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# FINNFARE

AUGUST 2017



- **Jonathan Lobert wins Europeans in Marseille**
- **New Sydney based Finn academy**
- **Joaquín Blanco receives Finn Gold Cup 40 years late**
- **Second World Masters title for Vladimir Krutskikh**
- **Answers on format trials survey**



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# President's Letter

## DEAR FINN SAILORS AND FRIENDS OF THE FINN CLASS



I am glad to reflect on the events of the last months since the last edition of FINNFARE and the forthcoming Finn events.

The World Sailing Mid-Year Meeting was held in Singapore in May with the newly elected World Sailing Board and the new Council having a first chance to inform the sailing world on new plans and policies to further improve our sport. Sadly, in the meantime it turned out the IOC significantly reduced the overall athletes number for the sport of sailing for Tokyo 2020, so the redesign of fleet sizes will be a new item of World Sailing's agenda.

Another major issue which came up in recent months is the movement of independent sailing equipment manufacturers criticising that the large majority of the current Olympic Classes (Olympic Equipment incl. hulls, masts, sails, booms, etc.) are not free for production to any potential producer which led in the past to significant quality and pricing problems.

The fact that this issue is not only an internal matter for our sport but also has important legal implications makes the matter even more delicate

to deal with and to resolve in the best interests of our sport on a long term basis.

Back to the Finn Class we had a tough 2017 Finn European Championships in Marseille with difficult winds and an exotic 2017 Finn World Masters in Barbados with the rest of the international Masters fleet sailing the Finn Masters Euro Cup on Balaton.

During the year the class will continue the focused work on reviewing our technical rules and draw the conclusions on the format testing carried out in Palma and Marseille. Furthermore, the Executive will continuously work on further excelling in the media and broadcasting part of our regatta work and finding new ways of promoting and covering our events in the media, working with the latest available, but at the same time, affordable technology.

Attracting as many young sailors to the Finn as possible remains a continued effort and I hope that the 2017 Jörg Bruder Silver Cup at Balaton will see the largest U23 fleet for years.

The summer season will be highlighted by 2017 Finn Gold Cup in early September also on Balaton. Given the fact that a large number of Finn sailors around the globe train and race on lakes, the venue selection for the event adds to the diversity of Finn sailing and the challenges an all-round Finn sailor has to face when it comes to lake venues.

Jonathan Lobert on his way to winning the 2017 European Championship in Marseille, the first French winner for 41 years

On behalf of the IFA Executive may I wish you all the best for the remaining part of the sailing season. ≈

**Dr. Balazs Hajdu**  
HUN-1  
IFA President

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## MAJOR FINN REGATTAS 2017-2018

### 2017

2-6 August • Encinal YC

#### US Nationals

7-13 August • Aarhus, Denmark

#### 2018 Aarhus Sailing World Championship Test Event

17-19 August • Nykøping Sjælland, Denmark  
**Danish Championship**

18-20 August • Świnoujście, Poland  
**Polish Masters**

19-21 August • Kingston, Ontario  
**CORK**

20-27 August • Balatonfüred, Hungary  
**FINN SILVER CUP**

22-26 August • Silvaplana, Switzerland  
**Swiss Championship**

22-28 August • Wannsee, Berlin, Germany  
**German Championship**

22-28 August • Moscow, Russia  
**Open Russian**

25-27 August • La Salle Michigan, USA  
**North Americans Masters**

1-10 Sept • Balatonföldvár, Hungary  
**FINN GOLD CUP**

2-3 September • Randmeer, Netherlands  
**Dutch Masters**

9-10 September • Karlstad, Sweden  
**Swedish Masters**

15-17 September • Medemblik, Netherlands  
**Dutch Championship**

22-24 September • Thorpe Bay YC, UK  
**British Nationals**

Sept 29 - Oct 1 • Malcesine, Italy  
**International Finn Cup**

14-15 October • Warsash, UK  
**British Masters**

8-10 December • Palm Beach  
**North Americans**

### 2018

15-18 January • Royal Queensland YS  
**Australian Nationals**

18-25 May • El Balis, Spain  
**Finn World Masters**

30 July - 12 August • Århus, Denmark  
**Sailing World Championships (FGC)**

### 2019

6-14 June • Skovshoved, Denmark  
**Finn World Masters**

**The IFA welcomes bids for its major championships in 2018 (except Finn Gold Cup), 2019 and 2020.**



# News



## MASTERS NEWS

**THE 2017 ANNUAL** Masters Meeting was held on June 7 at the Barbados Yacht Club.

- Andy Denison was re-elected as President and Marc Allain des Beauvais was re-elected to the Masters Committee for a further four years.
- The meeting voted to formally adopt a Masters European Championship to follow on from the work done by the THE club on Balaton with the Euro Masters for

the past seven years.

- A discussion was also held regarding for holding further events at non-European venues, specifically, the Royal Queensland YC in Australia.
- Voting took place for the 2019 Finn World Masters, which was narrowly won by the Royal Danish Yacht Club and will be sailed at Skovshoved, just north of Copenhagen.



