

**Sailing**

**European Championship 2016 of the 6 Metre JI Class in Brunnen, Switzerland**

**Wind, finally!**

**The European Championship 2016 started of with best wind conditions and plenty of sunshine.**

During the past days the 31 crews who were registered for the Swiss Class Championship of the 6mJI Yachts did not have much to cheer about. Constant rain and almost no wind greeted the sailors every day. For todays start of the European Championship regatta however, the „Urnersee“, the most eastern arm of the Lake of Lucerne presented itself in the best possible way: It was a gorgeous, sunny day with perfect thermal winds of up to 16 knots which allowed for two good races for both the Modern and the Classic fleet. Race officer Martin Kolb was very pleased: „Everything worked out smoothly. And most important: The sailors finally got to enjoy the legendary wind the region is known for“.

After two races the swiss boat „Junior“ with Jean-Marc Monnard at the helm leads the „Modern“ fleet with the perfect score of two first places, followed by the swiss boat „Temptation 3“, piloted by Beat Furrer, the president of the Association Suisse 6mJI. In the „Classics“ fleet (built before 1956) the US boat „Lianoria“ leads the pack

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with Skipper Eric Jesperen managing to sail in a 1. and a 2. place, but competitor „Nada“ from Great Britain with Poul Hoj-Jensen at the helm is following just 1 point behind.

**Bad luck for the oldest yacht in the fleet**

Despite the good conditions the opening was not a good one for the oldest boat in the fleet, the swiss Yacht „Ran VIII“. Just before the start of the first race, the owner Carsten Joergensen and Skipper Stefan Epper noticed a crack in the mast. Although barely visible when not under load, the danger of breaking the mast during the race would have been much to high, so the crew had no other choice than to pull back into the harbor of Fallenbach, where they could apply a temporary fix. They managed to get back out to the race zone almost in time for the second race and crossed the starting line only with a little delay.

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**6MJI European Championship 2016**

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