



CORFU, GREECE- 08 July, 2017

Congratulations to George Sakellaris and Team *Proteus*, the 2017 Corfu Challenge winners! One final race was held Saturday, and spectators were delighted to watch the exciting prestart match racing that played out. Conditions started out lighter than previous days, 12-16 knots from the north west. When asked about the team's prestart plan, *Proteus* strategist Tommaso Chieffi explained, "Initially we decided to match race *MOMO*, we knew if we didn't they would come after us. There was a lot of action because aside from us, *Cannonball* was going after *Bella Mente* to race for third." He expanded on the exciting start, "The great thing about this boat is they are so maneuverable and light, and with the large number of crew you can pretty much do anything." The race seven winner was Hap Fauth and team *Bella Mente* followed by *MOMO*, *Proteus*, *Evniki* and *Cannonball*. Congratulations to all teams for completing the first ever Maxi 72 regatta in Greece!

The event was exceptional because of the challenging sailing conditions for both the costal race and windward leeward courses; racing in between Corfu and Albania was a photographer's dream! On top of the great racing and even better hospitality was the journey of *Evniki*. It was the first-time a group of young sailors, under the guidance of veteran professionals, have raced in a world class Maxi 72 event. Over the course of the week the team was immersed in the daily grind amongst some of the highest-level sailors, surely an unforgettable experience.

"What has made the Corfu Challenge different than any other regatta is the heart, passion, and warm generosity of everyone who came together." Cathy Sakellaris thanked everyone involved and especially mentioned the organizing committee. From day one, committee members continued to give and asked for nothing other than to promote the sport we are all passionate about! Awards were given at the Museum of Asain art at the beautiful Palace of St. Michael and St. George in the heart of Corfu. Along with the hand crafted first-place trophy, a perpetual trophy was introduced in honor of George Coumantaros. This year it was given to all Corfu Challenge Maxi 72 owners to signify the high level international racing showcased throughout the week.

Written by Lara Dallman Weiss

For photos, results and more visit www.corfuchallenge.com

To follow the youth of Team *Evniki*, visit www.facebook.com/EvnikiSailing

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