## ARVID VON GRÜNEWALD

**ARVID VON GRÜNEWALD** was born September 11, 1939 in Estonia and came to Sweden as a five year old. 'Count' died March 31, 2017. He was a strong personality within the Swedish Finn sailors; a fighter who always had time for a chat and was close to a hearty 'tanning', write Torsten Jarnstam

He started Gran sail in 1964, by sewing Finn sails. That became a nice story for him. Gran sail still exists. Both Europeans Gold and other achievements are on his track record. The 'Count' also had great success in Soling for several years.

A big profile has left us. Swedish Finn Association and all Finn sailors around Sweden and in other countries have many memories of him. Our thoughts go to the 'Count's' family and close friends.



## RUSSIAN INVITATION

**TWO EVENTS ARE** being held in Moscow in August. First up is the 2017 International University Sailing Cup ([www.iusc.ru](http://www.iusc.ru)), organised by the Russian Students Sailing League, Russian Students Sport Union and Moscow Sailing School. It is being held on Klyazma and Pirogovo Lakes in Moscow on August 14-21. Then there is the 'Open Russian', ([www.open-russian.ru](http://www.open-russian.ru)) organised by the Russian Finn Association and Moscow Sailing School, which is also being held on the same lakes in Moscow from August 22-27.



## ROB COUTTS FINE ART PRINTS

**THE FINN CLASS** has partnered with Finn sailor and artist Rob Coutts to exclusively offer fine art prints of his distinctive oil paintings to help the class fund its FINNTEAM development programme.

The paintings are available as giclée fine art prints in a range of size. For more information and ordering please go to:

[www.finnclass.org/robcoutts](http://www.finnclass.org/robcoutts)



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**THE BRITISH GAC** Pindar U 23 squad of six sailors has been busy preparing for the Silver Cup in August with a series of training camps in Weymouth, led by coach James Hadden. For those without exams additional race experience was gained from trips to compete at Hyeres, the Europeans and Kiel, writes John Heyes, the BFA Chairman.



## BRITISH FINN ASSOCIATION UNDER 23 SQUAD

Callum Dixon commented, "It's amazing to see how much the coaching paid off. Not necessarily in final results, but in the top 10 rounding the windward mark. I feel much more confident and comfortable in the boat after all our winter training. We feel a real team traveling together and it helps keep costs down."

Cameron Tweedle has also benefited from the training and support from GAC Pindar, "The BFA under 23 squad has been fantastic for all who have been apart of it. The progression is clearly visible for all of the sailors. It is a fantastic stepping-stone towards our eventual aim of being a part of the British Olympic squad."

"At the Europeans the conditions were particularly testing and varied This was fantastic for me as it meant I really gained and learnt loads in a range of sea states and conditions. Results varied however the event was purely about gathering experience and learning from one of the best fleets in the world."

Andrew Pindar of sponsors GAC Pindar said, "In the current era of multihulls and foils we decided to recognise, through sponsorship of the British Finn Association Under 23 Programme, the ongoing important role in our sport filled by the Finn Class for over fifty years."



"Modified and developed with the latest technology and thinking, it is quite remarkable how enduring the Finn class has been and why it has been the boat of choice for some of sailing's greatest athletes. And with an eye to the future it is great to support and encourage younger powerful sailors to keep this heavyweight solo dinghy well within their sights no matter where their careers may head."

The U23 programme in the UK continues to attract more young sailors to the Finn who have out-grown the Laser and skiff classes and who now see an attractive pathway to continue their sailing and may well led to the formation of a second squad.



**A NEW AND** exciting Finn sailing academy is soon to be launched on Sydney Harbour by NB Sailsports and operated by long time Finn sailor Rob McMillan.

NB Sailsports is seeking expressions of interest from Finn sailors who would like to join the academy in October 2017. The objective of the EOI is to help plan, provide and meet the expectations

## NEW FINN SAILING ACADEMY LAUNCHED ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

of sailors, coaches and teams that may be considering visiting the academy in the coming Australian summer.

NB, and its coaching team of Rob McMillan and Rob Brewer, is initially offering a programme of training, racing and regattas on Sydney Harbour and in Melbourne between 16 October and 22 December. Ed Wright also trains at the academy and offers part time coaching assistance. An additional training block may also be scheduled after Christmas for those who do not intend to travel to the World Cup in Miami.

McMillan commented, "Our plan is to continue to progress of all our squad members but providing a professional full service training environment which focuses equitably on the performance of all of our squad members and customers."

"We hope to emulate for all the reenergising of Ed's performance in

2017 as well engender a genuine pride and love for the journey we are all on. Whilst ultimately the performance must show on the water in results, our approach needs to be well rounded, building commitment, completeness and resilience in athletes."

"Our approach is to be open and collaborative with sailors, offering teams and coaches full support and access to our resources, so that all sailors get the best possible outcome. As you know, some are very self sufficient teams, some will need a great deal of support and we want to cater for each precise need."

