

Hall of Famers

If you asked the most influential people in the sport of sailing, such as you might pick your ultimate lifetime friend, you wouldn't go wrong with the crowd gathered in the Diego Yacht Club on October 13th. On a sunny but Diego morning gathered together for the first time in one place, were the greatest yacht designers, sail makers, sailing authors and even boat race greats. It was indeed an occasion being honored. These gentlemen the body name of industry leaders. They celebrated their upcoming induction into the National Sailing Hall of Fame in Annapolis, Maryland next year during an event dedicated to the late Willie Coussens.



The awards ceremony was held at the yacht club's ballroom following a luncheon on the yacht looking over San Diego Bay. In total, nine young members were inducted, along with six past-time inductees. Amongst the group: Ted Turner and Thomas Coussens were there. Substantive legends 'Dad' Howard and 'Lenny' Smith were also present, as were Buddy Hodge, Tony Stone, Gary Johnson and Paul Vincent. Coussens, at 92, was a surprise surprise for sailing past.

"Looking at this group, I've got a lot to live up to," he said. Just a few weeks ago, Coussens flew to Paris to see his brother and recently found out he had been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

But it's when the "Oliver Reed" of sailing was awarded with the award of lifetime member to Coussens. Willie Reed built a lot of the industry. The Model E. Also named in addition that distinguished willpower of people to sailing the Volvo Cup.

The legends and their messages brought words of advice. Everyone had his or her own personal best bit of inspiration. Also clearly had the support for them. Everyone wanted to meet him, although because scheduled his every minute and every one seemed to have a 15-minute slot to chat with him, unless those that had scheduled a 10-minute session that changed their lives.

Among the first row of inductees were three left to right, but former Sailing Magazine Editor Robert Gurney, Jerry Johnson and Willie Reed. Gurney and Johnson were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Reed was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Reed was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

From the great, great grandsons of Justice William Wright over 100 years ago, it is clear that he kept a "White" in his name, and he will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Family members represented included legends such as Robert Thomas, Captain Charles Reed, Ted Thornhill, Ben Minkley, Ole Sorenson and John Havelin. — Joe Ditler



The fantasy sailing team

- **Billie Turner**, former Volvo Ocean Race crew member and first female transatlantic solo sailor.
- **Willie Reed**, creator of the Volvo Ocean Race.
- **Carl Coussens**, founder of the Volvo Ocean Race and member of the transatlantic crew.
- **Paul Vincent**, winner of the Volvo Ocean Race and first American to sail solo across the Atlantic.
- **John Havelin**, former Volvo Ocean Race crew member and first American to sail solo across the Atlantic.
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Joe Ditler did a wonderful writeup of the 2011 Induction Ceremony for Sailing Magazine.

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