



Joint statement from Royal Yacht Squadron Racing and INEOS TEAM UK



Royal Yacht Squadron Racing and INEOS TEAM UK are pleased to confirm that the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, on behalf of the Defender Emirates Team New Zealand, accepted their Notice of Challenge for the 37th America's Cup (AC37) to become the Challenger of Record for AC37.

The Challenge letter was signed on 17th March 2021 onboard the yacht IMAGINE, by Bertie Bicket, Chairman of Royal Yacht Squadron Racing and accepted by Aaron Young, Commodore of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, as Emirates Team New Zealand crossed the finish line to win the America's Cup for the fourth time.

In addition, INEOS have confirmed they will continue to back Sir Ben Ainslie's team to win sports oldest international trophy, giving much needed continuity, the cornerstone of every successful America's Cup team. It will be the first time a British team has competed in three consecutive Cup cycles since Sir Thomas Lipton and the Royal Ulster YC bids between 1899 to 1930.

INEOS TEAM UK Skipper and Team Principal Sir Ben Ainslie said: "INEOS TEAM UK are committed to working alongside Emirates Team New Zealand and our respective yacht clubs to continue the development of this historic event. The introduction of the AC75 class of yacht has proven to be a transformative moment in the history of the America's Cup and will be the bedrock of a really bright future."

The America's Cup, the pinnacle of yachting, was first contested in 1851 in Cowes, Isle of Wight and organised by the Royal Yacht Squadron, predating the modern Olympic Games by 45 years. The last British Challenger of Record to compete in an America's Cup was the 12 metre, Sovereign in 1964.

There are a number of different options but it is intended that the Venue for the Match will be determined within six months and the dates of racing announced in the Protocol, if not before.

Bertie Bicket, Chairman of Royal Yacht Squadron Racing, who has been in Auckland, New Zealand for the duration of the 36th America's Cup said: "We are delighted to be embarking on our third successive America's Cup challenge with Sir Ben Ainslie and INEOS, as the Challenging Yacht Club for the 37th America's Cup. We look forward to working with all parties and will strive to continue the tradition and history of this great sporting event."

For further information surrounding AC37 plans released by the Defender Emirates Team New Zealand [click here](#).