



Press Release

Gstaad, 24th July 2016

GYC Racing Team Trio for Rio 2016

In yesterday's Pre-Olympic Brunch at the GYC clubhouse – members, guests and friends gave a Brazilian farewell to the GYC Racing Team on their way to the Olympics.

The trio for Rio welcomed Nathalie Brugger and Will Ryan – two out of the four GYC sport members who depart today, 10 days prior to the event for the final preparations.

The Gstaad Yacht Clubs sport members are: the Nacra 17 team with Matías Bühler and Nathalie Brugger who qualified for Switzerland, the 470 sailor Will Ryan, who starts with his helmsman Matthew Belcher for Australia and Billy Besson, who starts in the Nacra 17 class too, together with his crew Marie Riou for France. Each sport member has as well another home club originating their sailing activities.

Nathalie and Matías are chasing their goal now for eight years. Already 2008 both attended Peking and 2012 in Weymouth, by then in their own classes and since 2012 in a common project.

Nathalie Brugger graduated in sport and kinesiological science. Recognised as the most experienced and successful Swiss Female Olympic sailor she belongs to the physically fittest females amongst the Nacra17 Circuit.

Matías is a talented sailor since young age when he started his sports career at the age of 14 as Optimist Vice World Champion. The Argentinian-Swiss trained sail maker came to Switzerland after the Olympics in 2008, trained the Swiss windsurfer Richard Stauffacher for the Olympics 2012 and since then aims for a medal in Rio together with Nathalie. “After 4 years of hard work, it is time for us to fly to Brazil and represent Switzerland and the Gstaad Yacht Club at the 2016 Rio Olympics. It is exciting and we can't wait to go out on the sea and do our best!” said Nathalie before leaving.

Team Bühler / Brugger achievements are constant and fingers shall be crossed:

2016

3rd Worldcup, Miami, USA

9th World Championship, Clearwater, USA

1st Midwinter Regatta, Miami, USA

2015

5th EuroCup, Palma, ESP

2nd Olympic WorldCup, Weymouth, GBR

11th World Championship, Aarhus, DEN

3rd South American Championship, Rio, BRA

2014

6th World Championship, Santander, ESP

7th Test Event, Rio, BRA – Swiss Qualification for 2016 Olympics

2013

3rd World Championship, Scheveningen, NED

3rd European Championship, Como, ITA

Will Ryan was first introduced to the waters of Sydney Harbour at 2 days old. Growing up on the waters of Lake Macquarie - he progressed quickly through a range of junior classes including State and National Championships. Since 2009, Will has focused purely upon the 470 class, with an Olympic medal firmly within his sights. Following the 2012 London Olympics, Olympic Gold Medallist Mat Belcher and Will teamed up to campaign towards Rio 2016, with the pair having immediate success winning the Worlds in 2013, 2014 and 2015. The connection to Gstaad came through Will's family. His mother spent winters ago the school season of the international school here

Gstaad Yacht Club www.gstaadyachtclub.com

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in Gstaad. As a regular visitor in recent years, he joined the GYC in December 2015. "It is exciting to be in the final countdown towards my first Olympic participation! It is such a truly unique opportunity to compete for your country, but also a daunting task! So it is very special to hear stories from the likes of Peter Erzberger and Nathalie Brugger about their past Olympic experiences, while being able to share my journey with the members of the GYC," commented Will during his recent visit to Gstaad. The long list of victories looks promising for a medal:

2016

Bronze 470 World Championship, San Isidro, ARG

2015

Gold 470 World Championship, Haifa, ISR

Gold Rio Test Event

Gold SWC Final Abu Dhabi

Silver ISAF WC Weymouth

Silver ISAF WC Hyères

Silver ISAF WC Miami

2014

Gold 470 World Championship, Santander ESP

Gold Rio Test Event

Gold SWC Final, Abu Dhabi

Gold ISAF WC Hyeres

Bronze ISAF WC Palma

Silver ISAF WC Miami

2013

Gold 470 World Championship, La Rochelle FRA

Gold ISAF WC Melbourne

Gold ISAF WC Hyeres

Gold ISAF WC Palma

2012

Gold ISAF WC Melbourne

Billy Besson, a two top French sailor, joined the GYC in 2015. Together with Matthieu Vandame, he represented the GYC in the Littlecup 2015 both of them being multiple world champions in various catamaran classes. With his teammate Marie Riou, Billy Besson became three-time world champion in the Olympic Nacra 17 catamaran class; he is a training partner of Matías Bühler and Nathalie Brugger. Billy will start at the Olympics for France. "I am very happy and excited to be a part of the Gstaad Yacht Club," said Billy when he joined last spring.

2015

Gold World Championship, Aarhus DEN

2014

Gold World Championship, Santander ESP

Bronze European Championship, La Grande Motte FRA

2013

Gold World Championship, Scheveningen NED

Silver championnat de France Elite Voile Olympique sur Nacra 17

Gold World Championship, Formula 18

A proud GYC Commodore, Peter Erzberger states: "He is delighted that GYC members are starting in the sailing Olympics for the fourth time in a row since Athens 2004, this time even out of three different countries.

All Olympic sailors spend their last days close to home before flying back to Rio. GYC members, guests and sport enthusiasts waved Goodbye and support those young sailing talents with their ambitious goals.

Editors' notes:

The Gstaad Yacht Club was founded in 1998 by a group of sailor enthusiasts with the vision to "create a unique global yacht club away from the waters, instead of another local club by the waters". Based in the Swiss mountains and in the beginning, very often acknowledged with surprise, the GYC developed to a club with 400 members from over 20 different countries and to a place where members and their guests love to meet.

The GYC supports sailing projects on all levels from juniors to professional sailors and it has become a solid force on the Swiss sailing scene and especially among Olympic sailing and the classic yachts.

Gstaad Yacht Club

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Photo Credits:



GYC Nacra 17 Team Matías Bühler and Nathalie Brugger during the final preparations in Rio



Farewell on GYC clubhouse terrace – GYC sport member Nathalie Brugger (Nacra 17) and Will Ryan (470) with GYC Commodore Peter Erzberger and Club Manager Cindy Schönrich

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Portraits of the GYC sport members

© Juerg Kaufmann: Nathalie Brugger, Matías Bühler, Billy Besson

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