As a coaching team, McMillan and Wright have a huge wealth of Finn experience ready to pass on to sailors at the academy. Sailors joining the programme can be confident in receiving world-class training from world-class sailors.





6	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell *	7	14 (38)	6	1	23	16	15	21	7	3	110
7	CRO 69	Milan Vujasinovic	11	6 (37)	24	7	1	8	4	20	9	4	90
8	GRE 77	Ioannis Mitakis	14	7	6	10 (25)	5	10	24	10	11	5	97
9	TUR 21	Alican Kaynar	16	24	5	19	6	12	7	(28)	11	8	108
10	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	22	11	28	11	8	6	2	17 (39)	2	7	107



The 2017 Finn Senior and U23 European Championships was shared with the RS-X Europeans, the events being designed to showcase the potential of Marseille.

After the practice race was abandoned because of a strong mistral, the start of racing was further delayed on Monday before it dropped enough to send the boats out. But it was still blowing dogs off chains as the first sailors arrived on the course. Wright opened the week with two emphatic race wins in exceptional conditions. Huge waves and 30 knots at the start boat turned to 15 knots and flat water at the windward mark set a few hundred metres off the high ground of L'île de Pomègues. The gybe mark, half way down the course was a challenge and a half and left many gasping for the surface.

8 ≈ FINNFARE AUGUST 2017





11	CRO 52	Nenad Bugarin	21	3	7	5	21	(43)	18	6	5	31	117
12	EST 2	Deniss Karpak	20	16	3	12	11	22	3	34	(40)	4	125
13	CRO 1	Josip Olujic	24	9	18	3	30	2	(bfd)	9	7	27	129
14	RUS 6	Arkadiy Kistanov *	17	(31)	31	7	5	16	21	5	9	20	131
15	AUS 261	Oliver Tweddell	6	13	32	4	12	20	(36)	7	23	29	146
16	POL 17	Piotr Kula	26	18	25	21	9	28	(bfd)	16	2	13	158
17	SWE 33	Max Salminen	9	2	(bfd)	ufd	20	14	5	32	6	10	161
18	FIN 8	Oskari Muhonen *	18	28	11	28	24	10	13	(48)	19	12	163
19	CAN 18	Tom Ramshaw	(37)	29	12	9	27	21	31	18	14	14	175
20	RUS 4	Evgenii Deiev *	29	38	10	22	22	11	25	(45)	22	6	185
21	CZE 5	Ondrej Teply *	30	20	(bfd)	30	18	15	20	27	4	23	187
23	POL 16	Mikolaj Lahn	13	15	(bfd)	15	2	31	19	38	26	32	191
24	DEN 24	Andre Højen-Christiansen	19	23	20	25	19	(39)	23	21	27	17	194
25	GER 259	Phillip Kasueske *	32	21	19	23	23	7	22	23	(33)	25	195
26	FIN 218	Tapio Nirkko	10	(dnf)	bfd	27	34	4	4	22	18	15	197
27	ITA 59	Alessio Spadoni	35	17	14	26	(38)	24	29	12	32	16	205
28	ITA 1	Filippo Baldassari	15	12	33	29	16	(ret)	17	30	24	33	209
29	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	(dnf)	19	40	13	13	19	41	44	8	19	216
30	IRL 6	Oisín McClelland	28	32	24	(36)	33	17	26	14	25	22	221
31	ESP 7	Alejandro Muscat	27	26	17	35	26	25	(bfd)	11	16	41	224
32	GER 25	Max Kohlhoff	34	(dnf)	13	31	28	44	32	3	12	35	232
33	UKR 5	Andrii Gusenko	25	27	15	34	35	(38)	12	33	31	24	236
34	SWE 11	Johannes Petterson *	38	39	34	20	31	27	(bfd)	29	30	34	282
35	AUS 2	Rob McMillan	8	22	50	37	40	36	35	(54)	29	36	293
36	NZL 64	Brendan McCarty	36	42	21	(43)	41	18	24	42	35	40	299
37	FIN 225	Mikael Hyrylainen	23	(44)	41	32	32	32	28	36	37	39	300
38	ARG 48	Facundo Olezza *	31	35	22	17	14	(ret)	dnf	2	dnf	dnf	310
39	FRA 2	Antoine Devineau	(dnf)	dnf	16	39	43	30	30	31	42	26	320
40	GER 595	Simon Gorgels *	(48)	41	48	40	37	33	27	41	28	30	325
41	FIN 118	Witteri Moisio *	44	30	9	50	53	29	44	37	43	(57)	339
42	FRA 75	Laurent Hay	41	40	42	41	39	(49)	37	35	34	37	346
43	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle *	33	43	23	38	36	53	51	43	(dnf)	42	362
44	FRA 297	Guillaume Boisard *	45	34	35	(49)	47	34	33	40	48	47	363
45	GBR 707	Callum Dixon *	40	36	39	42	45	48	39	(50)	38	45	372
46	BER 9	Evans Rockal	49	33	()	33	44	50	45	39	47	38	378
47	FRA 99	Marc Allain Des Beauvais	43	45	26	46	48	(55)	42	53	41	44	388
48	ITA 83	Matteo Savio *	(dnc)	dnf	45	45	46	41	38	25	44	43	390
49	POL 52	Krzysztof Stromski *	51	46	27	55	50	45	(bfd)	19	49	55	397
50	FRA 111	Valerian Lebrun	46	37	(dsq)	47	52	47	34	49	46	46	404
51	RUS 777	Artem Grishniakov *	39	(dnf)	46	44	42	35	bfd	46	45	50	410
52	HUN 911	Elemer Haidekker *	47	47	43	48	49	37	43	47	(dnf)	UFD	424
53	SLO 99	Jan Orel *	50	48	44	(ufd)	56	42	40	55	51	48	434
54	GBR 88	Jonathan Tweedle	(dnf)	dnf	30	53	57	40	47	56	50	51	447
55	GER 231	Denny Jeschull	(dnf)	dnf	29	52	59	54	48	51	52	52	460
56	HUN 11	Peter Pal Haidekker	52	49	47	56	51	46	49	59	dnf	54	463
57	FRA 28	Sebastien Grall	(dnf)	dnf	49	51	55	dnf	50	52	dnf	49	495
58	FRA 66	Philippe Lobert	(dnf)	dnf	53	54	54	dnf	46	57	dnf	53	506
59	FRA 113	Sylvain Dadure	(dnf)	dnf	55	57	58	51	53	60	53	dnf	513
60	FRA 89	Regis Baumgarten	(dnf)	dnf	52	58	dnf	dnf	52	58	dnf	56	528
61	ESP 57	Victor Gorostegui	42	(dnf)	dnc	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	546
62	FRA 27	Pierre Lallemand	(dnf)	dnf	54	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	558







