

Back with aplomb

After a two-year hiatus, the Dubai International Boat Show (DIBS) returned to one of UAE's most exciting cities with great fanfare for five days in March

The 28th instalment of this gilt-edged show, the biggest in the Middle East, was held at Dubai's brand new marina in Dubai Harbour, which boasts over 700 berths, some which are equipped to fit superyachts, which was an unequivocally valuable asset for this year's Boat Show.

This year's DIBS offered fun and entertainment for the whole family, with the water sports paradise set up for all ages, with kayaking, paddleboarding and many other activities, all

included in the initial ticket price for the show. The Dubai Fishing Championship also took place during the festivities, with anglers from around the world competing for the title.

With live DJs and music acts and food and drink available, as well as the Marine art gallery, the entertainment options available during the 5-day event weren't hard to find. On March 11, the

Below: A superyacht berthed at Dubai International Boat Show

show organised and hosted a Captain's Night at The Deck, for sailors to network and get a glimpse at new launches. For attendees with a deeper interest in the technical aspects of sailing the seas, there was a dive pool with demonstrations of the newest techniques and technologies, as well as the Dive MENA Expo, for the newest and best diving gear and equipment. As part of the diving programming for the show, DIBS organised Dive Talks from professional divers,

such as Ahmed Gabr and Chris Fallows, as well as others. The Middle East Yachting Conference also provided educational and news-worthy information for the Middle Eastern yachting community.

The Equipment Supplies and Services section of the show was all about exhibiting the suppliers for the leisure marine industry, which catered to both end consumers and trade buyers.

While the show floor may have felt intimidating to attendees, given its the biggest of its kind in the Middle East, DIBS set up a program called B2B Matchmaking that was all about matching consumers and buyers with the right exhibitors for their needs. The show also had a dedicated UAE Pavilion to celebrate and focus on the local businesses in Dubai and the ►





wider nation, as a tribute to the incredible city that hosts this show each year.

While the events and show floors were an exciting aspect of this year's show, perhaps the most anticipated part of DIBS, especially after its two-year hiatus, was the Superyacht Avenue, part of the new marina in Dubai Harbour.

With more than 50 incredible 'floating mansions', this part of the exhibit provided a fascinating look into the leisure marine industry. Some of the boats present included the Princess,

Feadship, and San Lorenzo yachts. An important aspect of the Superyacht Avenue was the launches of new boats by many of the exhibitors.

Over the course of the event, 34 premieres were revealed by many of the exhibitors, and given that the show has been missed by the yachting community for the past two years – cancelled due to the pandemic – the exciting launches were greeted with enthusiasm and anticipation.

While De Antonio Yachts debuted their D50 Open and D46 Cruiser models, EVO Yachts



unveiled the EVO R4, the newest version of their popular Evo 43 model. For the smaller yachts, the show saw San Lorenzo debuting their SX88 model, and the Ferretti Group showing the Riva 100 model, the Navetta, and the 8X and 9X. Oceanco presented a concept yacht for their newest design, KAIROS. The local shipbuilding company Gulf Craft also had their Majesty 120 model on display at the show.

With so many incredible launches and exhibitors, it's no wonder this boat show is the biggest in the Middle East.

Exhibitors from more than 54 countries across the world confirmed that this is one of the favourite events for yacht enthusiasts everywhere.

After a long two years, the show's return to Dubai was celebrated and lauded by maritime industries around the globe. The Dubai World Trade Centre, who organised the event, are sure to bring in more attendees in the years to come, as Dubai continues to grow its reputation as an important hub for the maritime and yachting industries.

boatshowdubai.com ■



Top: Sheikh Hamdan arrives at The Dubai International Boat Show, the biggest and most popular marine industry exhibition in the Middle East
Above: Ferretti Group Turns Heads
Left: The Garmin stand