

9 MAY 2023 - **PRESS RELEASE**

LAUNCH OF SEASON 3 OF THE *SAILING SQUAD*: IN COLLABORATION WITH THE 'WIZARD OF THE LAKE' – REIGNING CHAMPION OF THE BOL D'OR MIRABAUD – AND FILMED IN VERBIER

Geneva, 9 May 2023 – Mirabaud announces the launch of the third season of the *Sailing Squad*. Three young, international yachswomen, including Switzerland's Anja von Allmen and British athlete Eilidh McIntyre, as well as Shirley Robertson, a double-Olympic medallist coach, get to know one another and learn to perform as a team with a view to taking part in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud. This adventure fully reflects the values of passion, entrepreneurship and team spirit dear to the Mirabaud Group.

For 2023, the *Sailing Squad* will team up with the highly experienced Christian Wahl and his legendary D35 catamaran – winner of the 2022 Bol d'Or Mirabaud. The aim of the game is of course to win. Will the young *Sailing Squad* athletes, who are unfamiliar with both Lake Geneva and the boat, manage to convince their coaches to be selected on race day? *Sailing Squad* Season 3: an adventure full of twists and turns to be enjoyed in three thrilling episodes from 5 to 15 June.

Following the success of the first two seasons of *Sailing Squad* ([Season 1](#) & [Season 2](#)), the founding partners – Hublot, Forward Wip, the Société Nautique de Genève and Mirabaud – are delighted to expand their range of sponsors with the support of Verbier Tourism and the InterContinental Geneva Hotel.

The *Sailing Squad* is a mini-series filmed before and during the Bol d'Or Mirabaud, and was conceived by Mirabaud in 2021 with various objectives in mind: to celebrate the return of the Bol d'Or Mirabaud after a year's absence due to the pandemic, to spread the word about the world's largest inland regatta beyond the Franco-Swiss shores of Lake Geneva, and to allow young hopefuls from the nautical world to participate together in this mythical race under the watchful eye of a renowned sports coach.

The third season will adhere to a similar format with the participants and their coach, Shirley Robertson, followed by a camera crew for an immersive, multi-episode adventure, broadcast on various digital channels.

However, there will be no shortage of novelties in the 2023 edition. The three young international racers will be heading to the dizzying heights of Verbier, where they will be greeted by Christian Wahl. Alongside Shirley Robertson, Christian will introduce them to the collaborative nature of his Double You Team. So, just how will the two coaches decide which athletes should take part in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud? The final choice remains uncertain and there may well be some contestants going home disappointed.

As the coach of the first two seasons of *Sailing Squad*, sailor Shirley Robertson is the first British woman to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals (in 2000 and 2004) in the Europe and Yngling class. Now a well-known British TV presenter, she is also a much sought-after sports coach.

Nicknamed the 'Wizard of the Lake' following his multiple victories in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud – including his 8th win in 2022 – astute strategist, Christian Wahl, is one of the undisputed masters of the Decision 35 multihull class. Having notched up more than 30 appearances in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud and 15 podium finishes, he not only knows every inch of Lake Geneva but is also familiar with all its many fickle winds. With his twofold experience as a top-level sportsman and manager, Christian Wahl also heads up several companies, including bj office & coffee, a family-run firm founded over 110 years ago by his great-grandparents.

The *Sailing Squad*, 2023: a new all-female team with an Olympic medal to their name

This third season brings together three promising young female sailors, all of whom have competed at international level and hold world rankings:

- Anja von Allmen, aged 20, from Switzerland. In the ILCA 6 Elite, she is currently preparing for the 2024 Olympics.
- Eilidh McIntyre, aged 29, from the UK. Olympic champion in the 470 class at the 2020 Olympics.
- Silvia Mas, aged 26, from Spain. 470 World Champion.

Much like the Mirabaud Group, the success of the *Sailing Squad* is based on the sharing of knowledge and trust that exists between the various members of the team. Nicolas Mirabaud, Managing Partner of Mirabaud & Cie, explains the approach: "In creating this concept, we wanted to offer talented young sailors a unique sailing challenge, as well as exceptional coaching, with a view to taking part in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud (BOM), a race that we have been sponsoring for over 15 years. This is a human and sporting endeavour, rooted in the values of passion, entrepreneurship and team spirit. For this third series of *Sailing Squad*, the involvement of Christian Wahl, the BOM's most titled competitor, seemed a natural choice. As director of the Regatta Training Centre for seven years, Christian knows how to bring young people together to perform at their very best and is also extremely familiar with Lake Geneva."

