
Long-distance regatta in the Baltic Sea attracts interest **Rebooted Nord Stream Race Successfully Established**

Kungliga Svenska Segelsällskapet from Sweden, Frederikshavn Sejlklub from Denmark and Åländska Segelsällskapet from Finland qualified for Nord Stream Race 2018

Hamburg/St. Petersburg, 12th October 2017 – The Nord Stream Race has successfully established itself entitled “Connecting Baltics through Sports” and with innovations as a long-distance multi-stage regatta through the Baltic Sea. The planning of the 2018 edition is in full swing.

Successful new edition of Nord Stream Race

At the Nord Stream Race 2017, the champion clubs from the five National Sailing Leagues in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Russia sailed 1,000 nautical miles from Kiel to St. Petersburg, competing in new ClubSwan 50 one-design racing yachts. Each of the five sailing clubs has sent a crew with ten of their best sailors. The teams included young sailors, women as well as experienced offshore sailors and Volvo Ocean Race winner. The race followed the Nord Stream pipeline from Kiel via stopovers in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki to the finish in St. Petersburg.

At the stopovers, some of the most renowned sailing clubs invited crews and sailing fans to a series of events for a cultural and sporting encounter and mutual understanding. At the finish, Saint Petersburg Yacht Club as race organiser and one of the leading yacht clubs in Europe invited the Baltic’s sailing elite to the spectacular award ceremony in the historic city centre.

Better, stronger and tougher competition

The feedback from the sailors and the hosting clubs has been unanimously positive. “All sailors were thrilled by the combination of long-distance stages and short inshore races,” said charismatic skipper and Whitbread Race veteran Kenneth Thelen from Nyländska Jaktklubben from Finland. “The sailors are all used to tight competition in one-design boats but for most of them it was their first experience in offshore sailing in 15-metre boats – racing at night and in storms. They loved it!”

Strong media interest

Public interest in the Nord Stream Race has exploded this year: the race itself, the participating teams and the hosting clubs have all received extensive media coverage. A total reach of over 30 million contacts were generated with over 360 articles about the race. “By involving the winners of the National Sailing Leagues from Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Russia, we have received a lot of attention and support in these countries as well,” said Vladimir Lubomirov, commodore of Saint Petersburg Yacht Club, and added “everyone was able to follow their national champions.”

Danish, Swedish and Finnish teams qualified for 2018

In Denmark, Sweden and Finland the 2017 sailing season is already over and the National Sailing Leagues have found their champions who qualify for Nord Stream Race 2018. In Denmark it is the team from Frederikshavn Sejlklub, in Sweden it is the Kungliga Svenska Segel Sällskapet from Stockholm and in Finland it is the Åländska Segelsällskapet from the Åland islands.

Potential additional participants for 2018

There are already inquiries from clubs from other Baltic countries and within Europe who want to compete in the Nord Stream Race in 2018. Also, owners of ClubSwan 50 yachts have expressed their interest in participating in the next event.

About the Nord Stream Race

The Baltic offshore regatta Nord Stream Race has been held by Saint Petersburg Yacht Club with the support of Gazprom and Nord Stream AG since 2012. The race connects Russia, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Five champions qualified to participate in the Nord Stream Race 2017 via their National Sailing Leagues from the previous season: Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club from Germany, Frederikshavn Sejlklub from Denmark, Cape Crow Yacht Club from Sweden, Nyländska Jaktklubben from Finland and Lord of the Sail - Europe from Russia.

All results on: www.nord-stream-race.com

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