

Sebastien Henri, Télémaque 2 : IRC European Champion 2023



Sebastien Henri & his crew - Télémaque 2 IRC European Champion 2023 winner

The CANNES IRC EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2023 took place from May 29 to June 3, 2023. Organized by the Yacht Club de Cannes, in collaboration with the Pôle Course du Yacht Club de France and the Royal Ocean Racing Club, 33 boats competed off the famous “Croisette” for the IRC European title.

For 4 days, the fleet divided into 3 groups (**Group A: IRC 0 + IRC 1, 10 boats – Group B: IRC 2 + IRC 3, 12 boats, et IRC 4 11 boats**) had the opportunity to explore the many facets of the local weather and its particularities. The competition began on Wednesday, May 31st with a long coastal race of coefficient 2. Due to a lack of wind, the Race Committee had to resolve to shorten the course after about ten miles. This first race, a real poker game in search of the slightest laughingstock, offered surprising rankings. However the leading boats did not owe their place to chance.

The following day, Jérôme Nutte, Principal Race Officer and Philippe Enel, President of the Race Committee, made the most of Eole's generosity for validate a single race on tactical courses using all the mobility capabilities of the dynamic buoys at their disposal. On Friday the perfect conditions with a regular medium and spikes flirting with the 20 knots, allowed to launch three new fierce races.

In Group A, the TP 52 performed, including Jolt and Beau Geste at the head of the IRC 0 fleet, while Daguet 3 – Corum (Frédéric Puzin) and Lisa R (Francesco Bertone), the two Ker 46 twins were on the front of the IRC 1 class. Still in the learning phase of his new Ker 43 Long Courier could not mingle to fight for victory. In IRC 2 Garm, the Swedish boat of Per Roman, took advantage of the ideal conditions to confirm his performances of the previous day and take a decisive advantage over *Long-Nose XI* (Yves Ginoux), first IRC 3 in Group B, herself fighting with *Sarchiapone Fuoriserie* (Gianluigi Dubini) and *Chihuahua* (Olivier Bouquet). In IRC 4, the A31 and First 31.7, more comfortable in the small airs of the first days, faced the return of the Jpk 10.10s, *Raging Bee* (Jean-Luc Hamon), *Expresso 3* (Guy Claeys) and especially *Télémaque 2* (Sébastien Henri), chaining the victories of the round.

On Saturday, the last day of the competition, the two tactical courses were used to decide between the boats in IRC 3 and IRC 4 where the results were so close. With a large majority of windward-Leeward courses, the European Championship was decided on the ability of the crews to follow the best tactical score in a very evolutionary wind, avoiding any false note in the manoeuvres.

Highly solicited during this Championship, the last deliberations of the Jury hung the suspense on the calculation of the general rankings and delayed the award ceremony by an hour.



DAGUET 3 - CORUM KER 46

Opening this ceremony, Jean-François Cutugno, President of the Cannes Yacht Club and Géry Trentesaux, Vice-President of the Yacht Club de France, warmly thanked all the crews of the Cannes IRC European Championship 2023 and were pleased to have successfully organized this event. Finally, the prize giving ceremony rewarded:

***BEAU GESTE*, Karl KWOK (HKG), Tp52: 1st in Group A and 1st in IRC 0.**

***DAGUET 3 – CORUM*, Frédéric PUZIN (FRA), Ker 46: 1st in IRC 1.**

***GARM*, Per ROMAN (SWE), Jpk 11.80: 1st in Group B and 1st in IRC 2.**

***LONG-NOSE XI*, Yves GINOUX (FRA), Farr 36: 1st in IRC 3**

***TELEMAQUE 2*, Sébastien HENRI (FRA), Jpk 10.10: 1st in IRC 4**

Winner of the Overall IRC ranking, **Sébastien HENRI and the crew of *TELEMAQUE 2* were crowned IRC European Champion 2023**. Sébastien, winner of the 2022 IRC Mediterranean Championship in doubles, was very well accompanied for this championship with Sébastien Taraquois, Eric Merlier, holder of the 2022 IRC SOLO Mediterranean title and Victor Bordes, 2021 IRC Mediterranean Crew Championship winner in IRC 3 (and 2022 vice-champion).

For the Organisation Committee of the Cannes IRC European Championship 2023

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