

## LIGHTER AIRS AND LOVELY LADIES ON DAY FOUR OF PANERAI BRITISH CLASSIC WEEK 2017

**12 July 2017** – The sun returned on day three of Panerai British Classic Week where the fleets completed race five of the series, followed by the traditional Ladies Race. Not only had the sun reappeared, but the wind had moderated too and racing took place in a much more manageable, if rather shifty, northerly breeze of 10 to 15 knots. After the strong winds of the last two days the chance to shed oilskins, soak up the sun and enjoy the scenery was much enjoyed by everyone.



Class 3 continues to be the most closely fought of the regatta. Today Michael Briggs' Mikado beat second placed Cereste, owned by Jonathan and Scilla Dyke, by over four minutes. Cereste in turn beat third place Laughing Gull, owned by Barney Sandeman, by just four seconds, so that in the overall standings Cereste leads Mikado by two points with Tim Yetman's Suvretta in third.

Andrew Pearson's Bojar finally managed to break the stranglehold of Giovanni Belgrano's Whooper on Class 2, beating her into second place by a minute and twenty-four seconds. David Murrin's Cetewayo came third by thirteen seconds. Whooper continues to lead Class 2 by a very comfortable fourteen-point margin, but

the fight for second and third is a close one with Gildas Rostain's Volonte on twenty points, Bojar on twenty-two points, Brian Smullen's Cuilaun on twenty-nine and Cetewayo on thirty.



Back ashore, Andrew Pearson talked through the race, "We had a really interesting day, with a complicated start across the Squadron line, and they all peeled off down the Island shore. We took a flyer to the other side, hoping we could set a kite, but by the time we got there, there wasn't enough wind, so we were 8th or 9th at the first mark. From there we crawled our way back to 2<sup>nd</sup> on the water, 20 seconds behind Cetewayo, which gave us the win on handicap because we rate lower than she does. Whooper followed us in but we'd saved our time, so we've had a 1st, a 2nd and a 3rd in the last three races.

Asked what gave him the advantage over Whooper Andrew replied, "Three things: one, we've got a very large symmetric kite, and if we get that right we can fly it dead downwind and we're as fast as anyone doing that. Secondly we had a tide break around the last mark. Finally, Whooper often has an enormous advantage over all of us with her drop keel so she can sail in much shallower water, but today's course didn't give them that advantage."

Irvine Laidlaw's *Oui Fling* took her fourth bullet of the regatta and now leads Class 1 by four points from Sean McMillan's *Flight of Ufford*, who had finished second in the race. Michael Hough's *Chloe Giselle* beat David Gryll's *Helen of Durgan* in race five, but in the overall standings *Helen of Durgan* now lies third and *Chloe Giselle* fourth.



The battle between Richard Matthew's *Scorpio* and Simon Payne's *Damian B* continues to rage in Class 4. The lighter conditions worked in *Scorpio*'s favour and she beat *Damian B* by almost two minutes with John Mulcahy's *Estrella* third. Overall *Scorpio* has regained the lead by three points from *Damian B*, with *Estrella* and Rufus Gilday's *Venya* tied for third.

The Metre boats very much appreciated the lighter conditions and both fleets were back out in force. In the 6 Metres Robin Richardson and his team aboard *St Kitts* beat Fenton Burgin's *Sioma* by just twenty-nine seconds with Tom Richardson's *Thistle* third. In the overall standings *Sioma*'s lead has now been reduced to a single point from *Thistle* with *St Kitts* third.

In the 8 Metres it initially appeared that Murdoch McKillop's *Saskia* had won race five from the Earl of Cork and Orrery and David Parson's *Athena* with Christopher Courage's *Helen* third. However, on returning ashore *Saskia* elected to retire following an on the water incident and so the race went to *Athena* with *Helen*

second. Despite her retirement Saskia continues to lead the regatta, but her delta is reduced to a single point. Both Helen and Athena count ten points so it's clear this class is going to go down to the wire as we go into the final two days of the regatta.



With the series racing complete for the day, it was the turn of the ladies to take the helm for the traditional Panerai British Classic Week Ladies' Race. A building spring ebb meant the race committee kept the fleet close to Cowes for some furious short course racing. With midwife Rosie Parks on the helm, ably supported by Christine Belgrano, Mia Austen, Emma Cheesham, Giovanni Belgrano and Crawford, Whooper once again proved she's a winner.

Speaking in the Panerai Lounge and clutching the Ladies Day Trophy, made by Isle of Wight based Sculptglass, Rosie paid tribute to her crew. "Today went really well! We had a brilliant start, my backing crew of Crawford and Gio made very, very good decisions and guided me around the race track and we got across the line first."

This evening the participants are enjoying a BBQ and Crew Party at Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club. Tomorrow will feature the Long Inshore Race sponsored by Classic Boat and the rescheduled Open Boats Pontoon Party sponsored by Spirit Yachts and Classic Boat.



Full results and further information about Panerai British Classic Week can be found on the regatta website <http://www.britishclassicyachtclub.org/regatta/index.html>. Those wishing to receive additional information should contact Mary Scott-Jackson on [mary@msjevents.co.uk](mailto:mary@msjevents.co.uk).

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## 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](http://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.

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### **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](http://www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com)

[www.facebook.com/PaneraiClassicYachtsChallenge](https://www.facebook.com/PaneraiClassicYachtsChallenge)

[www.youtube.com/pcycofficial](https://www.youtube.com/pcycofficial)

[www.eilean.it](http://www.eilean.it)

The Panerai Guide to Classic Yachts is available for download at:

[www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com/panerai-guideto-classic-yachts/](http://www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com/panerai-guideto-classic-yachts/)