



Press release, 19th September 2022

The Gstaad Yacht Club's Centenary Trophy is back

The 11th edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy is scheduled for Thursday, 29th September, the day traditionally reserved for the “Defis”, the challenges between boats 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. Over the years, the Centenary Trophy has gathered some of the most gorgeous and best performing classic yachts from the past century.

After a most successful 10th anniversary edition in 2021, the event is coming back this year with the usual mix of aficionados and new entrants, so to speak, as more yachts turn centenarians.

Among the rookies the tiny Marconi Sloop **Dainty** (1922), the first of the Sunbeam one-design boats to be built at the shipyard Woodnutt & Co. on the Isle of Wight on a plan by Briton Alfred Wesmacott. Hence the sail number V1. The exact number of Sunbeams produced has never been established, but many still compete today, and Dainty in particular has been racing in hundreds of regattas, often doing very well despite her being the smallest yacht of the fleet. Her beauty and performances were also celebrated in a book "The Brilliance of Sunbeams" by Peter Nicholson.

Another new entry in this year Centenary Trophy is **WIKI**, a Marconi ketch designed in Kiel in 1920 by renown German naval architect Harry Wustrau that has a pretty peculiar history, and ambitious plans for the future. She is one of the very few German wooden yachts of her age and tonnage that survived WW II and are still sailing. She was originally commissioned for Otto Erdmann who was himself an engineer and naval architect. and built by Deutsche Werke yard in Kiel. In 1984, she was bought by her current owner Tom Woods, at the time a young American film maker of 33, after discovering her languishing at dock. For the last 38 years WIKI has continually sailed the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. WIKI is about to undertake a three-year journey in support of a multimedia effort, HELP SaveThe Med, calling in all of the 22 countries that border the Mediterranean within the WIKI's Centennial Expedition that will set sail in the spring of 2023.

As more boats are entering the 11th edition of the regatta, the final number of entrants is expected to grow over the coming days. Yet, last year's winner **Olympian** (1913), one of the three P Class yachts regularly taking part to the Mediterranean classic circuit, confirmed she will be on the starting line in 2022 too to defend her title, as will be her sisterships **Chips** (1913) and **Corinthian** (1905). This will be Olympian's ninth participation to the GYC Centenary Trophy.

"We are delighted to be back at the regatta this year to defend our title. The format of the race is really nice, you know the winner as soon as you cross the line. The whole Olympian team is hoping to finish in first place once again." Declared Philippe Oddo, Olympian's boat owner.

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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)



Editors' notes:

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".

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

With more than 600 members and organizing fifteen events including the Voiles de Saint-Tropez, the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez is one of the oldest clubs in France, its origins date back to 1862. Since 2015, the merger of sailing clubs of Saint-Tropez (formerly UST Sailing and SNST) helped to broaden the horizons. Located in two beautiful places, the Club includes several centres of nautical activities: Sailing competition, sailing school and Motor Yachting.

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