



Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron Wins SAILING Champions League 2019

St. Moritz, 18 August 2019 – The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron turned on the afterburners in a thrilling four-boat showdown to win the SAILING Champions League 2019 on the lake of St. Moritz (15 to 18 August 2019). The crew from Sydney were the only non-European team among 24 clubs representing ten nations, and now the trophy flies out of Europe for the first time, winging its way to Australia. Finishing in second place were Norddeutscher Regatta Verein from Germany. The other two clubs that contested the four-boat final represented Denmark: Kaløvig Bådelaug finishing third, and Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub in fourth place.

David Chapman, skipper of the winning team, commented: “We are absolutely stoked. We struggled to get a crew together for this regatta so we nearly didn’t come here at all. But what a great team to have sailing with me: Finn and Charlotte Alexander and Zac Quinlan.” Compared with the 51 races of eight-boat heats over the previous days of competition, the four-boat final required a more aggressive approach. No one could match the starting prowess of Chapman and his crew who won the first race of the finals and then followed up with an even more dominant display in race two. That was game, set and match to Australia.

“I know a lot of people back home in Australia were watching online,” smiled Chapman, “and I hope we’ll inspire more teams from Down Under to compete in the SAILING Champions League. It’s such great racing - turn up with your mates, race in equally-matched, provided boats and go sailing. It’s been a lot of fun, and I’m going to stick around an extra day to celebrate tonight.”

Oliver Schwall, founder of the concept of league sailing, commented: “Thanks to beautiful sunny days and the mighty Maloja Winds bringing up to 19 knots of breeze across the outstanding sailing stadium on Lake St. Moritz, the sailors have enjoyed champagne sailing conditions. The organisers ran the event like clockwork, delivering 17 flights of qualifying, along with an incredibly exciting four-boat final.”

The SAILING Champions League is supported by a number of key partners: Juvia, KRAFTWERK, DEDON, Badrutt’s Palace, Breitling, St. Moritz Tourism, Graubünden, DKSH, SAP and Marinepool.

Results by SAP

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 can look back through the races and find all the results on scl2019-final.sapsailing.com.

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Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2019: Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Australia
2019: Youth SCL: Bodensee-Yacht-Club Überlingen, Germany
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 four SAILING Champions League events, three Qualifiers 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 2019, 21 countries in Europe and Oceania 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 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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