

Delta Lloyd Regatta 2009 Welcome Message – ISAF President

Welcome to all the sailors, coaches, spectators, sponsors and media gathered here in Medemblik, The Netherlands for the Delta Lloyd Regatta. Since its beginnings in 1985 the Delta Lloyd Regatta has grown to become one of the top Olympic sailing events in Europe and now its place on the world stage is even more prominent as one of the seven events which form the inaugural ISAF Sailing World Cup!

The ISAF Sailing World Cup is a tremendous addition to the sailing calendar. As a competition for the Olympic sailing classes, ISAF has brought together the world's top events to create a series that provides an annual focus for Olympic sailing and for the world's top Olympic sailors. This we believe is good news for everyone - the sailors, the events, the sponsors and the media. I hope you will continue to follow the ISAF Sailing World Cup, as it moves on from Medemblik to the next event in Kiel, Germany, before the season finale at the Olympic Sailing venue at Weymouth, Great Britain.

Since its first event in 1985, Medemblik has helped to pioneer many innovations which have gone on to become commonplace worldwide. Examples include separate classes for women, prize money; shorter courses resulting in more races and coloured spots to identify leading competitors. As part of the ISAF Sailing World Cup, the Delta Lloyd Regatta is again showing itself to be at the forefront of Olympic sailing. Amongst the new initiatives we can look forward to this year are coloured bibs identifying the top three crews (in yellow, blue and red for first, second and third respectively), racing in the 2.4mR Paralympic class and the introduction of the new Women's Match Racing Olympic event.

Thank you to the event organizers - the Royal Yacht Club Hollandia and Trefpunt Sports and Entertainment - whose vision, tenacity, professionalism and above all, hard-work have created not only this superb event, but ensured its inclusion in the ISAF Sailing World Cup.

I would also like to extend personal thanks to Delta Lloyd, now in its second year as title sponsor for the event. Sailing is an excellent sport to partner, with strong values, marvellous opportunities and a broad audience both on and off the water.

To you all - enjoy a fantastic and memorable Delta Lloyd Regatta and the start of an exciting new era for Olympic sailing.

Thank you.

Göran Petersson
ISAF President

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