

Youth team from Lake Thun beats “sailing seniors”

Switzerland’s Regattaclub Oberhofen Wins SAILING Champions League Qualifier in Kiel.Sailing.City

Kiel, 01 August 2021: At the only SAILING Champions League Qualifier this year, the 25 sailing clubs from 14 European nations presented sailing at its best for four days in the city centre of Kiel. After a total of 50 races, the winner is Regattaclub Oberhofen from Switzerland. Two German clubs follow, in second place the Flensburger Segel-Club and the Verein Seglerhaus am Wannsee in third place. The best 15 clubs qualify for the Final of SAILING Champions League from 7th to 10th October 2021 in Porto Cervo.

For many clubs, it was the first regatta this year, so the stormy conditions of up to 36 knots on Thursday demanded everything from the sailors right on day one. With constant sailing conditions throughout the event, the clubs presented sailing par excellence for the spectators in Kiel.

The races of the so-called “Final Four”, the best four clubs, decided which clubs made it onto the podium. After 48 qualifying races, 16 for each club, the clubs in places 1 to 4 fought for the overall victory. Flensburger Segel-Club from Germany entered the final series as the leader of the qualification series with already one race win and needed one more victory to win the regatta.

In the end, the Swiss were the luckiest and had the stronger nerves. The youth team from Regattaclub Oberhofen with five sailors aged 17 to 20 won the first final race and also secured the overall victory in the SAILING Champions League Qualifier by winning the second race, pushing three German clubs to second to fourth place. "We are very happy about winning and being able to represent our club like this. We didn't have any tactics in mind for the final races. After the first race win, we just wanted to keep calm - and that worked out. We would like to thank our club for trusting us and giving us the opportunity to compete against the 'big guys' here in Kiel," said helmsman Nick Zeltner, who competed with Nilo Schaerer, Cedric Schenk, Laurent Stadler and Nicolas Wyss.

It was a sailing spectacle in the heart of the city of Kiel, where Europe's best sailing clubs from the National Sailing Leagues competed from Thursday to Sunday to qualify for the SAILING Champions League Final in Porto Cervo.

"Once again, Kiel.Sailing.City lived up to its name over the last few days. The Inner Fjord proved to be a spectacular area with challenging conditions and challenged sailors from all over Europe. We are pleased to being able to offer the citizens of Kiel and tourists hands-on sailing," explains Jonathan Hartmann, Head of Sailing & Business at Kiel-Marketing GmbH.

The city of Kiel hosted the SAILING Champions League Qualifier together with TSV Schilksee and Segel-Club Baltic.

The 15 qualified clubs for the SAILING Champions League Final in Porto Cervo:

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| 1. Regattaclub Oberhofen, Switzerland | 10. Brändö Seglare, Finland |
| 2. Flensburger Segel-Club, Germany | 11. WSV Almere Centraal, Netherlands |
| 3. Verein Seglerhaus am Wannsee, Germany | 12. Kieler Yacht-Club, Germany |
| 4. ONEKiel, Germany | 13. Burgenländischer Yachtclub, Austria |
| 5. Bandholm Sejlklub, Denmark | 14. BI Athletics Seiling, Norway |
| 6. Calipso, Russia | 15. Halmstad Segelsällskap, Sweden |
| 7. Wassersport-Verein Hemelingen, Germany | |
| 8. Åländska Segelsällskapet, Finland | |
| 9. Yacht Club Gdansk, Poland | |

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Background Information

WINNERS OF THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2020: Segel- und Motorboot Club Überlingen, Germany

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

THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The SAILING Champions League (SCL) is a format in which the best sailing clubs in the National Sailing Leagues compete against each other on an international level.

BACKGROUND

The cornerstone of the SCL was the founding of the Sailing National League in 2013 as a collaboration between the Hamburg-based consulting and investment company "Konzeptwertf", the German Sailing Association and some of Germany's leading sailing clubs to create a sailing competition at club level for the first time. Within a very short time, the concept was adopted by other nations based on the German model. By 2021, 23 countries in Europe and Oceania were already operating a national sailing league.

Due to strong interest, the competition was brought up to the international level and the SCL has been held since 2014. As in other sports, the best clubs in each national league qualify. Clubs, sailors and fans can identify with this format. The enthusiasm not only attracted the attention of the international sailing community, but is also reflected in the strong media interest at the international level.

FORMAT

Clubs compete in a qualifying series consisting of several regattas spread throughout the season and a final. Each club forms a squad of the best sailors. Sailing is done in crews of four on J/70 class boats. In the races themselves, short races, one-design boats, a standardized course and sailing at the highest level characterize the SCL.

LIVE BROADCAST

The competitions will be broadcast by the SailTracks broadcasting company and can be followed live on YouTube, Facebook and www.sailing-championsleague.com. Experienced commentators will guide through the races and illustrate the action using detailed race analysis from SAP Sailing Analytics.

YOUTH AND WOMEN'S SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUES

Further competition series developed from the original SCL: The SCL for juniors, the Youth SCL, and a separate series for women's competitions, the Women's SCL. The establishment of both leagues is intended to make sailing more attractive and accessible to the target groups. In addition, a signal is set for the promotion of women in sailing as well as the support of young talents. The competitions of both leagues were held for the first time in 2018.

SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - ASIA PACIFIC

In 2020, the format expanded to the Asia Pacific region. In a separate qualifying series, the best sailing clubs can qualify for the SCL - Asia Pacific Final. The Asia Pacific region includes the countries in country groups I, J, K and L as defined by World Sailing. An overview can be found at www.sailing.org/mna. The three best clubs of the SCL - Asia Pacific Final qualify for the SCL Final in Europe.