

Press release

Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] Champions Trophy 2018 in Marseille

Stirling Hart from Canada wins the toughest logger sports competition

Marseille, 26 May 2018. The 2018 Champions Ring is on its way to Canada! After being forced to settle for second place last year, Stirling Hart claimed victory at the 2018 Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] Champions Trophy in Marseille. In the sold-out arena in front of 1,200 spectators situated in the city's famous port the 28 year-old came out on top against eleven of the world's best logger sports athletes. In a thrilling final he defeated nine-time world champion Jason Wynyard from New Zealand, who this year had to be content with second place. Mitch Argent from Australia rounded out the podium in third.

Stirling Hart from Canada has won the Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] Champions Trophy and with it the Champions Ring in Marseille's Vieux Port. In a thrilling knockout final he proved too quick for logger sports legend Jason Wynyard from New Zealand, completing all four disciplines with axe and saw in a time of just 1:03.40 minutes. Mitch Argent from Australia took third place and missed out on the chance to take the Champions Ring back Down Under for the fifth year in a row.

World-class logger sports action

"Last year I was so close to winning the Champions Trophy – that was going through my head the whole time," admitted Stirling Hart, adding: "I am thrilled to have won. My focus is already on the next international competition. I will take a few days off to enjoy my win here at the Champions Trophy and then start preparing for the World Championship." The fans who crammed into the sold-out arena in Marseille's famous port were treated to world-class logger sports action. Mitch Argent, who finished third overall, posted a stunning time of 58.12 seconds in his quarter final – the fastest time of the day – but just lost out to Stirling Hart in his semi final. In the bronze medal match Argent came out on top against Martin Komarek from the Czech Republic, who was the best European athlete in fourth place.

International elite battle it out with axe and saw

Second-placed Jason Wynyard was understandably disappointed to have lost out in the final: “Of course I came here to win the Ring, but things didn’t go to plan. The competition cost me a lot of energy and I didn’t have enough left when I went up against Stirling.” The man from Down Under with nine world championship titles to his name was nevertheless gracious in defeat: “Congratulations to Stirling. He has worked very hard for this and deserved to win the title.”

Local favourite from France, Pierre Puybaret, performed strongly in front of his home crowd and made through to the quarter final, where he was defeated by the eventual winner Stirling Hart. Behind Komarek in fourth place were Michal Dubicki from Poland, Arden Cogar from the USA, Pierre Puybaret, Ferry Svan from Sweden, Armin Kugler from Austria, Paolo Vicenzi from Italy, Simon Bond from Great Britain and Andrea Rossi from Italy.

Champions Trophy: thrilling knockout duels and nerves of steel

The competition format used at the Champions Trophy demands endurance, precision and strength. Four axe and saw disciplines from the Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] Series are completed back to back, with the winner of each duel progressing to the next round. The athletes must show absolute concentration and nerves of steel in the chainsaw discipline Stock Saw, the axe discipline Underhand Chop, the Single Buck discipline featuring a one-man handsaw two metres in length, and the axe discipline Standing Block Chop.

The world’s best logger sports athletes will next meet on 19 and 20 October 2018 at the Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] World Championship in Liverpool, England.

About Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®]

The Stihl TIMBERSPORTS[®] Series is an international extreme sports competition series. Its roots lie in Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, where local lumberjacks would hold competitions to determine the best in a range of woodsports-related disciplines. Today the world’s best athletes compete in national and international contests featuring three axe disciplines and three saw disciplines. Springboard, Underhand Chop and Standing Block Chop are the classic axe disciplines; Single Buck (single-man cross-cut saw), Stock Saw (standard chainsaw) and Hot Saw

(tuned, customized chainsaw with up to 80 horsepower) see athletes compete against each other and the clock. For more information visit: www.stihl-timbersports.com

Captions



The Canadian Stirling Hart wins the Champions Trophy 2018.



Stirling Hart at the Standing Block Chop.



The reigning World Champion, Jason Wynyard from New Zealand, lost against Stirling Hart in the final.



Mitch Argent from Australia came in third.



Stirling Hart celebrates his victory.



The local hero Pierre Puybaret ended with a seventh rank.

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