



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Whooper Crowned Overall Winner at Cowes Spring Classics 2026

Cowes, Isle of Wight - The 2026 Cowes Spring Classics concluded in spectacular style after a memorable weekend of competitive racing, elegant classic yachts and vibrant social celebrations on the Solent.

Hosted in Cowes by Mary Scott-Jackson of MSJ Events and Martin Nott and with racing organised by the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club, this year's regatta once again attracted an impressive fleet of classic yachts from around the UK and Channel Islands, with crews enjoying excellent racing conditions and the renowned Corinthian spirit that defines the event.

Claiming the prestigious title of **Overall Winner of the 2026 Cowes Spring Classics** was **Whooper**, a 1939 Laurent Giles designed one-off, helmed by **Giovanni Belgrano**, after an outstanding and consistent performance throughout the regatta. Belgrano and his crew also secured victory in **Class 1**, as well as the award for **Highest Placed BCYC Member**.

In **Class 1**, **Scherzo of Cowes**, a 1968 Sparkman & Stephens Swan 36, sailed by Peter Morton, finished second overall, with **Njord**, a 1918 classic 8 Metre First Rule, helmed by Jason Fry, taking third place.

In **Class 2** the top podium places went to the H G May designed West Solent One Design with first overall going to **Suvretta**, built in 1924 and skippered by Will Van Dyke, following a strong series performance. **Harlequin**, built in 1927, sailed by David Heritage, secured second place, while **Enchanted**, built in 1927 and helmed by Claire Locke, completed the podium in third.

The highly competitive **Class 3** Gaffer fleet was won by **Wave**, a 1930's Gaff Sloop, sailed by Charlie Couture from Guernsey. **Ivy Green**, an Ed Burnett designed Gaff

Cutter, helmed by Richard Jacobs, claimed second place, with Golant Gaffer **Satellite**, sailed by David and Sue Pennison, finishing third overall.

Away from the racing, the regatta's social programme continued to be a major highlight of the weekend. The award for **Best Dressed Crew at the Saturday Dinner** was presented to **Scherzo of Cowes**, recognising the crew's enthusiasm and style during the evening festivities.

Organisers praised competitors, volunteers and sponsors for helping make the 2026 edition another outstanding success.

"Cowes Spring Classics continues to showcase the very best of classic yacht racing - combining beautiful boats, competitive sailing and a fantastic social atmosphere both on and off the water," said the organising team.

Now firmly established on the UK classic sailing calendar, Cowes Spring Classics continues to celebrate the heritage, craftsmanship and community spirit of classic yachting.

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for the 2027 Cowes Spring Classics, taking place 21st - 23rd May, which will mark the regatta's 10th anniversary. Organisers are preparing a special programme of racing and celebrations to commemorate the milestone and celebrate a decade of classic yacht racing in Cowes.

For more information, visit the official [Cowes Spring Classics](#) website.

RESULTS SUMMARY

Overall Winner

- Whooper - Giovanni Belgrano

Class 1

1. Whooper - Giovanni Belgrano
2. Scherzo of Cowes - Peter Morton
3. Njord - Jason Fry

Class 2

1. Suvretta - Will Van Dyke
2. Harlequin - David Heritage
3. Enchanted - Claire Locke

Class 3 - Gaffers

1. Wave - Charlie Couture
2. Ivy Green - Richard Jacobs

3. Satellite - David & Sue Pennison

Special Awards

- Highest Placed BCYC Member - Whooper / Giovanni Belgrano
- Best Dressed Crew at the Saturday Dinner - Scherzo of Cowes / Peter Morton

ENDS

Notes to Editors: Cowes Spring Classics is supported by the following sponsors: [British Classic Yacht Club](#); [Classic Marine](#); [Wessex Resins](#); [Classic Boat](#); [Simon Winter Marine](#); [Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club](#);

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Images attached by Chris Brown Photography