

The Return of MYS

By Claire Griffiths

Like a lion cub emerging from its den for the first time, MYS 2021 padded out into the new world warily. As intended by the show organizers, it was smaller than in previous years with fewer exhibitors and much less foot traffic. Crew conferences, talks, and party invitations were noticeably absent; crew related stalwarts such as MYBA and the PYA put off making plans at this year's show. "We decided not to do the series of Sea Changes events as we do most years," says Stacey Soutar, communications manager at PYA. "But it was great to see the yachting world come out on the other side of COVID and I don't think people felt overwhelmed by the restrictions or restrained from networking."

Restrictions included masks when off the boat, proof of vaccination, or PCR test for entering the show. The threat of €100 for not wearing a mask loomed. Yachts were asked to PCR-test all crew, costing the yachts "small fortunes," said one captain.

The scores on the doors of the exhibition read like this: 88 motor yachts, 12 sailing boats with an average LOA of 49 meters. Thirty-seven new builds were presented, and the show featured nine yachts over 80 meters. The greatest number of yachts (36) were in the 40- to 50 meter-size bracket. Four hundred and forty-four exhibitors pitched up and visitors could view 52 tenders, 29 cars and bikes, but only one little chopper.

The inaugural *Boat International* Captains' Club event took place on Thursday at the show, where captains were able to enjoy acoustic live music aboard Damen Yachting's support vessel, *Time Off*. Fairmont Catering and Ocean Beer provided nourishment, with entertainment from Blue International Talent.

Across the show at the Yacht Club de Monaco, partners like FunAir and Wärtsilä joined *Dockwalk* at The Captains and Crew Lounge and provided breakfast and lunch to exhibiting crew, along with entertainment, food, wine tastings, and cooking demonstrations from attending yacht chefs.

MYS Head of Communications and Media Johan Pizzardini confirmed that initial feedback from the docks was positive and encouraging with the new format that targets specifically potential new owners or charterers. "Exhibiting builders and brokers seemed happy with a dockside area exclusively dedicated to their clients on day 1," he says. "As usual, there were lots of visits on board the yachts and we'll assess the quality of these leads in a couple of months."

As the clock struck six on the last day, the horns blasted, Capt. "Mafio" de Luca of S/Y *Taniwha* was not the only captain to let out a sigh of utter relief and admit that yacht shows are the most challenging and stressful missions a sailor is ever asked to make. 



Justin King and Dan Pamment of Blue International Talent with Capt. Nathan and Chief Officer Jacques of M/Y *Volpini 2*



Captains and crew relaxing inside the MYS Captains & Crew Lounge.



Enjoying lunch at the MYS C&C Lounge

Capt. Aaron Clark of M/Y *Artefact*, BOAT Acting Deputy Editor Sophia Wilson, Junior Capt. Mario Radecic of M/Y *Artefact*, Capt. Dan Jackson of S/Y *Ranger*, BOAT Editor Stewart Campbell, and Co-CEO Toby Moore of BOAT International



The crew of S/Y *Great White*



Enjoying the terrace at the MYS C&C Lounge