



## PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009

### Västervik – first new port for 5th anniversary event

In the itinerary of the Baltic Sprint Cup 2009 the first port new to the event will be Västervik. Event Director Henning:

“There are many attractive ports to choose from around the Baltic Sea, we have only 15 days for the event and a very full sailing programme, so selection of the right locations is very important to us. Västervik is one of those that perfectly fits our requirements and we are delighted to have been invited.”

The choice has clearly been very well received as already there are over 30 entries in hand for the event. Due to limits in the capacity of some harbours the maximum fleet size is capped at 50 and organizers SAIL & RACE expect this number to be reached soon.

This year, the 5<sup>th</sup> in its history, the Baltic Sprint Cup will start from Warnemünde (where the event has on previous occasions finished) and stage through Rønne on Bornholm (setting for last year’s grand finale) then on to the 225-mile course to Västervik, arriving in the town on Tuesday night 21<sup>st</sup> July or during Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Västervik’s unique surroundings make it both very attractive and at times, challenging for sailors. The rocky archipelago with many small islands and outcrops stretch far out into the Baltic Sea. Race Director Alan Green has already discussed with local sailors the likely location for a finishing line in safe water and may settle for a committee vessel in the region of the Västerboden Light House, 5 miles by water from the moorings at the town quay.

“It’s great that the yachts will come right up to the town where people can see them” said Stina Ericsson, Head of Tourism in Västervik. The public will be welcome to view them from the wide promenade overlooking the harbour – the boats fly many colourful flags with the event name – and a special one to look out for will be the yellow flag showing the winner for the time being.

The yachts vary in size and design from the smallest of around 30 feet overall to the largest of 70 feet (though this could change as more yachts enter). Aboard each boat the crew numbers can be anything from 4 to 10 or more. A number of crews will head for hotel accommodation in town on arrival and others will live on board during their stay. It is certain that all the crews will sample the fine array of restaurants and cafes in the town as they enjoy the special ambience of Västervik.

The Baltic Sprint Cup is an international event featuring yachts and crew members from many different countries – perhaps that from the country least like Sweden is Frans van der Heijden’s Ker 11.3 *Daikin Aircon* from Scheveningen in the Netherlands. Last year’s event saw Västervik local expert sailor, designer and yacht builder Stefan Qviberg in winning mode with his own yacht *Summer Wine*. She will have to compete this year with Visby’s Berndt Frogner with *Happy*, a Farr 40, and several more Swedish entries expected shortly.



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The departure from Västervik will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July at noon. At about 10.00 in the morning the fleet will cast off from their town moorings and make a procession out of Skeppsbrofjärden where it is planned that mayor Harald Hjalmarsson, official patron of the fleet during the stopover, will take the salute.

The aim of the Baltic Sprint Cup is to re-inforce links between cities and towns around the Baltic in the tradition of Baltic trade. In fact, the event has gone further than that and is introducing the magic of Baltic sailing to an audience from outside the region as well as within. The 350 or so sailors taking part will go home with stories of their journey and the new places they found with which to enchant friends and family. It is certain that Västervik will feature prominently in their stories and be a place to which they will return.

Full information about the Baltic Sprint Cup is at [www.balticsprintcup.com](http://www.balticsprintcup.com)

Alan Green · SAIL & RACE, London  
Race Director

Downloads for related files to this press release to be found under [www.balticsprintcup.com/1042.0.html](http://www.balticsprintcup.com/1042.0.html)

- a) some selected images in a zip-folder (10,7 Mb - thumbnails see below - boat images from 2008)
- b) a PowerPointPresentation (incl. an embedded video clip and a picture slide show)













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All boat pictures from the Baltic Sprint Cup 2008 – more details about the boats:

<http://2008.balticsprintcup.com/297.0.html>

**Thumbnails about the images zip-file:**

 Baltic Sprint Cup logo	 All girl crew on CROSS MATCH (GER)	 AMBERSAIL (LTU)	 ESSEX GIRL (SWE)	 GUTS 'N GLORY (GER)	 Hot fight at the start in Karlskrona 2008	 multitude of flags in port
 OUTSIDER (GER) fighting for first ship home	 SUMMER WINE (SWE)	 SUMMER WINE (SWE) - Stefan Qviberg and Crew, winner overall of the cruiser class	 YEOMAN XXXII (GBR) and DANEBURY (VGB) 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> racer class	 AVANTI (GER) cruiser class	 SCHÜDDELFRÖST (GER) finishing at Karlskrona 2008	 Harald Hjalmarsson, Mayor and Patron Västervik