



## Official Grade 1 World Series Regatta

### 20. Match Race Germany 2017

First Event Match Race Super League 2017

#### Press Release 03

Match Race Germany is celebrating its 20th anniversary:

12 skippers from 10 nations compete on Lake Constance

Langenargen / Lake Constance (Match Center Germany/Match Race Germany), 3rd of May 2017. The participants for the 20th Match Race Germany from June, 1 to 5 form an attractive fleet: 12 skippers from ten nations including two German crews with sailing professionals Markus Wieser (Starnberg) and the German Matchrace Champion Max Gurgel (Hamburg), as well as three skippers from the top ten of the Matchrace World Rankings, head to Lake Constance over Whitsun. Germany's most famous duel sail regatta is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with many additional attractions. Approximately 30,000 spectators are expected in the Race Village in Langenargen's picturesque Gondola Harbour, on the shores of Lake Constance. The internationally renowned five-day series and their close-to-shore matches will be commented live by well known ZDF reporter Nils Kaben. The anniversary edition of the German Grand Prix also marks the start of the new Match Race Super League - a global matchrace circuit, which is carried out on monohull boats. The organizer of the Lake Constance classic is the Match Center Germany with sports director Eberhard Magg, event manager Harald Thierer and their team in collaboration with the Yacht Club Langenargen.

"Good races and a great atmosphere" describe the expectation of the most successful Swiss match racer Eric Monnin (Albert Riele Swiss Team), competing for his ninth time in Match Race Germany. The 35-year-old physicist and engineer Monnin achieved his best result at Lake Constance with his team in 2015, when he was only defeated in the finals. Monnin achieved one of his best results at the Bermuda Gold Cup in front of Hamilton, the Capital of the island, in 2014, when the Swiss beat the British Matchrace World Champion Ian Williams in the semifinals before they had to settle for second after losing to Johnie Berntsson's Swedish team in the final. Eric Monnin is a duel Sailor of passion "because good teamwork is so important in this particular sailing discipline, it could well be called the mother of sail racing".

In addition to the Swiss team, the top ten skipper Lukasz Wosinski (Poland, Delphia Sailing Team), Olli-Pekka Lumijärvi (Finland, Team Lumijärvi) and Mati Sepp (Estonia, Team Estonia) compete in Match Race Germany and striving for success. Markus Wieser is one of the most successful German sailing professionals in the world. The 53-year-old Dragon world champion, big boat tactician and matchrace specialist was the only German helmsman to ever win legendary Match Race Germany back in 2001. At the time, together with his regular match race team they defeated the crew of the three-time Olympic champion Jochen Schümann a gripping final. Wieser, who grew up on Lake Starnberg, is looking forward to his comeback at Lake Constance with his long-time companions and friends Wolfgang Käfer, Matti Paschen, Thomas Auracher and Filiph Blinn: "We put together our crew of that time and are very much looking forward to our comeback to Germany's No. 1 Match Race!" Frenchman, Maxime Mesnil (co-pilots by Normandy Elite Team) and Simon Berthaud are two French crews heading for Lake Constance. Mesnil's team had reached the final in the 2016 Match Race Germany land will not be satisfied with less. Under the Austrian flag, Max Trippolt and his Trippolt Sailing Team are fighting for a top position. In addition, last year's sixth-placed Dejan Presen (Lumba Match Race Team), the Swedish Caprice Match Racing Team of Kim Kling from Gothenburg, the Russian crew of Andrej Nikolaev and last but not least the German Matchrace Champion Max Gurgel' team Vmax Yachting from the Hamburger Segel-Club at the Alster will challenge the favorites.



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### Start of the new Match Race Super League

The anniversary edition also marks the beginning of a new world series and a big chapter in Match Race history: Match Race Germany is the grand opening regatta on the Match Race Super League, starting this year with seven regattas, covering four continents and supported by World Sailing. With the series, the founders and initiators, which are the German organizers of the Matchcenter Germany together with Dane Morten Lorenzen, the Duelsailingsport on one hull, will experience it's revival. Says Eberhard Magg: "The international matchracing on monohull boats was missed by sailors, organizers woning their own fleets, fans and sponsors alike. Now we can fire the starting gun to the rebirth with the 20th Match Race Germany. We are looking forward to an exciting first season and are looking forward to seeing how the best here on Lake Constance can get and perform through the season!"

