



NY50 Spartan wins Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy 2023

The American Flagged New York 50 Spartan, wins the 12th edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy, at the Voiles de Saint Tropez, scoring a double after her previous victory in 2016

With one of the highest participation figures in its history, 23 yachts, the 12th edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy, will be remembered for the breathtaking finale between US Charlie Ryan's Spartan and P-Class Olympian, skippered by French icon Bruno Trouble.

Since its creation, the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy is raced with a Pursuit Race format with staggered starts, that has proved extremely attractive for the sailors and the public alike over the years. Thanks to an especially created and constantly refined handicap system, the competitors cross the starting line according to their handicap, with the first boat to cross the finish line in front of Saint Tropez to be declared the winner.

Given a weather forecast for light wind in the gulf, the Race Committee from the Société Nautique de Saint Tropez, co-organiser of the event, opted for Course 2, a 9 miles long coastal course with start and finish between the iconic Portalet Tower of Saint Tropez and a mark set just outside the gulf.

First boat to start was the tiny gaff cutter **Jap** (William Fife III 1897) with a crew led by Irish sailing legend Harold Cudmore, followed by **Dainty** (Westmacott 1922) and in turn by all the other 21 boats, according to their rating. Once again the three P Class, **Olympian** (William Gardner, 1913), **Chips** (Starling Burgess 1913) and **Corinthian** (Herreshoff 1905) offered a great show at the start, separated by just a few metres and at full speed on the line, as if they were modern racers.



Bigger and more powerful, and therefore with a higher rating, the three 15M, **Tuiga** (William Fife III 1909), **Mariska** (William Fife III 1908) and **The Lady Anne** (William Fife III 1912) went on to close the procedure.

In a light air of 5 to 6 knots, slowly but constantly building up to reach 10 knots, the centenarians headed to the turning mark and smaller boats were overtaken by the bigger ones. On the leg back to Saint Tropez, the leading pack made of the three P Class and the NY50 **Spartan**, was able to get the better of the conditions and quickly reach the area off the breakwater and the finish line. In an incredibly close fought finale, it was American flagged **Spartan** to claim the first place, her second win after the 2016 edition, with **Olympian** coming in second, and **Chips** in third. All in all it took the winners slightly over one hour and a half to cover the distance, not bad at all for a century old boats.

Docking in, an elated Charlie Ryan, owner of **Spartan** declared: *“Feels amazing. This is one of my favourite races ever. For the pursuit format, for the fact that the boats are required to be 100 years old, the fact that every year there are new entries, like Barbara this year. It’s cool, it’s very cool. Also we don’t get often the chance of racing with the other centenarian boats, because we’re in different classes. Also you get to fight against some incredibly good and talented sailors. We just love it.”*

Ryan also thanked his crew for their outstanding performance today: *“We were 19 on board today and we are a very multicultural crew, but we’re all corinthian, some friends come over just for this wonderful regatta and we have fun being together. The wind was very shifty at the end so we had to adjust and changing gear constantly. Tactics were also tricky, you needed to stay away of bad air, but I guess the real secret was hard work.”*

Bruno Troublé skipper of **Olympian**, despite having missed the opportunity of an historic fourth victory, payed tribute to his competitors ability to keep the pressure up until the finish: *“The Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy remains a great regatta because it's often played out close to the finish line and it's often the same boats. Two years ago, we managed to avoid Spartan overtaking us 100 metres from the line and this year, just 100 metres from the line, we were still ahead of them and they managed to overtake us. It's a really exciting race and we're really pleased! Well done to the Gstaad Yacht Club.”*



Daniel Heine, the Club's sailing officer and an experienced sailor himself, who participated to five editions of the Trophy said: *"Every year it seems it can't get better and every year it gets better! The number and quality of the boats we had are amazing and the level of the competition was incredible. It's always nice to welcome new friends and to see old friends come back and we, at the Club, want to thank them all. I hope everyone enjoyed the racing as much as my crew on Silhouette and I did and that next year we will see another exceptional edition of the Centenary Trophy."*

The Trophy, handed over every year is also over centenarian, having been created by Wakely and Wheeler of London in 1911, that is exactly 100 years before the first edition of the regatta.

More information and a gallery of stunning pictures from past editions can be found at the Centenary Trophy website: <https://gyccentenarytrophy.com>

Past winners of the Centenary Trophy

2011: **Bonafide** (1899)

2012: **Marigold** (1892)

2013: due to adverse weather conditions the title 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)

2023 : **Spartan** (1913)



Editors' notes:

The Gstaad Yacht Club

The Gstaad Yacht Club was founded in 1998, and therefore is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, 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". Based in the Swiss mountains and in the beginning, very often acknowledged with surprise, the GYC developed to a club with more than 400 members from over 35 different countries and to a place where members and their guests love to meet. The GYC supports sailing projects on all levels from juniors to professional sailors. The club has become a solid force on the Swiss sailing scene, especially among Olympic sailing and internationally among the classic yachts.

The Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez

Founded in 1862, the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez has been organising regattas for over 160 years.

Gstaad Yacht Club-Centenary Trophy: <http://www.gyccentenarytrophy.com>



Some of its members have left an indelible mark, such as Guy de Maupassant in 1887 and Paul Signac in 1892, who were among the pioneers of French yachting. Affiliated with the FFVoile (French Sailing Federation) and an associate of the Yacht Club de France, the SNST has constantly expanded, with the leitmotiv of always being open to modernity and new developments while still respecting tradition. With a team of enthusiasts including 16 members of the Board of Directors, 5 permanent staff, 500 members and a number of volunteers, the Club organises major events such as the Voiles de Saint-Tropez, the Rolex Giraglia, the Dames de Saint-Tropez and the Paprec 600 Saint-Tropez race. The Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez is the backing club for the French Orient Express Team for the 37th America's Cup, which will take place in Barcelona in September and October 2024.

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