

# Media Release

28 January, 2020

SAILING Champions League • 253 Esplanade • Brighton VIC 3186 • Australia



## **Tasmanians dominate SAILING Champions League - Asia Pacific Southern Qualifier**

Tasmania dominated the SAILING Champions League Asia Pacific Southern Qualifier, the state's two heavyweight teams making the four-boat final and finishing first and second after a thrilling last race that broke a four-way deadlock.

Two days and 27 umpired fleet races on RS21 keelboats off Geelong's waterfront, an event of the umbrella Festival of Sails, whittled the 12 teams representing Australia's southern states down to four.

Derwent Sailing Squadron/Sandy Bay Sailing Club's two teams joined South Australia's Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club (BSYC) and Royal Brighton Yacht Club (RBYC) from across the bay for the first to two points final on Monday January 27, 2020 in the best breeze of the series.

[Full replay of the live stream.](#)

DSS/SBSC's youth team skippered by Will Sargent carried a point advantage into the final and looked red hot to go all the way, but their savvy older clubmates had other ideas, evening the score with a bullet in the opening race.

RBYC 1's turn came in race 2 and then Brighton & Seacliff's team, skippered by Alex Higgins who is well known in 420s, made a late charge, winning race 3 to set up a sudden death fourth and final race.

In gusty then light and tricky sou'east breezes for the last downwind leg BSYC owned race 4 until the finish line. The pair crossed side-by-side and all eyes went to the committee boat to call the photo finish. DSS/SSCC 2 (Burnell) had scooped the win over BSYC by centimetres and seconds.

[Day 2 and final series highlights](#) by Beau Outteridge.

Burnell says his team combined quickly and this, plus his season steering an SB20 back home, "stood me in good stead for a few race finishes". On those up front he shared: "I've sailed with Sam [Tiedemann] and I used to coach Jack [Allison] in cadets, and Chloe's just an awesome sailor - we are unlucky to lose her to the mainland for Uni. She's doing the 49er FX worlds next month and hopefully the next Olympics. How good are these guys for keeping a train wreck like me on the rails? All credit goes to the legends in front of me."

The winning team say they are happy to return to Tasmania and rally more clubs for the next SAILING Champions League – Asia Pacific event. "It's been fantastic, a lot of friends from Geelong and Tassie who are here at the Festival of Sails are interested. I think it's going to grow; the concept is good, especially for us younger guys. We'll happily spread the word back home," Burnell added.

Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club's team were shocked at the result but collected themselves quickly, "Obviously we are a bit disappointed but the opportunity to have such competitive

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racing has been so much fun," Higgins said once docked back at Royal Geelong Yacht Club. "It was really tricky on that last downwind, we also had Sarge [Will Sargent, DSS/SBSC 1] coming through. I think we were thinking about too many things. Hats off to Oli, he's a great sailor and deserves the win. We'll have to fire up and come back, hopefully we make it to Sydney for the final in April."

DSS/SBSC 1, also called TAZ Racing Team, finished second overall and the top youth team, Brighton & Seacliff third and RBYC 1, helmed by Finn sailor Oli Tweddell placed fourth. RBYC's women's team skippered by Laura Harding took out the women's category.

The top six open teams from the Southern Qualifier will join the top six from the Northern Qualifier plus invited teams from Asia and the Pacific for a three-day final April 3 – 5 on Sydney Harbour hosted by the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

RSYS is the current SAILING Champions League world titleholder after their representative team travelled to St Moritz last August and beat the seasoned Europeans, a surprise result given it was Oceania's first year of league competition.

[Full results for the qualifying races and final series here.](#)

The next event on the SCL – Asia Pacific calendar is the Northern Qualifier Hunters Hill Sailing Club will host March 15-16 followed by the first SCL Asia Pacific Women's & Youth Regatta, an invitational event at Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club over the weekend of March 21-22, 2020.

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## How to follow the SCL – Asia Pacific series:

Facebook: [SAILING Champions League](#)

Website: <https://sailing-championsleague.asia/> <https://sailing-championsleague.com/>

Instagram @sailing\_champions\_league

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwGVavPsdDYM8a5G0fYGTYg>

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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

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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, Qualifiers & 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 & put in a world-class performance when it matters most. Short races, one-design boats, a standardised course & 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 & 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 & successful format of National Sailing Leagues. It all started out in 2013 with the creation of the German Sailing League. The format was the brainchild of consulting & 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 & 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 & 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 & Oceania are running their own National Sailing Leagues. The logical conclusion of this trend? One international League for the national champions & the best of the National Sailing Leagues – the SAILING Champions League.

## 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 & Women's competition. So for the first time in 2018 we saw sailors competing in the Youth SAILING Champions League & Women's SAILING Champions League. It's all about making league sailing as accessible & attractive as possible to a wider group of sailors, as well as increasing the appeal to sponsors & commercial partners.

## HISTORY OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

In 2013, "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" & 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 & indeed anyone interested in sailing can follow each race of the National Sailing Leagues in real

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time on the internet. A panel of sailing experts and professional TV presenters bring all the action and excitement directly to people's homes & sailing clubs around the country.

In 2019 the concept spread to Oceania with the creation of the National Sailing League - Oceania, hosting their first event on the backdrop of Sydney Harbour. In 2020 this will expand to become the SAILING Champions League – Asia Pacific with the next exciting step being the expansion throughout Asia Pacific

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