



2013 Finn Dinghy European Championship Warnemünde/Germany

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Amongst others Willy Kuhweide and Jochen Schuemann are coming: all-star cast in Warnemuende, Germany, at the Finn Dinghy European Championship in July

The Finn European Championship 1961 was the first great championship in the marina of Warnemuende, which was originally built for that event. Willy Kuhweide won his first championship title back then and continued his extraordinary sailing career with two Olympic medals and further World Championship and European Championship titles. Also Jochen Schuemann likes to look back at his time of Finn sailing: he won his first Olympic medal in this class back in 1976, and turned out to be one of the most successful and most famous German sailors. 52 years later all of them will meet again: the former Finn grandeurs and the legends of today. On the occasion of the European Championship of the Olympic single- handed dinghy from 19 – 27 July 2013 they will visit the high- ranking casted regatta, to which 100 athletes from Europe and the world will attend. The German top sailors will all together compete against them and they are sure to continue their road to success in Warnemuende. Already this last weekend the Finn Team Germany met in Warnemuende to exercise with other ambitious sailors under the guidance of Olympic sailor Robert Stanjek (Starboot).

„We aim to have the German Finn sailors in excellent form as to present themselves as hosts with good team power“, Robert Stanjek points out. Three training camps and two international races before the European Championship have been a good preparation. The first of the three training camps was last weekend (a German bank holiday weekend) in Warnemuende. „In addition to their studies and work back home they will have to exercise hard until they are fit as a fiddle“, emphasizes Stanjek, who definitely knows how important exercise in the long run is, since he was the 6th at the Olympic Games in London 2012.

Jan Kurfeld is also there to give his eyeteeth. The 25- year- old Finn sailor, who has paused after disappointing results at the Finn World Championship in Perth 2011, will attack with full sails, especially since he has played an important role in bringing the championship to Germany. He cleared the way to the third European Championship in his boat class to be in Warnemuende back at the Finn Gold Cup in San Francisco in August 2010. „I know that our sailing area is one of the world’s best and can compete easily with others“. But the competition never sleeps. Already two famous competitors have registered: the Spaniard Rafael Trujillo (second place in the Olympic Games 2004 and 2012) and the Dutch Pieter Jan Postma (fourth place in London 2012).

The hosts have also invited very important people as support: next to Willy Kuhweide and Jochen Schuemann another Olympic medal winner of this boat class will come – the Austrian Hubert Raudaschl. He won silver 1968. Arne Akerson from Sweden, world champion 1963 as well as Bernd Dehmel, world vice champion 1965, Walter Gaertner, third place at the European Championship 1961 and Hans Christian Schroeder, twice European champion 1972 and 1973 are all looking forward to this great event in Warnemuende. „Jaques Rogge will come as well – he has participated in the Olympic Games of this boat class three times and has been president of the world association“, knows Juergen Mier. The Finn world champion of 1965 from Warnemuende pulls the strings for all the peripheral meetings of the great champions.

The European Championship is organized by the German Finnsegler Vereinigung (German Finn Association), the Rostock Regatta Verein (Regatta Association Rostock) as well as the Akademischer Seglerverein zu Rostock. They are supported by the government of Mecklenburg- Pommerania as well as numerous sponsors like Rügen Fisch AG, the OstseeSparkasse Rostock, Finnsailing.de, Aida Cruises oder die Firma PUR Pestel, who are all interested in fair and challenging races on the Baltic Sea.

<http://www.finneuropeans.org/ec2013>

The Finn Dinghy is 4,50 m long, 1,50 m wide and has a draft of 0,85 m. The hull weights 116 kg, inclusive fin and messenger, sails width 10 sqm. This one- handed boat class has been Olympic since 1952, and was designed by den Swede Rickard Sarby in 1949.

The Finn Team Germany 2013 are the following members: Lennart Luttkus, born in 1992, sailing club Bayer-Uerdingen / Matthias Miller, born in 1982, Wuerttembergischer Yachtclub / Jan Kurfeld; born in 1987, Yachtclub Wismar / Uli Kurfeld, born in 1985, Yachtclub Wismar / Lars Haverland, born in 1989, Schweriner Yacht Club / Simon Gorgels, born in 1995, Yachtclub Noris (Nuernberg) / They are supported by the association „Verein zur Förderung des Nachwuchssportes in der Finn Dinghy Klasse e.V.“. This was founded in September 2006 by active Finn sailors, and aims to inspire young, talented sailors for Finn sailing and will help them to find their way to the world's top.

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