



Crème de la Kremik



Beyond its absolutely praiseworthy altruistic overtones, the Siggys Cup remains first and foremost a genuine sports competition

Siggys Cup 2009: Kremik - Zirje - Kaprije - Vodice - Kremik (Croatia)

«At sea a fellow comes out. Salt water is like wine in that respect», Herman Melville wrote.

ÉRIC NETGEN

Herman «I-almost-did-for-whales-what-Peter-Benchley-did-for-sharks» Melville has shaped our perception of the sea like hardly anyone else. The sea as a threatening abyss where camaraderie, binge-drinking and seemingly incomprehensible bouts of potentially fatal bravery are as profoundly true and common as the dark gullet of the gigantic sea monster, lying in ambush at 20,000 feet, impatient to grind the first vessel into melancholic driftwood for

no better reason than its own selfish reptile ennui.

This thirst for iodine-laden sporting competition, the unflinching solidarity of the big brotherhood inside the blue and white striped woollen jumper (for Télévie and its noble cause, as it is), is what the Siggys Cup, named after the Carolingian count Siegfried I of Luxembourg, is all about. Exception that being lost at sea, if only for insurance and fun factor reasons, is not an option.

In fact, the closest participants come to premature and violent death are those bone chilling saxophone solos produced when the referee's fog horn runs out of steam and the boats nonetheless have to be welcomed over the finishing line. That's when ghastly

clouds gather almost out of the blue.

KING CON

The Cup was first staged in 2007, with only seven boats then battling for Neptune's seaweedy crown. A concept dreamed-up by spare-time skipperess and professional event-slash-conference organiser Ariane Rey.

Ariane is a merry but equally seaworthy Frenchwoman, who agrees with Karen Blixen that «*the cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears (of laughter) and the sea*». And she would agree with Lord Palmerston, that once in a while diplomacy needs to be gunboat diplomacy. Ariane runs a tight ship, offers an all-inclusive four-day racing

competition with a lot of leisure time thrown in the hold, but when the occasional local conman (like your one Tomislav, the alleged owner of the bay) unwittingly tries to throw an undeserving grappling hook at the community's treasure chest, he quickly finds out that there is worse than being keel-hauled. The same holds true for participants tempted by Rear Admiral Cheat's cheeky shortcuts or alternative freestyle routes. After the editions of 2007 and 2008, events which respectively took place around Hyères (near Toulon) and Palma, a third sailing battle was staged just over a week ago in the Adriatic, off the Croatian coast. It saw the number of competing boats swell to 22, with over 150 people having a

good time in their brand new 39-footer Bénéteau 393s. One of them, Kneip Communication's «Kerry Dancer», was manned by only two adults, the rest of the crew being youngsters whose poor health badly needed a pirate's smile back on their faces. At the end, they arrived a good ninth in a regatta open to all Luxembourg-based companies and finally won by team «Champ» (cf. below). It was and remains a fabulous opportunity for team-building and finding out whether an Ettelbruck-based hospital breeds better sailors than a Luxembourg-based investment company, or whether naturally born skippers are irresistibly drawn towards the marketing rather than the catering world.

RANKING

- **Gold medal:** Team: Champ (Boat: Aquaholic/Skipper: Alain Brodeur/Number of penalty points: 18)
- **Silver medal:** CHL (Aquafile/Eric Degrotte/ 20)
- **Bronze medal:** CHL (Blongoutte III/Patrick Stoffel/21)
- 4) KBL (Jetstream/Philippe Alexandre/22)
- 5) Cargolux (Aquadisiac/George Karambilas/24)
- 6) Euroline (Catalina/Erwin Kellendonk/24)
- 7) Rotary Club Luxembourg (Summer Wine III/André Mailliet/26)
- 8) Felten-Stein (Christophe/François Stein/27)
- 9) Kneip Communication (Kerry Dancer/Stephan Fannenbruck/32)
- 10) Fun at Sea (Toot Yai/Patrick Reef/36)
- 11) Wiltgen & Partners (Travels with Tin Tin/ Michel Dumont/36)
- 12) SEO (Ritabix/Patrick Biver/36)
- 13) Hôpital Saint-Louis (Glamorique/Raoul/Dabe/40)
- 14) ZithaKlinik (Lanikai/Roger Wirion/ 41)
- 15) ZithaKlinik (Saransak/Gregor Baertz/ 48)
- 16) Hôpital du Kirchberg (Katatonic/Leopold Ghysens/52)
- 17) KBL (Holy Diver/Denis Flaba/54)
- 18) Fuchs Finance (Doc Holiday/Marino Baruzzini/60)
- 19) Mecaman (Macwanga/Rémy Vermorel/62)
- 20) Hospilux (Fluterby/Guy Hornbeck/70)
- 21) CRP Santé (Bow Breaker/Roger Petry/ 71)
- 22) Sodexo (Finch/Robi Reiland/75)



«Committee boat, committee boat, to all Siggys Cup participants...»