The dedicated team of the Yacht Club Langenargen traditionally watches over the sporting side of the event on the waters of Lake Constance. PRO Rudi Magg and his team are celebrating their own 20th matchrace anniversary with Match Race Germany. For two decades, they have been the guardians of fair races, great sportsmanship and spectacular matches. ZDF reporter and match-race Germany commentator Nils Kaben is back for a 7th consecutive apperance. The experienced sports journalist will accompany the duels live and supply the fans on shore with all the information needed about the sportive big event and the fest on land. "I have been at the Match Race Germany for many many years, and I congratulate the organizers on the occasion of the anniversary! The expertise and the heart blood invested, with which Eberhard Magg, Harald Thierer and their whole team organize and carry out the regatta since the zero hour back in 1997, are unique in the German sailing sport landscape. I keep my fingers crossed for the next 20 years! "

### At Whitsun the sails are set:

Strong partners, grandiose festivals

For the quality and image of Match Race Germany and its organizers, it is great to see, and speaks for the organizing team of course, that many sponsors of the zero hour are still on board for the 20th edition of the German Grand Prix. Every year, around 30,000 guests in average flock to the lakeside shores and to the Langenargen gondola harbour, where the racevillage is situated and at home. For the anniversary it could be even more in good weather conditions. The daily sailing sport festival on the water is continued in the evenings in the legendary Erdinger Urweisse Hütt'n with well-known bands, regional delicacies, plenty of infotainment and exuberant dance parties with thousands of visitors. We keep you up-to-date on event highlights, participants and partners on our homepage: [www.matchrace.de](http://www.matchrace.de)



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### **HISTORICAL SERIES Part 2: "Battle of Britain" at MATCH RACE GERMANY**

When Sir Ben Ainslie, the most successful Olympian in the history of sailing and current Challenger for the America's Cup, triumphed back in 2009  
Eight years ago, Sir Ben Ainslie became the Matchrace King of Langenargen. At the time team member of ETNZ, now the founder and skipper of the British America's Cup Team Land Rover BAR, dominated his French opponent Damien lehl to beat him 3:1 in the finals. Part of Sir Ben's team at the time was his tactician and friend Iain Percy (currently sports director of Artemis Racing in the quest to win the 35th America's Cup in Bermuda) as well as other members of his team. "Big Ben" Ainslie conquered Lake Constance by storm. But to kick off, he had first lost four duels on the first day. "A lot of people had already given us up," said Ainslie, smiling during the prize giving, "now we are the winners and I want to thank my crew for that." For 20 years now, the stars, and the upcoming sailing stars have been passionately taking part in Match Race Germany. In the "Ainslie year" picture perfect conditions had been the guarantee for an all time visitor record of around 43,000 fans. His most legendary and decisive duel in that year, Ainslie had already fought before the final. In the quarter-finals, the match between him and the multiple World Champion Ian Williams marked a spectacular "Battle of Britain". The referees had to allocate half a dozen penalties in six duels. Ainslie's tactician Percy even went overboard at the peak of the sailing battle. In a collision, the mast of Ainslie's boat shaved and cut the backstay (mast support) of Williams' boat in 20-25 knots picture perfect sailing conditions. Williams was punished with a point deduction. Ainslie finally won the battle with 3: 2.33 points.

THE END

### **Participants 2017**

Lukas Wosinski, POL  
Olli Pekka Lumijärvi, FIN  
Mati Sepp, EST  
Maxime Mesnil, FRA  
Dejan Presen, SLO  
Max Trippolt, AUT  
Simon Bertheau, FRA  
Eric Monnin, SUI  
Kim Kling, SWE  
Andrej Nikolaev, RUS  
Max Gurgel, GER  
Markus Wieser, GER



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