but this time Wright led all the way round.

McMillan: *"It was a lot of fun and really crazy with the wind shifts. Completely random and in a way quite frightening at times. It was so windy you never really knew what was going to happen."*



Wright, *"We were sailing right underneath an island and it was pretty shifty at the top, so very difficult sailing, but great fun. The biggest challenge today was just to keep the mast upright. Especially on the downwind, the gusts would hit you so hard and from nowhere."*

#### TUESDAY

The Bay of Marseille was transformed on Tuesday with only one race possible in light winds, despite being afloat for more

than seven hours. The first attempt at Race 3 was abandoned at the top mark after the wind dropped off with Karpak leading round with a nice lead. After a 90-minute wait, the fleet set off again but not before two general recalls, the second under black flag, which pulled out some of the front runners.

Karpak again led at the top from Pedersen and Cornish. Cornish took the lead on the first downwind playing the pressure variations across the course well, and then

extended hugely on the second beat to lead down to the finish.

Soon after, Race 4 got away with a clean start with Ioannis Mitakis leading at the top from Cornish and Nenad Bugarin. Mitakis held the lead at the gate, but the wind was down to well under 5 knots at times and soon after the race was abandoned and the fleet sent ashore.

Karpak: *"Today was the opposite to yesterday. We made almost three races today and I was twice first boat at the top mark so I am happy with my speed."*

#### WEDNESDAY

The fleet had to contend with yet another set of new conditions on the third day. It was also almost another day of British domination with Wright taking Race 4 after moving into the lead on the final downwind in very shifty and fluctuating conditions and with the lead changing at every mark.

Race 5 was a triangle course in slightly more wind with the rain easing as the fleet approached the top mark. Mikolaj Lahn led at the top and down the run, but it was Henry Wetherell leading round the next top mark and down the reaches to take the win.

Race 6 was where it started going wrong. With Oscar up at the start and a solid 15-18 knots everyone was set for another great race. However it wasn't to be with the wind soon dropping out to around 6 knots with huge place changes downwind. Wetherell again led at the top and extended his lead on the next beat as the wind dropped completely for those behind and though he had wind all the way, the race was abandoned when he was 200 metres from the finish line.

After a short wait, the Race Committee moved position and set up a short windward-leeward course. Mitakis, led round the top mark from Milan Vujasinovic and Josip Olujic. A short race, Mitakis led through the gate, but Vujasinovic was in the lead at the top and extended downwind for the win, breaking the British domination so far.



**THE U23 EUROPEAN** Championship was won by Henry Wetherell (left) after sailing exceptionally well for much of the week. Arkadiy Kistanov took silver and Oskari Muhonen (right), the early U23 leader, won the bronze.

Wetherell: *"It's been an up and down week. I started off well, had a little dip mid-week and then had a good last race and just managed to squeak into the top ten. There are a lot of older guys here so it's a real experience. Everyone knows what they are doing and everyone is quick. It's good fun because no one ever really takes a race off. Everyone is always on their game."*





After all that, Wright, retook the overall lead from the ever consistent Pedersen, and Jonathan Lobert.

