

GIOVANNI BELGRANO'S WHOOPER WINS PANERAI BRITISH CLASSIC WEEK 2017

14 July 2017 – The yachts enjoyed one final elegant sashay around the Central Solent to complete Panerai British Classic Week today. The 6 and 8 Metres started separately, but Classes 1 to 4 came together on the Royal Yacht Squadron line for their final massed start. The course kept the boats close to Cowes, and with plenty of mark roundings and short legs, it was an exciting culmination to a wonderful week. Although many of the individual classes had already been decided, the overall winner of the regatta was still hanging in the balance so there was plenty to race for.



Racing is an important part of the regatta, but it is by no means the sole focus. The event brings together classic yachts and those who love them from across the UK and Europe, and from as far afield as Australia. The furthest travelled team at this year's event was led by Martin Ryan of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, who was making his second appearance at the regatta and this year sailed the 1934 William Fife 6 Metre Melita. "We came last year and loved it. To be back and now sailing

Melita is a joy. The yachts are stunning, it's a fabulous regatta and we can't wait to come back."

Socialising is also a vital part of Panerai British Classic Week and the regatta concluded with one final afternoon of hospitality in the Panerai Lounge, followed by the spectacular Panerai British Classic Week Prize Giving Dinner and Dance in the Haven Events Centre.



The British Classic Yacht Club's motto is *Per Ardua ad Marum* (Through hard work to the Seas) and the restoration and maintenance of these individual pieces of yachting history certainly takes a lot of very hard work. To recognise this a new *Concours d'Elegance* trophy category has been introduced. A blue ribbon panel of judges, headed by Rob Peake, editor of *Classic Boat*, gave each yacht a detailed inspection and after careful deliberation the inaugural winners were announced.

The *Cetewayo Cup* for the Best Professionally Maintained yacht was won by Michael Briggs' 1904 Fife 30 Linear Rater *Mikado* for her Edwardian originality and period interior, faithfully kept 113 years later. The *Droleen II Trophy* for the Best Owner Prepared yacht went to the 1952 William Fife fractional Bermudan sloop *Nyachilwa* owned by Graham Dallas, a rare family Fife kept in faithful condition by the owners. And the *Per Ardua Ad Mare Trophy*, for the Overall Winner, was

presented to Cuilan, a 1969 George McGruer ketch which has been owned by Brian Smullen for all of her 48 years, and is still as handsome as the day she was launched.



Paul Spooner's lovely little 1934 George Holmes 34' gaff yawl Snippet, won both the Brian Keelan Memorial Trophy for the first gaffer and the Seamanship Award donated by Classic Boat, for sheer determination in taking on the big boys!

Philippe de Saint Lager of Panerai then took to the stage to present the overall prizes. Irvine Laidlaw's Spirit 52 Oui Fling won the Lutine Cup for Class 1. Giovanni Belgrano's 1939 Laurent Giles sloop Whooper won the Corinthian Cup for Class 2. Michael Brigg's 1904 Fife Mikado won the Commodore's Cup for Class 3. Richard Matthews' 1963 Stella Scorpio won the Cereste Trophy for Class 4. Fenton Burgin's 1926 Anker & Jensen Sioma won the Event Trophy for the 6 Metres and Murdoch McKillop's 1931 William Fife III Saskia won the Universal 8 Cup and the International Metre Trophy for the 8 Metres. In addition, each of the class winners was presented with a Panerai Plate.

Finally, the overall trophies were presented. The EFG International Trophy for third overall was presented to Richard Matthews' Scorpio and the Flight Trophy for second overall went to Irvine Laidlaw's Oui Fling. But the loudest cheers of the

evening came as Giovanni Belgrano and his crew of Whooper came forward to claim the BCYC Racing Trophy and a Panerai Luminor Marina Automatic Acciaio – 44mm watch.



Panerai British Classic Week 2018 will take place from 14 to 21 July. 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.

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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

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

www.facebook.com/PaneraiClassicYachtsChallenge

www.youtube.com/pcycofficial

www.eilean.it

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

www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com/panerai-guideto-classic-yachts/