a safe and solid feeling, which is hardly surprising given that it was a Linssen! For years, the family had owned various sailing boats in the Province of Zeeland, but it was convinced of the quality and character of the reliable motor yacht right from the beginning. Even in the prestigious Port Zélande marina, the grande dame always cut a good figure and was a real eye-catcher. "Nobody believed us when we said how old our boat was", says owner Thomas Lach.

In the winter of 2009, extensive inspection and maintenance work was planned for the boat, but this work turned out to be entirely unnecessary. The engine, with about 4,000 operating hours, was in perfect condition and thanks to the efforts of both owners, all equipment was state of the art.

The boat's coating even consisted of the original layer, which was also in top condition. All the boat needed was polishing and waxing! All stainless steel parts also looked as good as new. "When we heard that it was a pleasant surprise," Thomas Lach explains, "because we had prepared ourselves for an expensive and long winter full of odd jobs."

But why say farewell to a boat with so much history after only two years? That is what we wanted to ask owners Thomas and Andrea Lach, both 43 and therefore remarkably young Linssen customers.

We could have guessed the answer: the old Sturdy is and will always be a splendid boat, but despite the fact that she's fairly large (approximately 35 feet), she has become too small for five people. "We have had an eye on the 33.9 for some time, but the price for a new model put us off at first", Thomas Lach reveals.

Once a Linssen, always a Linssen

"When we were at the Linssen showroom in Maasbracht in June 2010, we came into contact with Fred Spadlo, who with

his unrivalled talent and the enthusiasm typical of the Linssen team, drew our attention to a used boat. We were quickly convinced and the deal was soon done. We never considered buying another make of yacht. After all, as far as we are concerned: once a Linssen, always a Linssen. And that's how we acquired the 33.9 Cloud 9, with only 80 operating hours, from the Every family from the UK."

"When we signed the purchase agreement, we had to smile and think of Mr Wagemans. He was about our age when he had the Sander built, and he handed over the original agreement together with the boat. I imagined that I would be over 70 if I were to hand that agreement to someone else", says Thomas Lach. "That's something the new owner will experience too, I'm convinced of it!"

When in August both boats were moored next to one another, we were trying to judge which of the two was the most beautiful", says Andrea Lach. "And unfortunately for the Linssen family, we decided it was the older boat. It will always be a timeless classic!"

Life goes on, even for a real classic

The third owner will be a Swiss businessman who was enticed by the long history of this Sturdy when looking for a steel yacht. So it's very likely that we will see the first of the Linssen Sturdy series sailing the canals of central and southern Europe. We will continue to follow the story of this exceptional boat very carefully.

What we really wish to say is that true quality will never go out of fashion. And certainly not if it continues to retain its value in comparison with competing brands.

As it happens, the market value of this boat is in excess of 80,000 euros. If you compare this with the purchase price in 1976 of just over one hundred thousand Dutch guilders, the investment has even been repaid with interest.

So as we have said many times before:

"We take your pleasure seriously"!



"...Anno 1975..."