Pedersen *"It's been a good week being consistent in all my races. Unfortunately with the new format, if I can keep this up it doesn't pay off that much. But I am happy with my sailing. I have been improving a lot especially downwind."*

Nicholas Heiner: *"For myself I just needed to step it up a little bit, keep my eyes out of the boat and set myself some priorities, and I think in the end four top ten results, including one abandoned race, so pretty happy with the day."*

#### THURSDAY

The fourth day was a long day spent on shore waiting in vain for strong wind to abate enough to go sailing. It didn't.

#### FRIDAY

Friday belonged to Lobert after another very tough day with four races again sailed in easterly winds varying from 10 to 20 knots, though like Tuesday only three races were valid, after the third race was abandoned in the closing stages due to a drifting mark.

Karpak was the fastest to the top mark in Race 7, but he just let Alican Kaynar slip inside him. Lobert was up to third at second top mark after a strong left hand side came in, and together with Heiner, sailed a fast run to pass ahead and they rounded the final mark overlapped. But Lobert had the inside track and won his first race.

Race 8 started in much the same conditions with the wind rapidly building. Vujanisovic battled with Facundo Olezza at the front, but on the final downwind Zsombor Berecz came through at the last mark to take the win.

The final race of the day, Race 9, was sailed in two parts in a still increasing wind. The first attempt was led by Lobert and Wright but was abandoned on the final leg because the spreader mark had drifted out of position. The race was soon restarted and again Lobert was in

front, to lead at every mark and take his second (or third) win of the day.

Vujanisovic: *"We had four races again out of three scheduled so it's a bit frustrating. The wind was again very crazy and from all sides and you had to be very patient and just keep your focus to the end, and that's what I did."*

Lobert: *"Today was a nice day on the water, nice racing and super shifty, up and down. I was very disappointed [they abandoned], because I didn't think there was anything wrong with the mark moving away. But it's like it is and I was trying to reset and get back in the game for the last race and I was really pushing and was winning it again."*

#### SATURDAY

The final day began with Race 10 in perhaps the best conditions of the week after a short postponement on shore to wait for the wind.

Though the regatta leaders had already qualified for the Final, they both elected to sail the race. Pedersen led all the way round for a huge win, to take the overall lead, while Lobert struggled and dropped to second overall. But it didn't matter as long as the two final races took place. After protest time, the semi final was a contest between places 4-10. The first two would go into the final to join Pedersen, Lobert and Berecz.

In the semi-final, Wright broke away out of the start and crossed back ahead of the fleet. However the next shift favoured the right again and Wetherell rounded first from Cornish and Heiner. Cornish took the lead on the downwind



and was never headed. Wright recovered on the second beat and drew level before crossing in second place by less than a boatlength. Then the wind dropped and for a while the final race

looked dicey. But finally it came back in. With everything still to play for, Pedersen was forced to tack away out of the start and was never again in contention as a big left-hander came in. Then disaster struck Berecz when his halyard lock broke. Lobert owned the pin end of the line and was clear ahead when he tacked back, extending throughout the race for a big win. Wright was a clear second while Cornish held off Pedersen for third.



Cornish: *"I came here with the intention of trying to win a medal, so that's obviously a really good result. It's nice to be going away from the first big event of the season with a bronze."*

Wright: *"A medal here is really exciting because it's the first event back, apart from Hyeres which was a warm up event last week. I'm sailing probably better than I have ever done at the moment. I'm fast upwind and downwind in all conditions and that's really exciting. The winter has paid off."*

Lobert: *"Winning the Europeans means a lot for me because, first, it's in France, so I am very happy with this, and for once I am winning a championship. I have been many times second or third, so since I am on the top of the box I am very happy and the funny thing is I am in front of two British. So it's nice as it's always the British winning, so for once it's someone else."* ≈







# World Cup Series

The newly renamed, and shortened, 2017 World Cup Series opened in Miami before moving to Hyeres and then wrapping up with the World Cup Series Final in Santander in June.

## World Cup Series – Hyères, France

1	TUR 21	Alican Kaynar	5	7	(17)	3	6	6	1	1	2	1	20	52
2	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	4	5	4	2	2	5	11	(16)	3	6	18	60
3	FRA 112	Jonathan Lobert	(13)	4	11	13	8	9	5	5	6	5	2	68
4	GBR 11	Edward Wright	17	11	10	1	(23)	2	2	10	1	7	16	77
5	BRA 109	Jorge Zarif	18	(ufd)	1	8	1	7	14	12	5	4	8	78
6	POL 17	Piotr Kula	6	9	6	15	7	3	6	(23)	4	9	14	79
7	NOR 1	Anders Pedersen	8	17	8	(20)	4	1	10	9	16	3	6	82
8	GBR 91	Ben Cornish	1	6	5	4	10	(16)	8	13	9	16	10	82
9	HUN 40	Zsombor Berecz	15	3	12	11	14	(19)	15	4	7	2	4	87
10	FIN 218	Tapio Nirkko	14	16	7	(27)	19	8	7	2	11	13	12	109

