Towards the end of the 00ties, French naval architect Jean Marie Vidal promoted a new box rule for short-handed racing, La Classe 9.50, to slot in between the Mini 6.50 and the Open 40, but to be, above all, affordable, so no canting keels and some limitations on materials were imposed.

The class never really took off, perhaps because 9.5m ≈ 30ft and there already was an Open 30 rule (without restrictions). Nevertheless, a plethora of builders tried their hand in the class – Akilaria, Tocatec, Dingo (all France) Bedard, Didi (both US), SailLab (Slovenia), Acyd (Italy), Dibley (NZ), and Arctic Composite AB of Sweden. Arctic’s design was the Fox 9.50, and almost immediately after her IRL launch in 2008, she was inducted into the SOL boathouse. She is a nippy little thing, and one wonders why SOL hasn’t take her out more.

**Racelist**