Shirley Robertson discusses her role as coach: "Each edition is a challenge because these young sailors are all highly successful in their own discipline. Here they will have to learn to sail as a team, on a lake riddled with fickle winds and alongside the reigning race winner. It is an exciting challenge both in terms of human interaction and sailing. This team-building experience is based on the exchange of knowledge and sailing techniques, the search for common solutions, as well as moments of shared passion, laughter and a strong desire to succeed together." Looking ahead to the 2023 edition, she adds: "I have every faith in my athletes, who have a multitude of talents and complementary abilities that they will be able to put to good use in this collective endeavour."

The three episodes of Season 3 of *Sailing Squad*, preceded by a teaser, will be screened in June 2023:

- **Teaser:** 2 June
- **Episode 1:** 5 June
- **Episode 2:** 7 June
- **Episode 3:** 15 June

Christian Wahl and Double You Team – Winners of the Bol d'Or Mirabaud 2022

The Double You Team project is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Its initial objective was to build a 100% professional, passionate and ambitious team and to integrate young sailing talents from Lake Geneva. From 2013 to 2019, Double You Team participated in all stages of the Decision 35 Championship.

In 2019, the team became 100% Swiss and brought on board a selection of young talents from the Regatta Training Centre. Led by the wizard of the lake, Christian Wahl, Double You Team thus became the youngest team to participate in the Bol d'Or Mirabaud (BOM) on a D35.

In 2022, Christian Wahl offered the first BOM to the youngsters and at the same time became the holder of the highest number of victories, 8 to date.

For 2023, with 25 successive participations since 1997, Christian Wahl, a man of challenge, is embarking on a new challenge, which he hopes to win with the *Sailing Squad* and his team. An unprecedented edition that will be held on his birthday!

Bol d'Or Mirabaud

The Bol d'Or Mirabaud is the largest inland regatta in the world. Launched in 1939, it plays host to monohulls and multihulls every year on Lake Geneva in Switzerland. More than 500 boats will compete on the theoretical 123-kilometre (66.5 nautical miles) course from Geneva to Le Bouveret, and back.

The 2023 Bol d'Or Mirabaud will take place from 9 to 11 June.

The race is sailed over a distance of 123 kilometres or 66.5 nautical miles (Geneva-Le Bouveret and back). The regatta features a number of challenges: the large number of boats at the start, the unpredictable mountain winds, as well as the duration of the race, which starts early in the morning and often ends after nightfall.

The first woman to win the Bol d'Or was Riquette Thévand, in 1944, and it was not until 2010 that it was again won by a woman, Dona Bertarelli.

To encourage women to get involved in the world of sailing, Mirabaud is yet again supporting an all-female team in its third edition of The *Sailing Squad*'. The Group has also committed to supporting Anaëlle Pattus, the youngest Swiss sailor who plans to cross the Atlantic solo in 2023.

The Mirabaud Group

The Mirabaud Group was founded in Geneva in 1819. With its four core values of Independence, Conviction, Responsibility and Passion, it has grown over the years into an international group offering its clients personalised financial services and advice in various areas of activity. Its expertise lies in Wealth Management (portfolio management, investment advice and services for independent asset managers), Asset Management (institutional management, fund management and distribution) and highly specialised Corporate Finance services (equity research, corporate advisory, capital markets and execution).

Mirabaud has always been strongly committed to responsibility and sustainability. This is reflected in its interactions with clients, employees and society as a whole. As a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) since 2010, Mirabaud has the highest rating in this area thanks to its governance and its committed global strategy.

The Group employs around 700 staff and has offices in Switzerland (Geneva, Basel and Zurich), Europe (London, Luxembourg, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Milan) and the rest of the world (Montreal, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Montevideo and São Paulo).

For more information, please visit our website: www.mirabaud.com

HUBLOT

Hublot is a Swiss watch manufacturer founded in 1980 and based in Nyon. For its first ever timepiece, this fundamentally disruptive company combined gold with a rubber strap in a case with a design inspired by a ship's porthole (hublot in French). Thus, the Art of Fusion was born, blending tradition, innovation, craftsmanship, worlds and talents. It became the brand's aesthetic and technical signature.

This identity was strengthened in 2005 with the Big Bang, which attested to an unrivalled know-how in terms of complications, manufacture movements and state-of-the-art materials. Carbon, titanium, ceramic and sapphire have been developed on this model to technical extremes.

This ground-breaking, high-quality approach to watchmaking is summed up in its philosophy 'Be First, Unique and Different.' It gradually led to other collections with innovative designs: Classic Fusion, Shaped Collection (Spirit of Big Bang, Square Bang) and Manufacture Pieces. These draw on high levels of craftsmanship, both in terms of the materials so dear to Hublot (such as Magic Gold, brightly-coloured ceramics and sapphires) and its manufacture movements (Unico chronograph, Meca-10 and large complications such as the Tourbillon, the Cathedral Minute Repeater and the specific Manufacture Pieces movements).

