

The Superyacht

ISSUE 168
MARCH/APRIL 2016

TRUTH • OPINION KNOWLEDGE • IDEAS AND EXPERT INDUSTRY ANALYSIS



REPORT

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

The Superyacht Intelligence Agency examines the DNA of a successful refit yard.

SUPERYACHT INDUSTRIALISTS

MB'92 CEO Pepe García-Aubert discusses Dogus Group's recent investment, and the refit market.

REGIONAL REPORT

An in-depth report on France's booming southern refit hub.

PAINTING BY NUMBERS

Will creating an industry standard address the real issues in paint application?



NZ Millennium Cup 2016

Ellie Brade reports from the 2016 edition of the NZ Millennium Cup, an event that helps to promote the industry and the Asia Pacific region.

For the last four editions of the New Zealand Millennium Cup The Superyacht Group (TSG) has come on board as the regatta's international media partner. It's a proven event, with participating owners always finishing feeling enthused by their hosts, the country and the sailing conditions, and the regatta has built a loyal following, with many yachts returning time and time again. However, readers might ask themselves why we so consistently support and give such comprehensive coverage to the one of the smallest regattas on the race circuit? In answer, our partnership is more than just about promoting a race on the other side of the world; it is about supporting an incredibly active and resilient country that contributes huge amounts to the international industry.

The Millennium Cup is a labour of love by the New Zealand marine industry. Organised by its industry body, New Zealand Marine, and wholly funded by its members as sponsors it is a means of showcasing the country to owners and of allowing them to enjoy New Zealand at its best. Gracious hosting with friends against a backdrop of beautiful scenery is what the Kiwis love to do best and doing this via the Millennium Cup is a great sales tool for the country's offerings, from world-class refit facilities through to unforgettable cruising. Long-term supporter of New Zealand and Cup sponsor Ed Dubois agrees, describing the regatta as "a celebration of this country and its spirit".

Having originally been held sporadically as the occasion demanded the Cup has now evolved into a regular event, with the benefit being that it is now firmly on the radar of visiting yachts. By example, 2016 entrant 27.5m *Kealoha* first became aware of the race on a visit to the Pacific some years previously and made a point of timing their next visit to New Zealand to coincide with the regatta so they could take part. >>

The 2016 edition was the second year the regatta has been held in the Bay of Islands and this move has been incredibly well received, with any initial teething problems from a big location move completely ironed out for this year's edition. At the event welcome function Cup MC Peter Montgomery described the location as "the ultimate setting with the area of sailing between the Nine Pin and Red head marks very special and like nowhere else in the world". Guests enjoyed a varied social calendar out of historic Russell and nearby Paihia, both an ideal setting for the onshore side of the regatta. Russell is New Zealand's oldest town and riddled, quite literally, with history, with the local church still bearing musket shot holes from 19th-century fighting. With the Bay of Islands Sailing Week, one of the country's biggest sailing events, held in conjunction both towns have a busy race week vibe, meaning the superyachts are not isolated spectacles and on-water action from yachts of all sizes is fast and furious.

The 2016 race saw owners getting involved in a superyacht regatta for the first time and, coincidentally, first and second place both went to first-time participants.

Just as in 2015 the 2016 race saw owners getting involved in a superyacht regatta for the first time and, coincidentally, first and second place both went to first-time participants. There are great numbers of regattas in the annual calendar now (some might argue too many), but they do serve a valuable purpose in allowing sailing yacht owners to enjoy their yachts and spend time on board. The Millennium Cup is the only superyacht regatta in the southern hemisphere and it helps those owners either based in or visiting that part of the world to feel that spending time in the area should not mean going without being a part of that ever-popular competitive racing network.

With eight entrants across two classes, the Millennium Cup and Pacific Cup (for smaller entrants), 2016 saw the best attendance in recent years. TSG was generously welcomed on board by the owners of 28m *Tawera*, 27.5m *Kealoha* and 33m *Shamoun*, all first-time participants racing against event stalwarts 33.8m *Silvertip* and 40m *Janice of Wyoming*. Out on the water performances were consistent with a win for *Janice of Wyoming* on day one, just pipping *Kealoha* in a thrilling finish to claim her first race win in her long history with the regatta. Day two saw the longest course at 26nm, with *Tawera* taking a convincing win followed by *Silvertip*.





But it was day three that brought the most on-water excitement. After two days of racing four of the five yachts in the Millennium Cup were tied on equal first place and it was all to play for and every manoeuvre counted. *Shamoun* was first across the line, enjoying the stronger winds and performing admirably throughout the day, holding her lead round every mark before being overtaken in the final stretch. Handicapping by Jim Teeters came together perfectly, with all yachts crossing the line within minutes of each other, but it was the battle for first place that was most fraught, with *Tawera* crossing the line, skippered by her owner, just a boat length ahead of *Kealoha*, which took second place overall. *Shamoun* was next over the line, followed by *Janice of*

Wyoming, whose performance secured her third place overall, then *Silvertip* to claim fourth overall.

In the Pacific Cup division a consistent performance over three days from local favourite *Steinlager 2* saw her win the regatta for the second year running, followed by *Allegro*, over from Australia to compete, and *Antaeus*. An informal prize-giving closed the event and *Tawera's* delighted owners took to the stage to thank the industry for their support in getting the yacht regatta ready so fast. Just one month into ownership they had wanted to enter for exactly the same reasons as TSG's partnership – to support the New Zealand marine industry and enjoy some racing to boot.

Dates for 2017 are soon to be announced and, aiming to increase numbers year on year, organisers are actively seeking expressions of interest from all yachts considering being in South Pacific now and in future years.

We will be featuring interviews with some of the owners from this year's Cup in future issues of *The Superyacht Owner*. ■

RESULTS

Millennium Cup

1st / 28m *Tawera*

(Alloy Yachts/Ron Holland 1995)

2nd / 27.5m *Kealoha* (Claasen/Hoek 2008)

3rd / 40m *Janice of Wyoming*

(Alloy Yachts/Dubois 2005)

4th / 33.8m *Silvertip*

(Yachting Developments/Dubois 2002)

5th / 33m *Shamoun* (Claasen/Hoek 1999)



Pacific Cup

1st / *Steinlager 2*

2nd / *Allegro*

3rd / *Antaeus*



TO COMMENT ON THIS ARTICLE,

EMAIL: ISSUE168@SUPERYACHTREPORT.COM

WITH SUBJECT: NZ MILLENNIUM CUP 2016