



THE INTERNATIONAL EIGHT METRE ASSOCIATION

## Eight Bells Per Wermelin

Stockholm - April 5<sup>th</sup> – 2016

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Per Wermelin passed away.

Unquestionable Per was the primus inter pares of the Swedish Int. 8-Metres. In the archipelago of Stockholm, Per and the Nilsson brothers owned the legendary Djurö Båtvärv which became the home of most Int. 8-Metres in Sweden. In the early seventies the lineup of boats at the yard was knick-named “the rotting row” but over time, with passionate dedication, the boats were all restored and returned to starting line. Per had a canning ability to find the prettiest and fastest boats and making his yard their home, in this he played a pivotal role in the development of our class.

When it came to projects, Per’s ideas were never far from huge, never far from extraordinary and never far from impossible. But Per wouldn’t have it any other way and anyhow, he didn’t have too many friends who got excited about navigating chartered waters either, everyone counted on Per as the ultimate cure against boredom.

He was the quintessential master of self-fulfilling prophecies. Lifting long lost yachts like Alba from the bottom of the sea and restoring them. His vision to build the wonderful classic yacht centre Nya Djurgårdsvarvet in Stockholm was recognized by H.M. King Carl Gustav with a medal of honor.

In sailing he combined true seamanship with a fiercely competitive spirit which made him World Champion 1978, 1987 and 1992. He was part of the 1977 America’s Cup Challenge with Sverige and he probably owned more metre boats than any person in the history of yachting. But most of all, Per was a promotor; He introduced the youth around Stockholm to sailing big boats.

He is no longer with us, but what a joy it has been to sail with Per, what a privilege it was to have him as a friend. Sail on dear Per, sail on.

John Lammerts van Bueren  
President IEMA