Hublot's world extends to powerful partnerships including football. 'Hublot Loves Football' has become the slogan at the world's biggest sporting events (such as the FIFA World Cup™, Premier League, UEFA Champions League, UEFA EURO™) and through its ambassadors. This love of football continues in art, design, music, sport, fine dining and sailing. Lastly, Hublot's implication in joint environmental projects with SORAI and Polar Pod reflects its concern for the issues of the day. Almost 130 boutiques around the world share Hublot's fervour and values, alongside the **Hublot.com** e-commerce site.

Forward WIP

Since its creation in 2015, Forward WIP has made its name in the world of foiling on water, the new queen discipline that has revolutionized competitive and amateur sailing.

Flying on the water at over 60 km/h offers new sensations and ever-higher performance. The need of protection at these speeds is obvious, as falls can lead to serious trauma.

Swiss Based company Forward WIP has become the undisputed leader in water sport protective equipment for all disciplines (Class America, Sail GP, Kite foil, Wing foil...).

The reputation has been forged thanks to the quality and relevance of our products which are used by a long list of professional athletes!

Being at the forefront requires constant questioning, our team of engineers, riders, and testers gather the skills and passion required to develop the products of the future.

Our mission is to offer optimal protection for both professionals and amateurs, freeing their mind to go beyond their limits to progress and perform.

For more information : www.forward-wip.com/fr/wip/

La Société Nautique de Genève

Founded in 1872, the Société Nautique de Genève (SNG) is dedicated to the promotion and development of water sports. It is the largest sports club in Switzerland and today has more than 4,200 members in four sections in four sections: Propeller, Rowing, Light Yachting and the 'Cercle de la Voile'. The SNG is the only European club to have won the America's Cup twice. It will be represented again in 2024 under the colours of Alinghi Red Bull Racing.

The Cercle de la Voile (CVSNG) is responsible for organising the Bol d'Or Mirabaud (BOM), the world's most important regatta held on a lake. Founded in 1939, the BOM brings together more than 500 participants each year from Geneva to Bouveret and back, a distance of 123 km.

For more information : www.nautique.ch / www.boldormirabaud.ch

Verbier

Verbier-Val de Bagnes-La Tzoumaz offers more than 300 km² of fun and adventure for visitors across six resorts, each representing a different aspect of this multifaceted destination. Cosmopolitan Verbier, accessible Le Châble, wild Upper Val de Bagnes, authentic Bruson, discreet Vollèges and family-friendly La Tzoumaz: each in its own way makes a perfect starting point from which to immerse yourself in the Val de Bagnes.

All forms of skiing (alpine, freeride, touring) have found their home in the 4 Valleys, the largest ski area in Switzerland, which includes many legendary peaks to scale and slopes to slide down. Proof of a premium and recognise work, Verbier has been two times in a row elected "World's Best Ski Resort". The area is also a vast playground for cyclists and walkers, with all options available.

This lively, dynamic destination pulses to the rhythm of the events calendar that runs throughout the entire year. Powerful sensations and emotions are to be found here in the heart of the Valais! The vastness and variety of places to discover are also reflected in the diversity of the visitors they attract. Whether you are an early-bird athlete or a night owl partygoer, seeking extreme sensations or simple pleasures, a cutting-edge hipster, or a lover of tradition, in the spotlight or out of sight, in Verbier, contrasts bloom to form a unique bouquet!

For more information : www.verbier.ch

Hôtel InterContinental Genève

The InterContinental Genève was built in 1963 and opened its doors on January 31st, 1964. Ranked among the most recognized 5-star hotels' in the world, it has stood the test of time as one of the city's most mythical hotels, keen to preserve its memory and soul. Located in an oasis of calm and surrounded by a lush parkland it offers an elevated perspective on luxury art the vivre in the World's city of Peace. The hotel is located a 3-minute walk from the Palais des Nations, the Geneva International Congress Center (ICCG) and the Ariana Museum, or 10-minute public transport ride away from the Rue du Rhône, the leading luxury brands shopping avenue and the airport. The hotel offers incomparable views of Lake Geneva, Mont Blanc, the Alps and the Jura. The 18 floors of this contemporary architecture building include 16 meeting rooms, the Woods and Poolside restaurants, the bar Les Nations, the "Cigar Lounge", the iconic swimming pool, the Spa by Cinq Mondes, a fitness center open 24/24, an iconic outdoor pool and 333 tastefully decorated guest rooms, including 56 elegant Suites by famous interior designer Tony Chi.

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