

# INTERNATIONAL 6 METRE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



**The International Six Metre Class World Championship was held this year from 1-5 June in La Trinité-Sur-Mer, a port in the stunningly beautiful area of Brittany known as the Morbihan region, as famous for its seafood as its yachting. A total of 23 yachts were entered in the Classic Division for yachts built prior to 1965 and 19 boats raced in the Modern Division.**

Three yachts owned by Royal Southern Members were entered in the Classic Division. These were *BobKat II* (US54, 1931), owned and helmed by Andrew Webster and crewed by Dick Long, Gordon Cossar, Phil Cornick and Jano Anamay; *Abu* (GBR32, 1931) owned and helmed by Christian Teischmann and crewed by his wife Caroline Teichmann, his sister Ina Teichmann, Axel Jonuschies and Tapio Lehtinen from Finland; and *Nancy* (US60, 1932) owned by Andy Short, helmed by Vince Hayter and crewed by Ian Cook, Andy Short, Jon Furley and Callum Gifford (the Nancy Boys!).

When Andy and I first saw *Nancy* she had been out of the water, laid up in a barn in Beaulieu, for 5 years. She was looking in need of some urgent love and attention, as the planks were opening up quite dramatically. Undaunted and optimistically Andy remarked "just add water – she will be fine!" It took more than that of course, and finally 6000 fasteners were replaced. Thanks to Royal Southern Member Tom Richardson and his team at the Elephant Boatyard, *Nancy* was restored over the winter of 2014-15 and able to join her sister ships in La Trinite for some top level racing.

I watched the spectacular racing from *Nancy's* support boat. It was exciting to watch the close starts [photo 6], mark roundings and finishes and all the dramas unfold. With us was Abi Simpson ([www.abisimpsonphotography.com](http://www.abisimpsonphotography.com)) to take professional photographs of the event, and some of the hundreds she took accompany this article.



The programme calls for up to eight races, with the Modern Division usually starting 5 minutes ahead of the Classic Division. These races were scheduled to be sailed between Monday and Thursday, although if eight races had not been completed by Thursday night racing on Friday was a possibility. Fantastic conditions on Monday saw three races completed. However, it was not all plain sailing. There were several boat on boat contact incidents on the race course on the first day. The most serious of the incidents involved a port/starboard at the start of race three between *Nada*, Andrew Webster's US54 *Bob Kat II* and *Normand III*. The port tack *Nada* collided with the starboard



tack *Bob Kat II*, who in turn was forced into *Normand III*. Although the jury subsequently disqualified *Nada*, sadly it was *Bob Kat II* that was the ultimate loser as she suffered very serious damage to her bow which prevented her from racing again in the Championship. When we heard Andrew's radio message to the committee boat about a serious incident and reporting that *BobKat* was taking on water, we rushed to offer help, but the larger support boat from *Lucie* (US55) had got there first and was already arranging a tow back to port and immediate lift. Our hearts sank when we saw the extent of the damage to *BobKat* and knew it was the end of the Championship for her.

The strong winds predicted for Tuesday meant that racing was cancelled for the day, allowing crews to sample the memorable Breton seafood buffets.

The wind gods were being fickle and Wednesday's racing was delayed for lack of wind. When the wind finally filled in by midday to 7-10 knots the committee decided to run three windward-leeward races on a shortened 1.4 mile course. There was therefore a late finish to the racing day, but on arrival in port the sound of a local Breton bagpipe band welcomed boats and crews to a spectacular champagne dockside 'birthday party' for *Lucie*, hosted by ISMA Chairman Matt



TOP, CENTRE LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT THIS PAGE Photographs courtesy of Philip Plisson

ALL OTHERS Photographs courtesy of Abi Simpson





Brooks and Pam Rorke-Levy, owners of the beautifully restored Classic *Lucie*. *Lucie*, designed in 1931 by Clinton H. Crane and built by Nevins for Briggs Cunningham the America's Cup skipper, looked every inch the birthday girl with a beautiful flower arrangement on the aft-deck.

The Crew Dinner in the regatta marquee followed straight on, and crews enjoyed an informal evening featuring local food and wine and lots of great camaraderie. Matt Brooks took the opportunity to thank the event's wonderful hosts, the Société Nautique de la Trinité-sur-mer, for their generous hospitality.

Despite the generous hospitality, crews were match fit and ready on Thursday morning for the last two races in glorious sunshine and 6-7 knots of wind. The results were relayed continuously back to the marquee, and the finish in both the Classic and the Modern divisions were close.

The Classic Division was won by Peter Hoffman's elegant 1948 Olin Stephens' designed US83 *Llanoria*, helmed by Eric Jespersen, which gave them the Classic International Six Metre Djinn trophy. *Nancy* came 11<sup>th</sup> and *Abu* 19<sup>th</sup> overall in the Classic Division. The 1981 Pelle Petterson designed FRA177 *Junior*, skippered by local hero Yann Marilley won the 2015 International Six Metre World Championship for modern boats.

Finally, if you are still wondering, the term Six Metre does not refer to the length of the yacht, it is the product of a formula and denotes the class. The formula considers waterline length, boat girth, sail area and free board. Thus a Six Metre yacht can be from 10 metres to 12 metres in length.

By Jan Short



**BALTIC**  
LIFEJACKETS SWEDEN

**WHY COMPROMISE  
ON SAFETY AND  
COMFORT?**

All BALTIC products are designed and manufactured in our own factories within Europe to EEC and International standards. This ensures we have total control of the design, production and quality of all our lifejackets and buoyancy aids.

Whether your priorities are service life, security and reliability or just comfort and style, then BALTIC is the logical choice.

Baltic Safety Products UK Ltd  
Hamble, Hampshire SO31 4RA  
Tel: +44 (0)23 8045 7272  
sales@baltic-uk.com  
www.baltic.se



LEGEND INFLATABLE LIFEJACKET

BALTIC RANGE 2015