

For Immediate Release:

## SEAWANHAKA INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP KICKS OFF IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA AFTER THREE-YEAR HIATUS

LONG BEACH, CA June 1, 2022 - The famed Seawanhaka International Challenge Cup kicked off Wednesday in Long Beach, California after a three year pause due to Covid-19. Considered to be the oldest yachting trophy originating in the United States that is still in active competition, Long Beach Yacht Club is thrilled to be hosting this prestigious club challenge match racing regatta for the first time. LBYC earned the right to do so after winning the Cup in 2019 at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club in Oyster Bay, NY.

Team Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, helmed by Christopher Poole, currently tops the leaderboard as the only team remaining undefeated after Day 1. SCYC Commodore and crew member JP Blaise paid respects to the LBYC Team that won the trophy in 2019. "After Covid-19, we have been keenly awaiting the opportunity to compete in the Seawanhaka Cup," said Blaise. "Long Beach was victorious in 2019 and sailed a near perfect regatta." Commodore Blaise also had high praise for the event currently underway. "To be here at a wonderful club with great sportsmen and sportswomen is an honor. Day 1 of the competition was fantastic with phenomenal conditions, great boats, and excellent race management. We are looking forward to the rest of the regatta."



Coming off the water after the first day, PRO Wendy Corzine noted that the racing so far has gone according to plan. "I'm honored to be part of such an historic event," said Corzine. "We had 8-9 knots at the first warning and only saw a 10 degree shift all day. We had a goal of 7 completed flights, and we were able to achieve that as wind built to 16-17 knots by the late afternoon." Corzine considered pushing into an 8<sup>th</sup> flight but opted to end racing for the day to avoid a time-consuming sail change as they reached the wind limit for the genoa sails.

The match racing started off spicy with plenty of penalties and even a black flag as all the laundry came out early in the first round robin. As the day progressed, teams settled into their boathandling and the focus turned to perfecting their prestart tactics and course strategy. Dave Hood, skipper for home team LBYC, was pleased with his team's performance. "Great first day sailing against incredible teams," Hood said. "We have a deep roster of skilled sailors on board that have come together to defend our title."

Several clubs, such as the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, are racing in their first Seawanhaka Cup challenge. "For many on our team it's their first time in the Catalina 37s, however Tactician Will Tiller has been to several Congressional Cups," said RNZYS Skipper Harry Dodson. Dodson also has experience in Long Beach after competing in a qualifier event for the 1984 Olympic Games in the Flying Dutchman class.

Royal Canadian Yacht Club Skipper Terry McLaughlin is no stranger to Long Beach or the fleet of 37s after racing in LBYC's Butler Cup back in April. McLaughlin joked that the highlight of the first day for him was back on shore assisting the Finish Team with ringing the bell for the "Wet Wednesday" evening beercan races. McLaughlin admitted that his team previously considered the Seawanhaka Cup to be a tune-up for the Canada Cup later this year, but has quickly realized that this regatta attracts "great prestige and great competition. And we want to win!"

Also competing in the event are Chicago Yacht Club (USA), Minima Yacht Club (GBR), Royal Norwegian Yacht Club (NOR), Royal Sydney Yacht Club (AUS), and St. Francis Yacht Club (USA). Racing resumes Thursday with the remainder of the first round robin, followed by a second round robin. Once complete, the top four skippers will duke it out in the semifinals on Friday, followed by the finals and petite finals on Saturday. Visit the regatta homepage at the link below for results, photos and more information.

[SEAWANHAKA CUP REGATTA HOMEPAGE](#)

Cameron MacLaren  
Yachting Director  
Long Beach Yacht Club