

SPECTACULAR PARADE AND A GREAT FIRST RACE OPEN PANERAI BRITISH CLASSIC WEEK 2016

17 JULY 2016 – The opening day of Panerai British Classic Week 2016 featured a spectacular Parade of Yachts in which Jonathan Perry, Rear Commodore Yachting of the Royal Yacht Squadron, took the salute as the yachts streamed past the Royal Yacht Squadron. The programme required the yachts to form up in their classes and motor in line past the Squadron, which almost all of the 61 entries did. The only exception was the nine metre gaff yawl *Cormorant*, who at 105-years young and in “as original” condition does not have an engine so took part under sail.



With the Parade over it was down to the serious business of yacht racing and Royal Yacht Squadron Racing sent the fleet off down tide into the Western Solent for a lovely round the cans race in a west-south-westerly which gradually built from around 6 to just over 10 knots.



First off the line were the International 6 Metres. Robin Richardson's Modern 6 St Kitts, which was built by the Elephant Boatyard to an Ian Howlett design and won the Seawanhaka 6 Metre World Cup on her first outing in 1987, is still regarded as one of the fastest Sixes in the World and lived up to that reputation by winning her class by nine minutes from Thistle, the 1947 David Boyd designed Classic built by Alex Robertson on the Gareloch and owned by Tom Richardson, owner of the Elephant Boat Yard. Third place went to Jonathan Brech's Maida.

Murdoch McKillop's 1931 William Fife designed Saskia, which represented Britain in the 1936 Kiel Olympics, got a terrific start in the 8 Metre Class and went on to win by over four minutes from David Myatt's 1949 Bjarne Aas designed Erica, which won the Sayonara Cup in 1953. Peter Wilson's 1929 built If took third place.



It was a case of David v Goliath in Class 1 for the Modern Classics, where the diminutive Strega, a Spirit 37, showed the way to win by over two minutes from Sean McMillan's Flight of Ufford with David Grylls' Helen of Durgan third. Back ashore Sandy Fielding, who co-owns Strega with Martin Whittle, was delighted with their result. "We had a great day. Usually the bigger Spirits get away from us, but for once the tidal gates worked in our favour, so much so that we didn't want it to end."

Giovanni Belgrano's 1939 Laurent Giles designed sloop Whooper won this event overall in 2014 and declared her intentions for this week by winning Class 2's opening race from Gildas Rostain's Volonte, a 1968 RORC One-Ton Sloop designed by Olin Stephens. Third place went to Lawrence Wride's 1967 Sparkman & Stephens RORC One-Tonner Sunmaid V, whose various claims to fame include being the yacht on which the legendary Owen Parker developed twin pole gybing.



Michael Briggs' 1904 William Fife cutter Mikado sailed exceptionally well to win Class 3 by over four minutes from Andrew and Mary Hales 1950 eight Metre cruiser/racer Freyja, with Martin Thomas' Charm of Rhu third. Class 3 also includes a special race within a race featuring three matched 1959 Morgan Giles Bermudan sloops, Leopard, Pegasus and Gryphis, which have been chartered for the event by The Classic Yacht Association of Australia (Leopard and Pegasus) and the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand (Gryphis). Today Leopard finished fourth in class to lead their group with Pegasus fifth and Gryphis eighth – a very good performance from three crews who had never even seen their boats before this regatta.

In Class 4 the two smallest boats in the fleet, Liz and Mark Rushall's Ragdoll, a 1950 Balfour designed Honey Bee, and John Mulcahy's Estrella, a lovely example of one of Kim Holman's Stella Class, both got terrific starts with Ragdoll leading the fleet off down the Solent. Both sailed well but ultimately they struggled to save their time in the light conditions with Ragdoll finishing fifth and Estrella third. Victory went to Jonathan & Scilla Dyke's pretty 1938

Robert Clark 10 Tonner, with Robert Veale's 1958 David Cheverton Bermudan Sloop Danegeld second.



Tomorrow's racing is sponsored by EFG and the original schedule was for the Around The Island Race to start at 08.00, however the forecast is for very light winds making this impractical. Instead racing will not begin before 13.00 with the Race Committee planning a long Solent race instead. Looking ahead the forecast for the rest of the week is not conducive to running the Around The Island on an alternate day, so that race will not take place this year and is replaced by tomorrow's Solent race.

News, results and photographs from Paneraï British Classic Week will be posted at the regatta website www.britishclassicyachtclub.org/regatta. Those wishing to receive additional information should contact Mary Scott-Jackson on mary@msjevents.co.uk.



Regatta enquiries should be directed to:

Mary Scott-Jackson

MSJ Events

Regatta House, 18 Bath Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7QN

mary@msjevents.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 1983 245 100

Mob: +44 (0) 7790 770 526

Press enquiries should be directed to:

Fiona Brown

Regatta Press Officer

Fiona.brown@fionabrown.com

Mob: +44 (0)7711 718470

Panerai UK Press Office:

Marie Huth / Jakob Huth

Sidhu & Simon Communications

marie@sidhuandsimon.com

Jakob@sidhuandsimon.com

T: +44 (0) 207 629 3599

NOTES TO EDITORS

THE BRITISH CLASSIC YACHT CLUB

The British Classic Yacht Club was formed in 2001 to provide a congenial environment for owners and other classic yacht enthusiasts to share experiences and enjoy each other's company. Affiliated to the RYA, the BCYC strives to represent the interests of classic yacht owners and has developed good relationships with many leading yacht clubs in the UK and abroad. The officers of the BCYC are actively involved in both national and international discussions about the future development of classic yachting.

The membership of the BCYC now consists of more than eighty boats. In addition to the Club's flagship annual regatta held in Cowes each July, the Club also organises a full programme of other racing, cruising and social activities in the Solent and on the East Coast, and supports the popular East Coast Classic Regatta in early June. BCYC yachts also participate in many important sailing events, including classic regattas in the Channel, Mediterranean and West Indies.

www.britishclassicyachtclub.org

OFFICINE PANERAI

Founded in Florence in 1860 as a workshop, shop and school of watch-making, for many decades Officine Panerai supplied the Italian Navy in general, and its specialist diving corps in particular, with precision instruments. The designs developed by Panerai in that time, including the Luminor and Radiomir, were covered by the Military Secrets Act for many years and were launched on the international market only after the brand was acquired by the Richemont Group in 1997. Today Officine Panerai develops and crafts its movements and watches at its



Neuchâtel manufacture. The latter are a seamless melding of Italian design flair and history with Swiss horological expertise. Panerai watches are sold across the world through an exclusive network of distributors and Panerai boutiques. www.panerai.com

PANERAI CLASSIC YACHTS CHALLENGE

In honour of its historic links to the sea, Officine Panerai has promoted classic sailing culture for many years through its sponsorship of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge, the leading international circuit for these vintage craft. In 2007, the company also acquired and restored the Bermudan ketch Eilean. Built in 1936 by the legendary Fife yard at Fairlie in Scotland, she is now the brand's ambassador at vintage and classic boat rallies and regattas.

www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com

www.youtube.com/pcyofficial

www.eilean.it