

Esbo Segelförening wins their first SCL final in their first attempt in Porto Cervo Finnish Champion Wins Stadium Races at the Final of the SAILING Champions League 2021

Porto Cervo, 10 October 2021: The final of the SAILING Champions League 2021 showed spectacular racing like never before in Porto Cervo, Sardinia (7-10 October 2021). For the first time, the final of the best sailing clubs in Europe took place in the harbour of the hosting Yacht Club Costa Smeralda and presented sailing sport at its best. In the eighth year of the SAILING Champions League (SCL), Esbo Segelförening, the Finnish Champion 2020, wins at its first appearance in the final. The second place was taken by the Swiss from Seglervereinigung Kreuzlingen, tied on points ahead of Flensburger Segel-Club from Germany in third and the Royal Danish Yacht Club in fourth.

"Best Yacht Club of the Year" is the title that the sailors of Esbo Segelförening (ESF) and their club are entitled to proudly represent for the next year, taking over from last year's winner from Germany, the Segel- und Motorboot Club Überlingen. The young, talented crew of Lucas Karlemo, Victor Mesterton, Anton Eklund and Emil Lindblom took their second race win in the fourth and final race of the "Final Four" and crowned themselves winners of the SAILING Champions League 2021 at their first ever SCL final appearance. Anton Eklund, tactician of ESF: "The conditions were tricky, very shifty but good for us because that's what we're used to from Finland. We like it. We have a team that works well together that helped a lot. We kept cool in the final races, sailed our own races, had good starts and took the right shifts and stayed out of trouble. That could have been our key to winning. We are super happy!"

After 40 qualifying races, the final of the best four clubs could not hold more suspense. As in the previous year, the decision was made in the last final race. The Swiss team entered the final with the advantage of one race win. The first final race was won by the Germans, the second by the Finns and the third by the Danes. This meant, the winner of the last final race would be the overall winner of the SCL 2021.

Four days of "champagne sailing", wind around 20 knots and bright sunshine, that's what the 29 clubs from 15 nations had been looking forward to - the perfect conditions for the SCL Final. This year, the wind gods meant it too well at the Costa Smeralda. On Thursday, sailing was out of the question due to strong winds and waves up to three metres high. On Friday, the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) convinced the local authorities to grant an exemption within three hours, which allowed sailing within the harbour - normally, setting sails is allowed in Italian harbours. This ensured the sporting events of the SCL Final. The protected races in the harbour area are a novelty in the YCCS club history and fascinated spectators on site, in the live stream and the media likewise.

At the SCL Final, 29 clubs from 15 European countries were represented: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and, for the first time, Turkey.

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Background Information

WINNERS OF THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2021: Esbo Segelförening, Finland

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 "Konzeptwert", 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.