

## GLORIOUS CONDITIONS FOR EFG AROUND THE ISLAND RACE AT PANERAI BRITISH CLASSIC WEEK 2016



**19 JULY 2016** – The EFG Around the Island Race on day three of Panerai British Classic Week was sailed in glorious hot sunshine and great breeze. The fleet started to the east on a favourable flood tide, which many underestimated resulting in a General Recall. They got away on the second attempt with eight boats individually recalled, only three of which returned.

The first leg was a beat to the forts from where they bore away for Bembridge Ledge where they hoisted spinnakers for the long run down the back of the Island. In the lee of the Island the wind dropped off completely and many found themselves becalmed. Those offshore managed to keep breeze and gained a big advantage. The boats held their spinnakers to the Needles and from there it was on the wind again back to Cowes.

Romping home to claim line honours was Sean McMillan's Flight of Ufford, with David Murrin's Cetewayo thirty-six minutes and fifteen seconds behind them. Third and just 29 seconds behind Cetewayo was Andrew Pearson's Bojar.



As the big boats streamed in across the line the smaller boats were powering up the Solent, and it soon became clear that on handicap it was going to be a small boat race. On corrected time John Mulcahy's Estrella, the smallest boat in the regatta whose crew today included 2016 Yachts & Yachting Amateur Sailor of the Year Julia Bailey, was declared the overall winner by fourteen minutes and six seconds. Second was Liz and Mark Rushall's Ragdoll, while Michael Briggs' 1904 Fife Cutter Mikado took third.

Speaking after racing Estrella's Julia Bailey talked us through their day. "Down to the forts we worked the boat hard, we had a nice start, but got buried by the big boats so hitched up and were able to get in phase and in pressure to retrieve the situation. As we came away from Bembridge we were far enough behind the leaders to see them hitting the big inshore lull, so we kept going further and further out, whereas the rest of our fleet sailed straight

into it. We went right out until we got pressure and then gybed back in on a good line for the Needles. The leg up into the Solent was actually very difficult because you couldn't lay Gurnard Ledge, but to gain any tidal relief it was very difficult to get inshore. We were one of the few boats doing tacks to keep inshore and in fact we laid Gurnard Ledge from Hamsted Ledge. After that it went a bit right and we just laid the finish line.



The EFG Around the Island Race counts towards the overall series in which Class 1 is now led by Sean McMillan's Flight of Ufford with Sandy Fielding and Martin Whittle's Strega second and David Grylls Helen of Durgan third. Class 2 is led by Giovanni Belgrano's Whooper with Lawrence Wride's Sunmaid V second and Rob Gray's Clarionet third. Michael Briggs' Mikado is leading Class 3 from Martin Thomas' Charm of Rhu with Tim Yetman's Krabat third. Today's race win puts John Mulcahy's Estrella into the overall lead in Class 4 with Jonathan and Scilla Dyke's Cereste second and Liz and Mark Rushall's Ragdoll third.

Whilst 38 of the fleet elected to go around the Island the 6 and 8 Metres sailed two round the cans races instead, races three and four of their series.

Robin Richardson's St Kitts won both races in the 6 Metres, with Tom Richardson's Thistle taking second in both races and Andy Short's Nancy third. With four races now sailed St Kitts leads the class with four points, Thistle is second on nine points and Nancy is third on thirteen.



After racing Australian yachting journalist John Roberson was full of life's joys having joined old friend Tom Richardson aboard Thistle for the day. "It's terrific but very full on," he joked, "my arms are definitely longer than when I left the dock this morning! To race in a fleet of such beautiful classic 6 Metres is a real privilege and the conditions couldn't have been better."

In the 8 Metres Murdoch McKillop's Saskia dominated the fleet winning both races. David Myatt's Erica took second in both, while David Parson's and The Earl of Cork & Orrery's Athena was third in race three and Richard Bendy's Osborne of Wight was third in race four. Overall Saskia now leads the class by eleven points from Peter Wilson's If with Athena in third.



Tomorrow will feature two inshore races with the first start at 10.00. The Long Inshore Race sponsored by Classic Boat will take place on Thursday starting at 10.00 and the final race of the series, sponsored by Sandeman Yachts, will start at 10.00 on Friday.

You can follow the racing action as it happens via the [Live Race Tracker](#).

News, results and photographs from Panerai British Classic Week will be posted at the regatta website [www.britishclassicyachtclub.org/regatta](http://www.britishclassicyachtclub.org/regatta). Those wishing to receive additional information should contact Mary Scott-Jackson on [mary@msjevents.co.uk](mailto:mary@msjevents.co.uk).

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

***THE BRITISH CLASSIC YACHT CLUB***

*The British Classic Yacht Club was formed in 2001 to provide a congenial environment for owners and other classic yacht enthusiasts to share experiences and enjoy each other's*



company. Affiliated to the RYA, the BCYC strives to represent the interests of classic yacht owners and has developed good relationships with many leading yacht clubs in the UK and abroad. The officers of the BCYC are actively involved in both national and international discussions about the future development of classic yachting.

The membership of the BCYC now consists of more than eighty boats. In addition to the Club's flagship annual regatta held in Cowes each July, the Club also organises a full programme of other racing, cruising and social activities in the Solent and on the East Coast, and supports the popular East Coast Classic Regatta in early June. BCYC yachts also participate in many important sailing events, including classic regattas in the Channel, Mediterranean and West Indies.

[www.britishclassicyachtclub.org](http://www.britishclassicyachtclub.org)

### **OFFICINE PANERAI**

Founded in Florence in 1860 as a workshop, shop and school of watch-making, for many decades Officine Panerai supplied the Italian Navy in general, and its specialist diving corps in particular, with precision instruments. The designs developed by Panerai in that time, including the Luminor and Radiomir, were covered by the Military Secrets Act for many years and were launched on the international market only after the brand was acquired by the Richemont Group in 1997. Today Officine Panerai develops and crafts its movements and watches at its Neuchâtel manufacture. The latter are a seamless melding of Italian design flair and history with Swiss horological expertise. Panerai watches are sold across the world through an exclusive network of distributors and Panerai boutiques. [www.panerai.com](http://www.panerai.com)

### **PANERAI CLASSIC YACHTS CHALLENGE**

In honour of its historic links to the sea, Officine Panerai has promoted classic sailing culture for many years through its sponsorship of the Panerai Classic Yachts Challenge, the leading international circuit for these vintage craft. In 2007, the company also acquired and restored the Bermudan ketch Eilean. Built in 1936 by the legendary Fife yard at Fairlie in Scotland, she is now the brand's ambassador at vintage and classic boat rallies and regattas.

[www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com](http://www.paneraiclassicyachtschallenge.com)

[www.youtube.com/pcycofficial](http://www.youtube.com/pcycofficial)

[www.eilean.it](http://www.eilean.it)