

Dear friends of "sailing-news.ch"

For 20 years, we have been covering international and national sailing with our sailing-news.ch website, the largest and only window to the general public for our sport in Switzerland. It was always my goal to continue operating this information channel. Unfortunately, fate decreed otherwise.

On April 30, 2025, I was hospitalized as an emergency after having suffered a stroke. I am currently in a rehabilitation clinic with hemiplegia and hope that the treatment will enable me to regain my independence.

Hoping to resume editorial work soon, with the help of my family, I was able to ensure that daily news coverage continued without restrictions, with over 500 daily news items.

Unfortunately, after three months, I have to acknowledge that the rehabilitation will take an indefinite amount of time. I therefore conclude that it makes no sense to continue running the website under the current circumstances. This decision is very difficult for me, as it means a turning point in my life.

Sailing has been my life, from the Optimist youth boat to the Youth and Olympic classes, with participation in continental and world championships, with highlights such as competing at the Olympic Games and several Star Boat regattas, including the Kiel Week, as Russell Coutts' foredeck. The worldwide network, knowledge of the structures, and, above all, contacts with top sailors at numerous regattas and officials, including those at the World Sailing Annual Meetings, provided an ideal foundation for operating an informative website.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who accompanied and supported me in my work: the advertisers and sponsors as financial backers of the project, the webmasters, Class captains, and event organizers for providing content, and above all, I would like to thank the 140'000 readers from 140 countries for their interest in sailing news.

I am afraid, I cannot include Swiss Sailing in my thanks, as the collaboration over the past 15 years has been disappointing. I have never got any recognition or even some gratitude from their side. Above all, there was no interest in incorporating the news content of "sailing-news" into the Swiss Sailing website for a modest fee, which would have guaranteed high visitor numbers to the Federation's website. Instead, a (financial?) partnership with a commercial magazine without up-to-date news coverage, neither for elite sport nor for recreational activities, was chosen. The Federation's considerable budget for communications was used for other purposes. Not even during the COVID lockdown, which brought me to the brink of financial ruin without any advertising income, was my application for inclusion in the federal government's COVID support program accepted.

The Swiss Olympic handbook for media representatives states: "Targeted media work is an important tool for associations to draw attention to themselves and the successes of their athletes." A glance at the various links in the "News" section of the Swiss Sailing website reveals that this duty, so important for athletes and regatta organizers, is hardly followed.

But things are looking up now, as the [hiring efforts](#) of the interim Executives demonstrate: They are seeking a "Head of Communications, Events, and Sponsorship with a university degree (Bachelor's or Master's), ideally with knowledge of sailing" (or not...). The job

description indicates that the Swiss Sailing will likely continue to focus on self-promotion with no obvious benefit to its fee payers in the Clubs.

Due to health reasons, I am forced to relinquish my job, which I have passionately held for 20 years, 365 days a year. I regret to realize, that Swiss Sailing still hasn't understood that it is primarily the athletes and regatta organizations who need publicity in the media to gain recognition and sponsorship money. My pages were always open to athletes to start and pursue fundraising campaigns, and the thank-you messages I received were proof of how important this opening to a wider audience was to them. This was always a major motivation for my involvement.

All the best and sincere wishes to everyone who appreciated my work. I look forward to seeing you again sometime soon.

Beat Stegmeier

Zurich, July 31, 2025