



Press Release 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

## **Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy; Oriole Wins the 13<sup>th</sup> Edition**

### **Competition Resumes on the Water This Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, After a "Swiss Night" at the Place des Lices**

Competition resumed on the water this Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, following a "Swiss Night" organized at the Place des Lices by the Gstaad Yacht Club, in a festive and convivial atmosphere. Twenty centennial sailboats participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy, held as part of the Voiles de Saint-Tropez. The race took place in approximately ten knots of wind under beautiful summer sunshine. The winner was ***Oriole (1905)***, the first to cross the finish line in front of the Portalet Tower. The Herreshoff-designed boat triumphed ahead of the 10-Metre JI gaff-rigged ***Marga (1910)*** and the P Class ***Olympian (1913)***, rounding out the podium.

The grand old dames of the sea put on a splendid sailing spectacle off the coast of Saint-Tropez! After tacking through the gulf to the delight of the many spectators watching from prime viewing spots on the Môle Jean Réveille, the centenary yachts set off one by one on the 9-mile course. The race started in front of the Portalet Tower, with the competitors chasing after ***Sunbeam Dainty (1922)***. They passed the Rabiou buoy, then the Moutte buoy to starboard, before rounding a marker buoy outside the gulf and returning to the starting point, leaving the Moutte buoy to port. As with every year since its inception, the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy followed a "pursuit race" format, allowing all yachts to compete on an equal footing. The concept: boats cross the starting line based on their rating, and the first to cross the finish line wins the race.

The third boat to start, ***Oriole***, quickly overtook its competitors who had set off a few minutes before, while managing to keep its pursuers at bay. The gaff-rigged sloop was the first to round the outer marker buoy and successfully maintained its lead to cross the finish line as the victor. "The regatta was fantastic. We sailed in light wind, but it remained consistent throughout the race. We are very happy; we sailed very well without making any mistakes. It was a calm but very interesting day. We really love this regatta," said Spaniard Juan Carlos Eguiagaray, owner of the boat, delighted to claim victory in his seventh participation in the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy, after first winning in 2015.

***Marga (1910)***, helmed by Brazilian sailing legend Torben Grael, happily returned to the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy, finishing in second place. "Last year, I sailed on a boat that wasn't yet a hundred years old. I'm glad to participate again in the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy. I love this race and the pursuit race format. We only do



one race. The rating adds a bit of complexity, but in the end, the first to finish wins. It's fun," said the five-time Olympic medalist, who has won gold twice.

"The assessment of this 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary is very positive. Each year, we are excited to welcome new boats as the fleet ages. Today, we opted for the shorter course because there wasn't much wind, which created superb conditions for the competitors and allowed for a great race," commented Daniel Heine, Sailing Officer of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary, who also participated in the regatta aboard the 8-Metre JI ***Silhouette (1910)***.

See you next year for the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gstaad Yacht Club Centenary Trophy.

For more information and a gallery of stunning photos from previous editions, [visit the Centenary Trophy website](#).

### **Centenary Trophy Winners:**

2011: *Bonafide* (1899)

2012: *Marigold* (1892)

2013: Due to unfavorable 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)

2023: *Spartan* (1913)



### **Press Notes:**

#### **Gstaad Yacht Club**

The Gstaad Yacht Club was founded in 1998 by a group of passionate sailors with the mission to "create a unique and global yacht club far from the water, not just another local yacht club by the sea." Located in the Swiss Alps, the Gstaad Yacht Club has grown to over 400 members from more than 40 countries and has become a place where members and their guests love to gather. The club's network of reciprocal clubs spans all continents. The annual event calendar includes a variety of social, sporting, and sailing events, organized by a dedicated three-person team and supported by 10



volunteer board members and committee members, hosting up to 90 event days per year.

The GYC supports sailing projects at all levels, from junior sailors to professionals, and has become a key player in Swiss sailing, particularly in Olympic sailing and classic yachting. Since 2011, topics related to ocean and water protection, as well as sustainability and environmental well-being, have become integral to the club's activities, enriched through collaborations and events with figures such as Sylvia Earle, the Blue Marine Foundation, IUCN Ocean Ambassador William Winram, and the Gstaad Cultural Meetings.

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

Founded in 1862, the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez has been organizing regattas for over 160 years. Some of its members have left a lasting mark, such as Guy de Maupassant in 1887 and Paul Signac in 1897 (President of the SNST from 1908 to 1911), who were pioneers of French yachting. Affiliated with the French Sailing Federation (FFVoile) and allied with the Yacht Club de France, the SNST continues to grow with the motto of embracing modernity and innovation while respecting tradition. With a team of passionate individuals, including 15 board members, 3 permanent staff members, 500 members, and numerous volunteers, the Club organizes major events such as Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez, the ArMeN Festival, Les Dames de Saint-Tropez, Les Voiles d'Automne, and the offshore race Paprec 600 Saint-Tropez. It also co-organizes other prestigious races like the Loro Piana Giraglia at Saint-Tropez. The SNST hosts exceptional events, including world championships and, since 2021, the French leg of the Sail GP. The 52 Super Series circuit will also return to Saint-Tropez in 2025. The Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez is the supporting club for the French Orient Express Team for the 37<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, which will take place in September and October 2024 in Barcelona.

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