11	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell	104	23	ITA 59	Alessio Spadoni	186
12	CRO 1	Josip Olujic	105	24	DEN 24	Andre Hojen Christiansen	194
13	CAN 18	Tom Ramshaw	112	25	CZE 5	Ondrej Teply	210
14	POL 16	Mikolaj Lahn	114	26	CAN 2	Kyle Martin	220
15	FRA 17	Fabian Pic	121	27	FRA 29	Antoine Devineau	221
16	CRO 52	Nenad Bugarin	121	28	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle	225
17	EST 2	Deniss Karpak	122	29	NZL 64	Brendan McCarty	236
18	ESP 17	Pablo Guitian Sarria	148	30	AUS 2	Rob McMillan	243
19	ESP 7	Alex Muscat	151	31	BER 9	Rockall Evans	248
20	ITA 123	Filippo Baldassari	154	32	FRA 99	Marc Allain d Beauvais	266
21	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	158	33	GBR 707	Callum Dixon	276
22	AUS 261	Oliver Tweddell	158	34	BRA 104	Andre Mirsky	279

**ALICAN KAYNAR SECURED** his first ever major event win with a confident performance at the World Cup Series event in Hyeres. Nicholas Heiner took silver while Jonathan Lobert won the medal race to take the bronze medal.

Kaynar was the best sailor of the opening series, especially the second half, and went into the medal race with a medal secured and only Heiner in a position to beat him. Heiner had his chances, leading after three days, but picked up too many points on Friday, while Kaynar sailed a perfect day. The two engaged in a thrilling and exciting match race in the medal race, ignoring the rest of the fleet, but Heiner only managed to pass the clever Turk at the end as they brought the fleet home.

After a week of generally very good winds, the battle for bronze was much tighter, with seven sailors in contention. A win for Lobert and a poor race from Ed Wright, meant the soon-to-be European Champion, Lobert, won the bronze medal on his birthday. ≈





## World Cup Series Final – Santander, Spain



**EIGHT OF THE** 16 Finn sailors at the World Cup Final in Santander in June managed to win races, proving a competitive, albeit a rather small fleet.

After a week of great competition, Zsombor Berecz, Ben Cornish and Ed Wright were all in with a shot at gold going into the medal race.

The start did not go entirely to plan for Wright and Berecz, both recalled to restart. The advantage went to Cornish but his focus switched to his rivals and covering them, let them back into the game.

Then Cornish was penalised for pumping, and after a penalty turn, it looked like his chance of gold had gone. Then Berecz received his own penalty enabling Cornish, who had already overtaken Wright, to move into the gold medal position.

A fifth was enough for Cornish to take his first ever Finn gold from Berecz on countback. Wright crossed in tenth to complete the podium. ≈

1	GBR 91	Ben Cornish	2	(8)	5	5	4	1	3	6	8	4	10	48
2	HUN 40	Zsombor Berecz	3	6	6	1	(15)	9	2	1	5	1	14	48
3	GBR 11	Edward Wright	stp	3	2	2	3	(15)	8	8	7	2	20	60
4	EST 2	Deniss Karpak	7	12	3	4	1	4	(13)	10	12	3	6	62
5	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	11	10	9	10	(14)	5	7	5	2	7	2	68
6	TUR 21	Alican Kaynar	6	11	4	3	(16)	13	11	3	4	6	8	69
7	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell	1	7	8	7	7	8	4	7	(11)	11	12	72
8	ESP 7	Alex Muscat	13	1	7	(ufd)	8	3	6	13	6	14	4	75
9	AUS 261	Oliver Tweddell	8	4	(11)	9	10	6	1	11	9	5	18	81
10	NOR 1	Anders Pedersen	10	9	1	6	6	(14)	14	4	3	13	16	82
11	CAN 18	Tom Ramshaw	stp	5	10	8	12	7	9	(dnf)	1	8		75
12	FRA 17	Fabian Pic	12	2	12	12	(13)	11	5	12	10	9		85
13	CRO 1	Josip Olujic	5	15	15	(ufd)	2	2	10	15	13	10		87
14	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	9	14	14	11	9	10	12	9	(15)	15		103
15	CAN 2	Kyle Martin	(16)	16	16	13	5	16	15	2	16	12		111
16	ITA 66	Enrico Voltolini	15	13	13	14	11	12	(16)	14	14	16		122







# Second Masters title for Vladimir Krutskikh after idyllic Caribbean encounter

One hundred and thirty seven Finns from 21 countries headed to Barbados in June for the first ever Finn World Masters in the Caribbean. They were treated to fantastic sailing conditions in the very warm azure waters of Carlisle Bay, with flying fish and turtles, launching from a pristine sandy beach at the Barbados Yacht Club, which was always the perfect host.

The racing was as challenging as it ever is at the Masters, with winds generally at 20-25 knots, but it was also so much fun to race Finns under the Caribbean sun and skies. The defending champion Rafa Trujillo led almost all the way until the final day, when a mistake in the medal race let the 2015 champion, Vladimir Krutskikh, escape to take the win. Trujillo dropped to third, while Laurent Hay sailed a spectacular week to take second, as well as the Grand Masters Trophy. As ever, there were stories within stories, with battles throughout the fleet for the various

categories, and for many, a personal challenge just to get round the course and back to the beach for cold beers, rum punches and good companions.

