

THE FIFE REGATTA 2008

SPECTACULAR RACING AROUND BUTE AND BACK HOME TO LARGS

PRESS RELEASE: Thursday, June 26, 2008

The penultimate race in the 2008 Fife regatta was preceded by a sumptuous party in Mount Stewart House, the home of the Marquis of Bute on Wednesday night. The fleet cruised in company, from Rothesay Bay up the east Kyle to Tighnabruaich. For those who had not seen the Kyles of Bute before, this in itself is a visual feast. But the scene of the start amidst the spectacular scenery with these magnificent boats would have done credit to any Hollywood studio.

As the fleet headed south past Ardlamont Point and Inchmarnock the majestic backdrop of the mountains on Arran had the snappers scurrying for their cameras again.

A short sharp rain squall hustled the fleet past Garroch Head but here the disparity of size really took its toll. While the big boats reveled in the fresh conditions the three smallest, Ayrshire **Lass**, **Lucky Girl** and **Ierne** all retired. Once the rain squall passed the sun returned, the fleet arrived back into the Clyde and headed for Largs Yacht Haven, the sun resumed its proper place and all 'lived to fight another day'.

With only one race now remaining class 1 is close with **Altair** on seven points and **Moonbeam** in second place just 2 points behind. In class 2 **Mikado** looks strong on 6 and **The Truant** skippered by Oyster Marine chairman Richard Matthews probably the only other boat in this class with a chance of winning, has a lot to do to recover a 4 point deficit in the last race.

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The Fife Regatta 2008

Overall Results

Class 1	Sat	Sun	Tues	Thurs	Friday	Total
Altair	4	1	1	1		7
Moonbeam	2	3	2	2		9
Hallowe'en	3	2	3	4		12
Lady Anne	1	5	4	6		16
Mariquita	5	6	5	3		19
Mariette	6	4	6	5		21

Class 2	Sat	Sun	Tues	Thurs	Friday	Total
Mikado	1	3	1	1		6
The Truant	3	2	2	3		10
Rosemary III	12	4	3	2		21
Viola	5	9	5	6		25
Solway Maid	2	12	8	4		26
Ayrshire Lass	8	1	4	15		28
Peggy Bawn	7	7	7	9		30
Sonata	9	11	6	5		31
Ierne	4	6	9	15		34
Mignon	10	5	13	7		35
Fyne	6	13	11	10		40
Oblio	15	8	12	8		43
Lucky Girl	13	10	10	15		48
Hatasoo	11	15	15	15		56

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.

* 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/>

Press office contact: 01475 689100 Lynda Melvin or Paul Jeffes