



Bluebottle Wins European Grade I Series to Cap Outstanding Season

Historic racing yacht **Bluebottle (GBR 192)** has ended an exceptional 2026 campaign by winning the International Dragon Association's **European Grade I Series** and the prestigious **Standfast Trophy**.

Campaigned by **Graham Bailey, Julia Bailey, Will Bedford and Killian Boag** under the care of **The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust**, Bluebottle secured the title through a series of consistently strong performances across Europe's premier Dragon regattas, including victory at the UK Grade I event in Cowes.

The result crowns one of the most successful seasons in the yacht's modern history. Highlights included second overall at the Dragon Gold Cup in Puerto Portals, victory in the Finnish National Championship, winning the Edinburgh Cup and International Dragon Association UK Grand Prix in Cowes, and reaching the top of the International Dragon Class world rankings during the summer.

Chief Executive of The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust, **Franck Bruyère**, said:

"Bluebottle's achievements throughout 2026 have been remarkable. To see a yacht with such a distinguished history competing successfully against the world's best modern Dragons is a tremendous accomplishment."

"Winning the European Grade I Series and Standfast Trophy is a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season and reflects the dedication of the race team and everyone involved in caring for Bluebottle."

Built by Camper and Nicholsons in 1948, Bluebottle was presented to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip as a wedding gift and went on to win bronze for Great Britain at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Following a major restoration commissioned by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust, she returned to competitive sailing and now races regularly on the international Dragon circuit.

The European Grade I Series victory also earns skipper Graham Bailey an invitation to compete in the inaugural Grade I Finals in San Remo in March 2027.

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Notes to Editors

- Bluebottle (GBR 192) was built in 1948 by Camper and Nicholsons.
- Presented to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip as a wedding gift from members of the Island Sailing Club, Cowes.
- Represented Great Britain at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, winning bronze.
- Cared for by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust and on loan from the Royal Collection Trust.
- Major 2026 achievements include: Dragon Gold Cup runner-up, Finnish National Champion, Edinburgh Cup winner, Marblehead Trophy podium finisher, and winner of the European Grade I Series and Standfast Trophy.

2026 season highlights include:

Second overall – Yanmar Dragon Gold Cup, Puerto Portals

Member of the winning Great Britain Nations Cup team

Fourth – European Grade I, San Remo

Fourth – European Grade I, Lake Balaton

Winner – Finnish National Championship

Number one in the International Dragon Class Ranking List during the season Winner - Cowes Week 2026, Dragon Class

Winner – Edinburgh Cup and IDA UK Grand Prix, Cowes
Third – Marblehead Trophy, Cowes
Winner – 2026 European Grade I Series and Standfast Trophy