The fleet included the three most recent Finn Masters World Champions, Trujillo, Krutskikh and Michael Maier, in addition to dozen sailors or more who had been propping them up for the past few years. The largest team was from Great Britain, with 31 entries, benefitting from the great shipping sponsorship deal from Geest. The fleet was filled with sailors of all ages including 13 Legends, those old enough to know better but having failed miserably to give up Finn sailing before they reached the age to 70.



**AT THE OPENING** ceremony, the local speakers spoke about the legacy of running sailing events in Barbados, especially to the youth of the island. The Finn World Masters was the sixth event that this small island had run in recent years and followed on directly from the OK Dinghy World Championship the previous week.

									MR	Pnts
1	RUS 73	<b>Vladimir Krutskikh, M (1)</b>	2	2	(4)	2	2	2	2	12
2	FRA 75	<b>Laurent Hay, GM (1)</b>	1	2	(5)	4	1	1	8	17
3	ESP 100	<b>Rafael Trujillo, M (2)</b>	1	1	(2)	1	1	1	12	17
4	SUI 86	<b>Piet Eckert, M (3)</b>	3	3	1	3	5	(8)	4	19
5	FRA 99	<b>Marc Allain des Beauvais, GGM (1)(26)</b>	5	3	2	3	4	6	23	
6	CZE 1	<b>Michael Maier, GM (2)</b>	2	1	1	(4)	4	3	14	25
7	SUI 7	Christoph Burger, M	4	(11)	2	3	6	6	10	31
8	NZL 111	<b>Karl Purdie, GM (3)</b>	3	(9)	3	8	6	2	16	38
9	GBR 2	Allen Burrell, GM	(12)	3	10	1	7	5	20	44
10	GER 707	Ulrich Breuer, GM	7	6	6	(6)	2	4	18	45
11	CHI 12	Antonio Poncell, GM	5	8	(31)	7	7	9	1	42
12	GER 501	Fabian Lemmel, M	(16)	4	5	5	9	14	9	46
13	NZL 2	Raymond Hall, GM	10	13	4	6	8	7	(dsq)	48
14	GBR 21	Michael de Courcy, GM	7	5	9	14	11	(15)	4	50
15	FIN 201	Kristian Sjoberg, GM	13	14	8	10	3	8	(dsq)	56
16	USA 9	<b>Rob Coutts, GGM (2)</b>	6	(23)	11	16	4	14	7	58
17	SWE 75	Johan Wijk, GM	20	(52)	13	12	8	5	1	59
18	BRA 177	Andre Mirsky, M	(28)	12	23	5	11	7	2	60
19	NED 29	Bas de Waal, GM	9	16	10	10	5	11	(ocs)	61
20	SVK 470	Andrej Holak, M	13	6	15	12	(dnf)	9	9	64





**AFTER THE PRACTICE** race was abandoned because of strong winds, Trujillo opened his week with two great wins on Monday, in still strong winds, moderate seas and close racing. Six times champion Maier was second while Hay was third. The fleet was first held on shore as the strong winds continued, but were eventually released. It was still a windy day though with awesome offwind legs in big seas that were often a battle to just survive.

The 140-boat fleet was split into two starting groups, Yellow and Blue, with fleet assignments based on random

selection, though opinions on what is random varied widely.

Trujillo said, "It was a really difficult but fun racing. It was 27-30 degrees temperature and 20 knots and 30 degree shifts. It was quite a challenge. The level of the masters in my group was impressive. We had two general recalls and started with the black flag and everyone was fighting hard for the pin, so it was exciting racing."

