



Qualifier 2 of SAILING Champions League Under the Motto of Sustainability

Hamburg, 21 May 2019 – The SAILING Champions League 2019 continues with the second qualifier taking place in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, from 23 to 26 May. Once again the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) is set to play host to a SAILING Champions League event. This year the regatta is entitled ‘One Ocean SAILING Champions League’ as the One Ocean Foundation is the presenting partner of this event.

Among the 24 clubs representing 16 nations will also be the reigning champion of SAILING Champions League 2018, Circolo della Vela Bari (CVB), that won the regatta in St Moritz last August. Simone Ferrarese, Team Manager from CVB, commented: “We are really looking forward to race again in Porto Cervo against some of the best clubs in Europe. Last year we had a really good season but we will really try to enjoy racing in there and have the same fun we had in 2018, of course we want to bring our best performance as possible and see where it will bring us!” Edoardo Recchi, Sports Director of YCCS, commented: “This will be our fifth SCL regatta and we expect the traditional sportsmanship and fair racing from the clubs that are gathering here from all around Europe.”

The seven best clubs will earn a place at the final in St Moritz, which takes place high up in the Swiss Alps from 15 to 18 August.

In 2017, when the YCCS celebrated its 50th anniversary, the yacht club launched the One Ocean environmental sustainability project. The initiative, strongly supported by Princess Zahra Aga Khan, is focused on safeguarding the marine environment. Jan Pachner, Secretary General of YCCS commented: “We are happy to be able to promote the principles of the One Ocean Foundation and the Charta Smeralda through events such as the SAILING Champions League, raising awareness with all the participants in the regatta, who represent 24 of the top yacht clubs in Europe, on safeguarding the sea.”

Already the season has begun with some beautiful racing conditions at the first qualifier event in Palma de Mallorca. Eight clubs already qualified in Palma. The last qualifier takes place in Saint Petersburg, Russia, from 4 to 7 July.

More information on the One Ocean Foundation and the Charta Smeralda ethical code are available on www.1ocean.org.

Livestream and results by SAP

As with all SAILING Champions League events, the final two days of racing on Saturday and Sunday will be live broadcasted by SAP from 12:00 hrs (UTC+2), with expert commentators providing blow-by-blow analysis of the racing, aided by the detail provided by SAP Sailing Analytics. The SAP Sailing Analytics provide 24/7 additional statistics and data for sailors, fans, spectators and media like GPS tracking, real-time analysis, live leaderboard combined with 2D visualisation. You find all results on sapsailing.com!

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For further information, please contact:

SAILING Champions League

Thomas Bässgen

Phone: +49 40 226 316 4-64

Mobile: +49 172 738 37 70

Email: press@sailing-championsleague.com

Website: www.sailing-championsleague.com

Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2018: Circolo della Vela Bari, Italy

2018: Youth SCL: Bodensee Yacht Club Überlingen, Germany

2018: Women's SCL: Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub, Denmark

2017: Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, Italy

2016: Deutscher Touring Yacht Club, Germany

2015: Kongelig Norsk Seilforening, Norway

2014: Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub, Denmark

HOW DOES THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WORK?

The most successful National Sailing League clubs compete against each other in three SAILING Champions League events, two semi-finals and then a Final. Each club forms a team from its most accomplished sailors. To win the title and the much sought-after trophy, the clubs have to perform under pressure and put in a world-class performance when it matters most. Short races, one-design boats, a standardised course and a competition between the most prestigious sailing clubs in the world - all these ingredients combine to guarantee sailing at its best.

THE IDEA BEHIND SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

It's a straightforward format that has been working well in football for years; now we have clear proof that it also works for sailing: *An international club competition generating high levels of media interest and a competition that clubs, sailors and fans can all identify with.*

The idea behind SAILING Champions League is simple: it's the championship of the national champions. The most successful clubs of the National Sailing League countries are competing against each other to fight for the title: "Best Sailing Club of the Year".

WHY NATIONAL SAILING LEAGUES?

The SAILING Champions League is based on the same proven and successful format of National Sailing Leagues. It all started out with a bold experiment in 2013 with the creation of the German Sailing League in 2013. The format was the brainchild of consulting and holding company "Konzeptwerft" in conjunction with some of the leading German sailing clubs as well as the German Sailing Association.

The concept took off like wildfire and it wasn't long before it started capturing the attention of sailors in other countries. The organisers of the German Sailing League started getting several serious inquiries from all around Europe and even from the USA. In 2014, Denmark became the first European country to adopt the format of a National Sailing League along the lines of the German model. As of 2018, 17 countries in Europe and the USA are running their own National Sailing Leagues. The logical conclusion of this trend? One international League for the national champions and the best of the National Sailing Leagues – the SAILING Champions League.

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YOUTH SAILING AND WOMEN'S SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUES

Following the exponential growth of the League format, the next obvious steps were to create special Leagues for Youth and Women's competition. So for the first time in 2018 we saw sailors competing in the Youth SAILING Champions League and Women's SAILING Champions League. It's all about making league sailing as accessible and attractive as possible to a wider group of sailors, as well as increasing the appeal to sponsors and commercial partners.

HISTORY OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

In 2013, the consulting and holding company "Konzeptwerft" in Hamburg revolutionised the sport of sailing in Germany. For the first time the clubs raced directly against each other in a friendly competition called the National Sailing League. The concept took the ages-old tradition of "club versus club" and turned that friendly rivalry into a competition that immediately caught the interest of sailors around the country. It ignited a passion for inter-club competition that hadn't previously existed. This enthusiasm not only caught the attention of the nationwide sailing community but also regional and nationwide media.

With a TV live stream as well as in-depth race analysis provided by SAP Sailing Analytics, fans and indeed anyone interested in sailing can follow each race of the National Sailing Leagues in real time on the internet. A panel of sailing experts and professional TV presenters bring all the action and excitement directly to people's homes and sailing clubs around the country

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