



THE INTERNATIONAL EIGHT METRE ASSOCIATION

Classique Edmond de Rothschild 25 – 28 June 2015

The final day of the The Classique Rothschild Regatta gave us an incredibly stable sunshine with a reasonably stable breeze. The event was a combined event for all classic yachts on Lake Geneva and there was a wonderful group of yachts including 5.5m, 6m, 6.5m, 7m, 8m, 10m, the elegant Lacustre, Skerry cruisers and some local classes. During the event, the SNG arranged for a separate start for the 8-Metres so it could be used as a tune-up series for the 8-Metre Worlds and that this turned out a great success. These tune up events are equally important for the competitors as well as the organization who need get a feel for what the class wants, how the boats are parked, how the score of our trophies work, how long the start line should be and so forth. For the competitors is often a shake out, getting use to the conditions, testing new sails, tuning the rig and, well at least for me, getting my head out of the office and be out on the water, concentrating on plugging in sails and turning corners.

The SNG arranged for all 8-Metres to be launched immediately in front of the restaurant and the sight is simply stunning. Every year I wonder if it is possible to improve the quality of the fleet and every year I get a special surprise. The 8-Metre Jacques-Eduard, this beautiful William Fife III design from 1928 was launched as Sirena at the yard of Chiesa in Cannes. Now she made her debut to the current 8-Metre racing fleet. Her restoration took close to 10 years of hard work and dedication was topped off with a stunning paintjob in "Endeavour blue". Taifun, the 1912 Olympic medallist is back too, now under Swiss ownership. Overall the fleet has a great spread of first, second, third rule boats with the modern performance boats with their wing keels. A strong contingent from Norway with Sira, Carron and Wanda, Finland shipped Luna and Sphinx and then many boats from Germany, France, Holland and Switzerland of course.

Attached are the results for the 8-Metres, these are not official, they are meant to be informative to show how the boats would have performed if the event would have been a World Cup. Starting 29 June the World Cup starts and we will post daily results and pictures.

Last but not least, this gives me the opportunity to introduce Hanna van Rootselaar who will be our IEMA press officer and webmaster for the event (and hopefully ever after). She will be out on the water, at the race office and at the docks, posting results and pictures and talking to the sailors trying to bring the 2015 World Cup a little closer to your home.

So far so good, the organization headed by Axel Meyer is running like a Swiss watch, smooth and precise. Once again the SNG is giving our class a warm welcome, providing a great regatta and a break from a work-a-day world. Isn't that what sailing these regatta's is all about ?

John Lammerts van Bueren