Gowrie Group Sportsmanship Awards Presented at 11th Annual Robie Pierce One Design Regatta

For immediate release:  For immediate release | June 13, 2019 | Westbrook, CT
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The 11th annual Robie Pierce One Design Regatta was held on May 30th (Women’s Invitational) and May 31st–June 2nd (Robie Open Regatta) at American Yacht Club in Rye, NY in partnership with Larchmont Yacht Club. This annual disabled regatta is sailed in Ideal 18’s in teams of three (two disabled and one able-bodied sailor). The regatta was named after Robie Pierce, a disabled sailor himself who was a driving force in providing access to sailing and racing opportunities for those with disabilities in the U.S.

On May 30th, the Robie Pierce Women’s Invitational brought gray and rain threatening skies, but it didn’t stop the sailing. Special guest Betsy Alison, five-time Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year and member of the Sailing Hall of Fame, welcomed the guests on behalf of US Sailing, where she is Director of Adult Sailing. Julia Dorsett, along with her crew Gabby Mitchell and Deb Frankel dominated the Robie Pierce Women’s Invitational. Jane Betts was named as the winner of the Gowrie Group Sportsmanship Award. It was Jane Betts’ first year sailing in the regatta and she fully enjoyed racing.

The Robie Pierce One Design Regatta held May 31st – June 2nd brought 22 boats to the starting line. There were two races on the first day and both had four legs in a northwest wind. The winning team of Shan MacAdoo and Maureen McKinnon, who was a medalist in the China 2008 Paralympic Games and on the winning crew 3 times, said they had a “great time.” JoAnn Stead was awarded the 2019 Gowrie Group Sportsmanship prize. JoAnn Stead is a long term regatta participant and was described as the most improved by far and filled with joy. Pictured above is JoAnn Stead, winner, with Steve Schram, Gowrie Group’s Senior Vice President.

Bill Sandberg summed it up by saying, “the great thing about the Robie is that there is enough serious sailing for long time sailors, while providing a fun, learning experience for the newer ones.”