



Kanu Schwaben Augsburg, Am Eiskanal 49a, 86161 Augsburg, Germany

Press release of June, 22th, 2017

Augsburg is prepared 5 questions to Thomas Schmidt

Are you happy with the entries?

Thomas Schmidt: I'm really happy with that. The year after the Olympic Games is always a gamble. Some athletes retire, some federations testing their teams and change the positions. On top of that, we have been out of the World Cup circuit for two year. Considering this, we are very satisfied having 280 starts from 36 nations.

What do you think when looking at those entries?

Schmidt: First, there are some classics e.g. legends like Michal Martikan and the Hochschorner brothers are still fighting for some medals. Really great is the high number of entries in women's C1 class. Here we have almost 50 girls competing, that's a new record. A dramatic decrease is happening in the C2 Men. Since this is no longer an Olympic event, a few nations have made their decision and didn't enter any boat in this class.

This year you are no longer working for ICF, instead you are acting as the competition manager for Kanu Schwaben Augsburg. Does that mean you have less work to do?

Schmidt: That would be nice, but is not the case. The role play has changed, I would say. Before I had different hats to wear, I had to change between ICF and the local organizer. Now the role is more defined. Nevertheless, with our organizing team we are facing a change in structure which is not fully completed yet.

What was the biggest challenge for you in the preparation phase for this World Cup event?

Schmidt: Over a period of almost 40 years, Horst Woppowa has organized this event in a brilliant manner. He was the head of the organizing committee and started his career as a pre-non-retiree. We have split this role for two people now (Hans-Peter Pleitner and myself) and applied a new structure around as well. We had to establish new ways of communication, dedicate task and speed up when learning from the heritage knowledge.





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Olympic champion, Member of the Technical Committee of the ICF, boat designer –
Besides your job as an engineer at KUKA, do you have time for canoeing?

Schmidt: The job is lots of fun but challenging at the same time. So you need something to balance it. One can find that in the our club. Either by active paddling or by contributing in the organization of events. I go for a paddle in a weekly rhythm, as the kids are now infected with the virus, so I get the chance to exercise more regularly. This was not the only reason why I dropped my job in the ICF. On boat design I'm currently not very active like in the past, I did some research in new gate designs. But again, there is a lack of time for this one.

Interview: Christian Doser

