

The 94th Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge Cup Regatta is scheduled on Labor Day Weekend, August 29th thru September 1st. The Pass Christian Yacht Club will be hosting the Regatta which is the most prestigious regatta in the Gulf Yachting Association.

It was on August 9, 1919, William H. Parham, SYC's Secretary-Treasurer, wrote to his friend Sir Thomas Lipton suggesting the donation of a trophy. Sir Thomas responded on September 10th indicating his agreement to give a trophy to the club. In October 1919 Sir Thomas advised the club that the trophy was being fabricated and would be shipped to New Orleans. In compliance with Sir Thomas' wishes SYC decided to offer the trophy for interclub races between clubs in the Gulf area. As a result of the first race the Gulf Yachting Association had its beginning.

SYC's Officers and members were delighted with the trophy and elected Sir Thomas Lipton as an Honorary Life Member Extraordinary at the June 1920 meeting. Sir Thomas' letter of appreciation is shown on the right.

Thanks to Commodore Arthur Wynne for providing the copy of Sir Thomas Lipton's letter written in 1920.

Lipton's Officers
TELEPHONE NO.: CLERKENWELL, 2019.

City Road.
London, E.C. 1st December 1920.

My dear Commodore,

I duly received the very handsome and beautifully illuminated copy of the resolution electing me an Honorary Member Extraordinary of the Southern Yacht Club and I am very greatly obliged to the members for the honour they have done me. I can assure you that I very highly appreciate their kind thought and I would ask you to convey to the officers and members of the Club my warmest and most heartfelt thanks.

I am also greatly obliged for the interesting photographs and the very nicely bound copy of the "Barometer" for June, contents of which I have read with very much interest and pleasure.

The kindness shown me by the members of the Southern Yacht Club I value very highly and shall always remember, all the more so that its headquarters are in the City with which my early days were so pleasantly identified.

With renewed thanks and best wishes for the success and prosperity of the Club and its members,

Yrs sincerely
Thomas Lipton

Commodore Benedict,
Southern Yacht Club,



On the left is the Lipton Trophy, a duplicate original of the original trophy that was destroyed in the SYC fire caused by Hurricane Katrina. The replacement trophy was graciously provided by the Lipton Tea Company.

On the right is Sir Thomas Lipton as he appeared on the cover of Time Magazine in November of 1924. Sir Thomas was known as the most persistent challenger in the history of the America's Cup.

