



Press Release, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

## **Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy 2023: a classic for classics.**

*Organizers are setting up to welcome crews and boats lining up for the 12th edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy on October 5th, at the Voiles de Saint Tropez*

*Back in 2011 the Gstaad Yacht Club launched a regatta, unique in its genre, reserved to boats that are one hundred or more years old, and over the years, the Centenary Trophy has grown to become a familiar “rendez-vous” at the Voiles de Saint Tropez.*

*“The Gstaad Yacht Club was founded in 1998 by a group of sailor enthusiasts with the vision to “create a unique global yacht club away from the waters, instead of another local club by the waters.” With sailing projects on all levels from juniors to professional sailors and the launch of the Centenary Trophy regatta in 2011 it has become a key actor on the Swiss sailing scene and in classic yachting. “I’ve just visited my friend Pierre Roinson, President of the SNST and it’s with great pleasure and sure to have fun that we come back every year to admire these magnificent boats. this 12<sup>th</sup> edition will be no different. Plus, the GYC is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as do the Voiles de Saint Tropez, so the occasion is just perfect.” Declared **Manrico Iachia**, Commodore of the Gstaad Yacht Club.*

The Centenary Trophy is raced in a pursuit format with staggered starts, that has proved extremely attractive for the sailors and the public alike over the years, using a specially created and constantly refined handicap system, allowing very different boats in size and rig to compete on equal terms.

As explains one of the most enthusiastic international ambassadors of the regatta, French skipper and classic yachting lover **Bruno Troublé**: *“I’ve taken part in the Centenary Trophy many times, and it’s fantastic! The concept is absolutely brilliant because the boat’s handicap is taken into account at the start and not at the finish, which changes everything. You know when you cross the finish line who the winner is. I have a particular fondness for this regatta organised by the Gstaad Yacht Club, which I won aboard the ClassP Olympian (1910). It’s a really great event!”*

After a most successful 11<sup>th</sup> edition in 2022, the regatta will be back this year with the usual mix of aficionados and newcomers, as well as many of the past winners of the Trophy, like last year champion **Kismet** (1898). On the starting line just off Saint Tropez, there will also be two boats that have participated eight times to the regatta and will score a record ninth time: the gaff ketch **Veronique** (1907) and 2021 winner **Olympian** (1913), one of the three P-Class gaff cutters that race regularly in the Med.

This year’s “rookie” will be right on time, having turned centenarian in 2023. Italian flagged **Barbara** is a Marconi yawl designed in 1923 by Charles Ernest Nicholson and built at Camper & Nicholson’s shipyard in Gosport, UK.

*“I don’t feel like the owner,” says Florentine **Roberto Olivieri** “but rather the guardian of this jewel to be known and passed on to future generations. It is the first time that we will take part in the Centenary Trophy. We are very impressed by the welcoming reception and the impeccable organization of Gstaad Yacht Club. I love the innovative formula of racing with staggered starts and the finish in real time. We are very happy to be lining up for it, and I hope in the next years to have all the centenarians in the same location, that will make for an amazing floating museum. These boats have a soul that can be better understood by seeing them”.*

Besides being a regular feature on classic yachts events, in recent years Barbara has also been promoting social initiatives and environmental sustainability, to the likes of the (Re) inspiration project about cystic fibrosis, and the the Frisbi Energia project, for the reduction of plastic and a conscious use of renewable energy.

Organizers are also working on the social activities ashore, to make sure the Centenary Trophy is fun too. On the menu a Swiss Night, at the Renaissance Cinéma in the historic Place des Lices on Wednesday where the Centenary Crew members will have the chance to taste the specialties from the Alps but also put their abilities to the test in a very Swiss activity...

#### **Past winners of the Centenary Trophy:**

2011: Bonafide (1899)

2012: Marigold (1892)

2013: Due to unfavourable weather conditions, the race could not take place, and the trophy was not awarded.

2014: Olympian (1913)

2015: Oriole (1905)

2016: Spartan (1913)

2017: Tilly XV (1912)

2018: Tilly XV (1912)

2019: Olympian (1913)

2021: Olympian (1913)

2022: Kismet (1898)



#### **The Centenarian Award**

The Centenarian of the Year Award, organised by Classic Boat magazine and the Gstaad Yacht Club, was launched in 2017. Any boat of 100 years or more, which is still sailed in a largely authentic way, is eligible. The independent panel of judges considers any kind of sail boat, including cruising boats, race yachts and former work boats. Each boat should have achieved something significant in the past year, be it a long cruise, a race win, a major restoration or something else noteworthy. The winner is announced at the annual Classic Boat Awards, held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in London, and awarded with a Sterling Silver Cup, sponsored by Robbe & Berking Silver manufacturer. You may view the 2023 Centenarian Award nominees here

#### **Editor's notes:**

The Gstaad Yacht Club, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary yesterday, was founded in 1998 by a group of passionate sailors with a mission to "create a unique and global yacht club away from the water, rather than another local yacht club by the sea." Based in the Swiss Alps, the Gstaad Yacht Club boasts 400 members from over 30 different countries. Members and their guests enjoy gathering there.

The GYC supports sailing projects at all levels, from junior sailors to professionals. The club has become a strong force in the Swiss and international sailing scene, particularly in Olympic sailing and classic yachts.

#### **The Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez**

The Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez With over 600 members and organizing around fifteen events, including Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez, the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez is one of the oldest clubs in France, with origins dating back to 1862. Since 2015, the merger of the sailing clubs in Saint-Tropez has expanded horizons. Located in two magnificent places, the club encompasses several water activity centres: sailing competitions, a sailing school, and the Powerboat Hub...

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