



Brunnen, July 2016

6mJI European Championship 2016

31 yachts at the start line

The world's top skippers in the 6mJI class will be competing for the title of European Champion 2016 off Brunnen on Lake Lucerne from 16 July to 19 July 2016.

The final preparations for the major sailing event are currently under way at the Fallenbach Marina near Brunnen. Some of the crews have already arrived in Brunnen and are conducting their initial practice runs. The European Championship starts on Saturday 16 July and lasts until Tuesday 19 July 2016. The racing will take place on Lake Uri or in the Gersau Basin - depending upon the wind conditions. This year's 6mJI Swiss Championship will be staged over the same course prior to the European Championship. The major event is being organised in collaboration with the Regattaverein Brunnen RVB.

Boat with cult status

The 6 metre JI boats are amongst the beautiful yachts in the world and enjoy near cult status in sailing circles. Not just because of their impressive appearance on the water but also in particular due to the fact that yachts from the early Twenties of the last century will be there at the start. For example, the oldest boat taking part in this year's EC was built in 1921. It comes from Finland and sails under the name of "Ran VIII". The second oldest yacht, "Lucie", was built in 1931 and is skippered by Matt Brooks from the USA. Brooks was the winner in his class in last year's Fastnet Race

and he is the current President of the International Six Metre Association ISMA. With 11 boats, Switzerland is providing the largest contingent of participants, followed by the USA and Great Britain, each with 3 boats. The remaining participants come from Denmark, Germany, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The racing is staged in two categories: Classics (built before 1956) and Moderns. As this is not a single class of boats but boats which are constructed according to a formula dating back to 1907, they differ in terms of shape and equipment yet can still be classified according to actual sailing time. The approx. four ton yachts each have a crew of five. Anyone wishing to buy a new 6 metre yacht today must expect to pay around a quarter of a million Swiss francs or more.

Be there 'up close and personal'

The starting point for the racing is the Fallenbach Marina outside Brunnen. It offers the participants the ideal infrastructure. Spectators with an interest in sailing have a unique opportunity to experience the fascinating and exciting hustle and bustle prior to and after a race. The registration and measurement of the boats will take place on Thursday and Friday (14/15 July). Things then get serious from Saturday up to and including Tuesday (16 - 19 July 2016). A total of 8 races will be staged. Up to three races a day can be started, depending upon the weather conditions. The precise details of the respective day's programme will be announced at each Skippers' Meeting at 10 a.m.

By barge to the site of the racing

The organisers are offering sponsors of the event, the partners of our crew members as well as visitors interested in watching the sailing, the opportunity to follow the racing close up. The "Stauffacher" barge will be taking guests to the site of the racing on each of the three days, 16/17 and 18 July. On board, experienced sailors will explain what's happening on the water as well as the tactics and possible strategies of the participants in the racing. The trip on the barge costs CHF 35.00 per person. Food and drinks on board are included in the price. Subject to good weather conditions the barge will dock at the Fallenbach Marina at 10 a.m. and then depart from there. Spaces can be reserved with Brunnen Tourismus: Tel. 041 825 00 40.