

Gibraltar wins this years PwC International Regatta

After only three years of competing in this event, Team Gibraltar won this year's PwC International Sailing Regatta. The Regatta started in 1987 as a sailing race between the Southampton and Windsor offices. The event now is an international event with PwC Partners and Staff from across Europe taking part. Now Gibraltar adds its name onto the famous Windsor Winch trophy alongside past winners which have included London, Guernsey, Paris, Copenhagen, Moscow, Manchester, Lisbon and of course Southampton and Winsor.

This year which is the 20th Anniversary of the event was the biggest yet with 34 boats competing.

Conditions in the infamous Solent were difficult with over 35 knots of wind, big seas and heavy rains to contend with. A complete opposite from the previous two years where conditions were also challenging but due to a lack of wind as the weather was more suited to relaxing by the beach sunbathing than racing.

As in previous years there were two races after setting off from Portsmouth on the Saturday with the Gibraltar boat finishing fifth in the first race. After an average start in this race we sailed well and managed to make up ground and overtake a number of boats.

The second race was a different story altogether. We led from the start and built up a substantial lead from the very first beat. Our competitors misread the tides and overreached considerably (a cardinal sin in the racing world!). By the time we rounded the first mark we could barely make out the second placed boat in the distance. The rest of the race was relatively easy in that we had free winds all the way, the only danger other than the horrid conditions was us plotting the buoys wrongly on the GPS and getting the course wrong as we had no one to follow!

The overall result was however extremely close with the first three boats all finishing on six points. Fortunately though, the Gibraltar boat was awarded the spoils as according to RRS Rule A8.1 after a tie on count back, best result in last race sailed wins.

After the race we sailed to the Isle of Wight. The gala dinner and prize giving at Cowes Yacht Haven Event Centre was a great success, stories of the day's sailing were exchanged, the food was excellent and the Champagne flowed and a good time was had by all.



(Left) Colin, Patrick and Charles enjoying a welcome break from the awful weather (Right)