

# THE FIFE REGATTA 2008

## CLASSIC FIFE YACHTS ENRICH THE CLYDE AS TOP 3 BOATS DRAW LEVEL AFTER 2 RACES

### LARGS - HELENSBURGH

**PRESS RELEASE: Sunday, June 22, 2008**

Race 2 of the 2008 Fife regatta must have been something of a relief for owners and insurers alike as the anticipated strong winds and rain did not materialize. In front of a reduced spectator fleet the 20 strong armada of antique elegance made a stately procession up the Firth of Clyde under full sail. With a running start from Largs the small boats leading the procession were soon mingling with the largest. Altair, Mariette, Maraquita and Moonbeam, with a collective age of almost 400 years old, setting great clouds of sail as they glided through the fleet, creating an unforgettable sight and depriving their little sisters ahead of what wind there was. There was just sufficient wind to get the fleet safely to their destination of Rhu Marina. Some of the world's top marine photographers snapped busily for the whole journey.

On the 96ft and 97year old Mariquita the topmast crewman in the absence of a crow's nest was observed having a relaxing day in these conditions reclining horizontal on the top spreader.

As Monday is a lay-day there is a possibility that the anticipated adverse weather may not may miss them entirely.

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> the fleet will race from Helensburgh to Rothesay where they will grace the bay until Thursday when they race around Bute and back to Largs.

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Class 1	Sat	Sun	Tues	Thurs	Friday	Total
Altair	4	1				5
Hallowe'en	3	2				5
Moonbeam	2	3				5
Lady Anne	1	5				6
Mariette	6	4				10
Mariquita	5	6				11

<b>Class 2</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mikado	1	3				<b>4</b>
The Truant	3	2				<b>5</b>
Ayrshire Lass	8	1				<b>9</b>
Ierne	4	6				<b>10</b>
Solway Maid	2	12				<b>14</b>
Viola	5	9				<b>14</b>
Peggy Bawn	7	7				<b>14</b>
Mignon	10	5				<b>15</b>
Rosemary III	12	4				<b>16</b>
Fyne	6	13				<b>19</b>
Sonata	9	11				<b>20</b>
Oblío	15	8				<b>23</b>
Lucky Girl	13	10				<b>23</b>
Hatasoo	11	15				<b>26</b>

Notes for Editors.

\* The Fife Yachts are one of the world's most prestigious group of Classic yachts and this will be the third private regatta following the success of the 98, and 03 events.

A pilgrimage to their birthplace of these historic yachts, the 'Stradivarius' of sail, from Scotland's pre-eminent yacht designer and builder, William Fife III, on the Clyde 20th –27th June.

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\* In 1998 and 2003 the Regatta celebrated the centenary of Eric Tabarley's Pen Duick and Moonbeam III respectively and this year the Regatta is celebrating another centenary of one of the 'family' - yard No 557 the cutter VIOLA.

\* It is expected there will be 21 boats with the oldest being the 121yr old AYRSHIRE LASS, built in the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and the same year as the Ford model T.

\* This years regatta starts at Largs Yacht Haven on Sat 21st June just a mile up the east side of the Firth of Clyde from the site of Fife's yard. They will also race to Rhu 22nd – 23rd then Rothesay 24th – 25th and back to Largs 26th culminating in the King's course race on Friday 27th June.

\* The Regatta is primarily for the owners and sailors who take pride in the restoration and sailing of these yachts but it also gives the residents along the Clyde the most amazing spectacle of sail and a chance to look back to the roots of sailing on their shores and turns the lower Clyde into an amphitheatre of elegance which we can all enjoy.

\* For public interest there is an exhibition of memorabilia from the Fife Boatyard and Family at Largs Sailing Club daily from 18th – 29th June.

More information is available on the website: <http://www.fiferegatta.com/>  
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