



## **The Sir Richard Francis Sutton Medal**

### **Charter Recipient:**

### **Sir Richard Francis Sutton, 5th Bt**

#### **The Medal**

The America's Cup Hall of Fame has instituted the Sir Richard Francis Sutton Medal to recognize and encourage the spirit of the America's Cup, as set down by the founding donors in their Deed of Gift "to promote friendly competition between foreign countries." This medal will be awarded from time to time, to persons or entities that have exemplified that spirit, in the course of their association with the America's Cup.

#### **Sir Richard F. Sutton, 5<sup>th</sup> Bt (1853-1891)**

Sir Richard was the quintessential sportsman of the Victorian era. In 1879, he was elected to the Royal Yacht Squadron, following the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

In September 1885, Sir Richard's *Genesta*, a 97-foot racing cutter, competed for the America's Cup, representing the Royal Yacht Squadron—in its first challenge for the America's Cup. *Genesta* faced the New York Yacht Club's defender, *Puritan*, for a best-of-three match, held on courses near New York City. During the match, on September 8, as the iconic *Lawson History of the America's Cup* records, "there occurred an incident rare in the history of the Cup races, and, in view of the events that followed in a few years, worthy of being commemorated in bronze." When maneuvering for the start, *Puritan* failed to clear *Genesta*, resulting in a collision. Within minutes of the collision, the race committee disqualified *Puritan*, which was on port tack at the time of the accident. However, Sir Richard, in an act of sportsmanship, refused to accept a win by default. Instead, he informed the race committee: "We are very much obliged to you, but we don't want it in that way. We want a race; we don't want a walkover."

This famous act of sportsmanship is now commemorated in bronze and is immortalized by having Sir Richard's name forever attached to the medal to be awarded to participants in the America's Cup who have upheld the spirit of friendly competition.

*Genesta* went on to lose to *Puritan* in two races, but Sir Richard won the respect and admiration of his competitors and the public. And, before returning home, *Genesta* competed in three more races in New York, winning all of them including the Cape May Challenge Cup and the Brenton Reef Cup.

### **Presentation of the Sutton Medal**

The Selection Committee of the America's Cup Hall of Fame posthumously awarded the Sutton Medal to Sir Richard F. Sutton, 5<sup>th</sup> Bt, on August 31 at the 2018 America's Cup Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes. Receiving the Medal on behalf of the awardee was David Sutton—the heir presumptive to the Sutton baronetcy, and his wife, Gay. David acknowledged that the feats of his ancestor continued to be a source of family pride and that mementos from that time, including *Genesta's* bell, remain treasured by the family.

### **Words about the Induction Dinner by Steven Tsuchiya, Chairman of the Selection Committee**

“Holding the America's Cup Hall of Fame Induction Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron was truly a special one given its history and tradition. Yet, new ground was broken too. The RYS Rear Commodore, Jon Perry, announced that his club's Cup campaign will be taking a different approach from past RYS challenges--he exclaimed, ‘No more Mr. Nice Guy!’

“The inductees and their representatives had a wonderful experience. Inductees John Marshall and Ken McAlpine were deeply moved and honored to receive the award. Laura Jane Peterson, one of the daughters of the late inductee Doug Peterson (who died last summer), informed me, after the ceremony, that ‘speaking about my dad tonight was therapeutic.’ 91-year old Syd Fischer was represented by his grandson, Brenton, and seven other family members and friends; their table was one of the most exuberant that evening. David Sutton, and his wife, Gay, were very honored to accept the Sir Richard Francis Sutton Medal on behalf of their family; this Medal has encouraged them to get involved in Cup-related activities and they plan to attend the Cup match in New Zealand.

“By pairing the ACHOF Induction with the official start of the AC36 on the same day brought the past and present together. It was rewarding to see the skippers of the current Cup teams mingle with the 12-Metre Era veterans. And, later that night, it was a delight for me to give a tour of The Castle to ETNZ helmsman Peter Burling and Doug Peterson's daughters. While we were in the Platform, Burling, who helped engineer the steering wheel of his AC50, was drawn to the wheel of the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert. Turning the wheel, he remarked, ‘This thing is heavy!’

### **About the America's Cup Hall of Fame**

The **America's Cup Hall of Fame** was founded in 1992, as an arm of the Herreshoff Marine Museum by Halsey Herreshoff, a four-time America's Cup defender and grandson of legendary yacht designer Nathanael G. Herreshoff. Over eighty legends of the Cup have been inducted into the Hall. Candidates eligible for consideration include members of the crew, designers, builders, syndicate leaders, supporters, chroniclers, and other individuals of merit. Each nominee is judged on the basis of outstanding ability, international recognition, character, performance, and contributions to the sport. The members of the Selection Committee are persons intimate with the history and traditions of America's Cup and committed to the integrity of the Hall of Fame.

### **America's Cup Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

R. Steven Tsuchiya, Chairman  
Stuart Alexander  
B. Devereux Barker III  
Christine Belanger  
Bruno Bich  
John S. Burnham  
William Collier  
Bob Fisher  
Germán Frers  
Richard Gladwell  
Halsey C. Herreshoff  
Gary Jobson  
Wm. H. Dyer Jones  
Bruce Kirby  
John Lammerts van Bueren  
Elizabeth E. Meyer  
Peter J. Montgomery  
Rob Mundle  
Hamish Ross  
John Rousmaniere  
Bruno Troublé  
Tom Whidden

### **About the Herreshoff Marine Museum**

The **Herreshoff Marine Museum**, located in Bristol, Rhode Island, USA, is a maritime museum dedicated to the history of the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company and the America's Cup. The Herreshoff Manufacturing Company (1878-1945) was most notable for producing fast sailing yachts, including eight America's Cup defenders, and steam-powered vessels. The museum, situated near Narragansett Bay on the grounds where the manufacturing company once stood, has a collection of over sixty boats including Nathanael Greene Herreshoff's *Clara*, built in 1887, Harold Vanderbilt's *Trivia*, and the 1992 ACC yacht, *Defiant*.

Website: [www.herreshoff.org](http://www.herreshoff.org)

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