



GSTAAD YACHT CLUB



London, 04th April 2023

Gstaad Yacht Club Centenarian of the Year 2023 – Dainty (1923)

The Gstaad Yacht Club is delighted to announce the winner of the 2023 Edition of the prestigious Centenarian of the Year Award: Dainty (1923). The year she turned 100 years old, she received, the outstanding distinguishment of Centenarian of the Year. Often overlooked, Dainty is a true gem, compensating her size by surpassing many of her lengthier peers with the number of regatta participations throughout her extensive life. The Solent Sunbeam Class was commissioned by Captain A. Basil Lubbock to the well-known naval architect Alfred Wesmacott in the “golden age of classic design” and won Cowes Week the same year she was born. Following this event, Dainty (1923) was invited to be part of the fleet of the Royal Yacht Squadron. With 26 ft. 5 ins. of length overall and a 6 feat beam the designer produced a racing dayboat with captivating looks able to navigate in the riotous waters of the Solent River. According to crew members of sister boats, the design makes it ideal to sail in light wind conditions. Since then, Dainty’s history spiked between glorious victories and some very cloudy days at the shipyard. Her current owner, Peter Nicholson, entitles himself as guardian of Dainty (1923), and has been sailing with the very first Sunbeam ever built for the last 57 years. Dainty and Peter Nicholson are regularly seen in the Autumn classic boat races in the Mediterranean and this year she made another conquer of her own, to be part of the exclusive club of Centenarian Boats allowed to compete at the reputable Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy at the Les Voiles de Saint Tropez, on October 5th 2023. The invitation was naturally made by the GYC Sailing Officer, Daniel Carl Heine, who along with the GYC Commodore, Manrico Iachia and the GYC Managing Director Cindy Schönrich, were at the award ceremony in London to congratulate the winner of the Centenarian of the Year Award. This year, Classic Boat created the Highly Commended category, distinguishing Mikado (1904) from the remaining nominees, who among a long list of impressive details, the National Historic Ships UK, where she is registered, refer that “she is the oldest yacht in modern racing in the UK”.

The Gstaad Yacht Club is honoured to partner with the Classic Boat Magazine for the 7th edition for the attribution of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenarian of the Year Award. Dainty (1923) was part of a shortlist of six centenarian yachts. Thanks to the jury, who preselects the yachts, the public could vote on their favourite vessel, which elects the winner that then receives the perpetual silver Trophy kindly sponsored by Robbe & Berking Silversmith since the first edition in 2017. The trophy is as well in permanent display at the Robbe & Berking Yachting Heritage Centre.



PAST WINNERS GSTAAD YACHT CLUB CENTENARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Since 2017 the Gstaad Yacht Club's Award ties in with the centenarian theme and seeks to recognise yachts of this vintage that have achieved something special.

2022 – Firefly, Owned by the Clay Family

2021 – Thalia, owned by David Aisher

2020 – Greta, owned by Steve Norris

2019 – Carlotta, CAN/UK owned by Michael P. Wright

2018 – Folly, ARG owned by German Frers

2017 – Jolie Brise, UK owned by Dauntsey's School.



Centenarian of the Year Award Silver Trophy

The Classic Boat Awards winners 2023:

Restoration of the Year (over 40ft)

Northern Light, 70ft (21.3m) Built by Henry B Nevins, Restored by Hans Eliasson, Lasse Molse and Leif Moller

Restoration of the Year (under 40ft)

Lady Min, 30ft (9,1m) built by Maurice O'Keeffe, restored by Tiernan Roe

New Sailing Vessel

Constance 34ft (10.4m) Built by Ben Harris Boats, Designed by Jack Gifford

New Powered vessel

Hood 35LM Express Cruiser, Built Lyman Morse, 2021, Designed Hood Yachts

Restored Powered vessel

Western Flyer, Built by West Boatbuilding Company, 1937, Restored by the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-Op *Young*

Spirit of the Year

Spirit 72DH, Built by Spirit Yachts, Designed by Sean McMillan

Classic Boat Lifetime Achievement Award

Jeremy Rogers, 1937-2022

Gstaad Yacht Club/Classic Boat Centenarian of the Year

Dainty, 26'5ft (8,12m), Alfred Westmacott, 1923

Editor 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 400 members from over 40 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 and it has become a solid force on the Swiss sailing scene and especially among Olympic sailing and the classic yachts. Since 2011, topics relating to the protection of the oceans and waters as well as other topics around sustainability and the well-being of our environment have been an integral part of the club's life, enriched by collaborations and events such as with Sylvia Earle, the Blue Marine Foundation, or the IUCN Ocean Ambassador William Winram.

[Editorial images](#) - Password: z4k66HaNm5Hx2WU

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Classic Boat