

Bayerischer Yacht-Club wins St. Petersburg Qualifier in SAILING Champions League

St. Petersburg, 7 July 2019 – Bayerischer Yacht-Club from Germany has won the third and final Qualifier of the SAILING Champions League 2019. They won by 4 points from the also German runner-up, Wassersport-Verein Hemelingen. Union Yacht Club Wolfgangsee from Austria became third. Of the 20 teams competing, the top six have qualified for a place at the Final in St. Moritz next month. They are:

1. Bayerischer Yacht-Club (Germany)
2. Wassersport-Verein Hemelingen (Germany)
3. Union Yacht Club Wolfgangsee (Austria)
4. PIRogovo (Russia)
5. Regattaclub Oberhofen (Switzerland)
6. St. Petersburg Yacht Club (Russia)

The event was frustrated by no racing on day one, due to excessively strong winds. This was followed by two days of very light airs, which meant only five flights of racing could be completed before the final day. The wind for the last day was also light but consistent and enough for another three flights, making every result count more than usual.

Skipper Julian Autenrieth of the winning team from Bayerischer Yacht-Club commented: “The location in St. Petersburg is great here in the middle of the city. But the conditions were really tricky, with the low winds and the current. You always had to be able to stay calm. What we did well throughout were the starts with the current. This meant that we were often starting off among the top three, which made the races easier for us.”

On Friday there was a Gala Dinner under the theme of ‘Connecting through sport’, which took place alongside five international teams from the Nord Stream Race who had just completed the 1,000 mile offshore race along the length of the Baltic Sea.

Mans Lundberg from Finland is a sailor who competed in both the offshore Nord Stream Race and then went straight into the short-course J/70 sportsboat racing in the SAILING Champions League on the Neva River. “As I sailed in Nord Stream Race and SAILING Champions League I knew a lot of the people at the Gala Dinner. It was very connecting between the sailors. We were at the same table as the guys from Lithuania, and we talked a lot with them. It was a really nice event” said Mans Lundberg.

The Final of the SAILING Champions League will take place from 15 to 18 August in St. Moritz, high up in the Swiss Alps.

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-qualifier3.sapsailing.com.

For further information, please contact:

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Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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 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.

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 see 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 "Konzeptwert" 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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