**MAIER TOOK THE** lead on Tuesday after another tough and windy day out on

21	USA 74	<b>Henry Sprague, L (1)</b>	68	80	USA 101	Peter Frissell, GGM	219
22	DEN 6	Lars Hall, GM	69	81	AUS 68	Jay Harrison, GGM	224
23	FIN 22	Ville Valtonen, GM	69	82	USA 40	<b>Charles Rudinsky, L(3)</b>	226
24	AUS 61	Mark Jackson, GM	77	83	GER 202	Rolf Elsaesser, GGM	226
25	SUI 83	Beat Steffen, M	81	84	GBR 80	Ray New, GGM	230
26	NZL 10	<b>David Hoogenboom, GGM (3)</b>	83	85	NED 34	Stephan v. Bloemendaal, M	233
27	GBR 65	David Potter, GM	83	86	NZL 3	Ben Winters, L	242
28	GBR 720	Julian Smith, GM	83	87	GBR 42	Richard Phillips, GGM	244
29	GBR 37	Steve Hayles, M	88	88	AUT 19	Gerald Raschke, GGM	246
30	RUS 41	Felix Denikaev, GM	89	89	GBR 750	Ivan Burden, M	247
31	GBR 17	Paul Blowers, GM	92	90	GBR 13	Roman Khodykin, M	253
32	USA 12	Steve Landeau, GM	96	91	GER 57	Heinz Wendel, GGM	253
33	NED 31	Hans Zuurendonk, GM	96	92	AUT 7	Michael Gubi, GM	257
34	SUI 25	Till Klammer, M	96	93	NED 8	Rodrick Casander, L	259
35	GER 111	Rainer Haacks, GM	96	94	FIN 145	Mathias Tallberg, GM	262
36	FRA 38	Michel Audoin, GGM	97	95	RSA 600	Arend van Wamelen, GM	262
37	RSA 51	Philip Baum, GGM	99	96	GBR 564	Peter Vinton, GM	269
38	NED 62	Tim van Rootselaar, GM	104	97	AUT 21	Erich Scherzer, GGM	270
39	GER 251	Mark-Raimondo Bayer, M	112	98	GER 112	Egbert Vincke, L	272
40	SWE 14	Stefan Nordstrom, GM	114	99	GBR 62	Jerry Andrews, GM	274
41	DEN 21	Otto Strandvig, GM	118	100	NED 13	Harold Lensing, GGM	279
42	GBR 10	Robert Deaves, GM	118	101	GER 69	Thomas Huber, GM	285
43	RUS 21	Vladimir Butenko, GM	120	102	SVK 11	Robert Poor, M	288
44	FIN 112	Seppo Ajanko, GGM	123	103	GER 256	<b>Peter Langer-Langmaack, GGM</b>	292
45	USA 11	Scott Griffiths, GM	124	104	SUI 57	Rudolf Baumann, GGM	299
46	RUS 212	Lanfranco Cirillo, GM	126	105	AUT 302	Alfred Braumueller, GGM	299
47	GBR 1	Sander Kooij, GM	126	106	USA 99	Stephen Fuccillo, GGM	300
48	GBR 86	Fergus Allan, GM	127	107	GBR 58	Paul Brown, GGM	329
49	NZL 20	Christopher Wells, GM	134	108	GER 62	Uwe Barthel, GGM	330
50	FIN 228	Harri Kokko, M	136	109	GBR 77	Stewart Mitchell, GM	332
51	RUS 51	Mikhail Petruga, GGM	136	110	GBR 787	Steve Popple, GM	333
52	GER 960	Klaus Antrecht, GGM	138	111	GER 103	Ralf-Udo Lemke, GGM	340
53	GER 145	Kai-Uwe Gölldenitz, GM	143	112	SWE 20	Gosta Eriksson, GGM	340
54	GBR 93	Tim Simpson, GM	143	113	GBR 100	Matthew Walker, M	342
55	GER 226	Uwe Fernholz, GM	144	114	CZE 22	Milos Mares, M	344
56	GER 17	Kai Schrader, GM	147	115	SWE 100	HansPeter Hylander, GGM	352
57	AUS 267	Darren Gilbert, GM	149	116	NZL 213	Maurice Duncan, L	353
58	RSA 571	Andreas Bohnsack, GM	151	117	NZL 19	Denis Mowbray, GGM	356
59	NED 67	Ronald Ruiter, M	153	118	GER 214	Bernd Schulz-Stuecher, GM	357
60	DEN 1	Frank Hansen, GGM	163	119	AUS 8	James Ley, L	357
61	DEN 80	Michael Staal, GM	166	120	USA 801	Eric Stiverson, GM	362
62	SUI 63	Thomas Gautschi, GM	170	121	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari, GM	371
63	SWE 91	Par Friberg, GM	176	122	GBR 739	Paul Ward, GM	376
64	GBR 33	Kieron Holt, M	180	123	NZL 193	Gerrit Bearda, GGM	381
65	AUS 305	<b>David Bull, L (2)</b>	184	124	SWE 44	Bengt Stromberg, GGM	382
66	CZE 222	Petr Vinkl, GM	187	125	RSA 570	Gerd Bohnsack, SL	390
67	SWE 71	Jonas Andersson, M	191	126	GBR 777	Howard Sellers, L	397
68	SUI 1	Hans Fatzer, GGM	191	127	USA 32	Charles Heimler, GGM	406
69	GBR 20	Andy Denison, GM	192	128	GER 293	Georg Siebeck, L	410
70	GBR 52	Will Patten, GM	192	129	MON 234	Michael Kurtz, GGM	420
71	GER 909	Udo Murek, GM	199	130	SUI 2	Helmut Klammer, L	420
72	GBR 635	Robin Toozs-Hobson, GM	199	131	GBR 67	Gary Pearson, GM	420
73	GER 122	Holger Krasmann, GM	210	132	GBR 721	Graham Dale-Jones, L	420
74	GBR 35	Soeren Vonsild, GM	213	133	AUT 322	Wilhelm Kasinger, GGM	420
75	NZL 23	Alan Dawson, GGM	214	133	CAN 3	Ian Bostock, GGM	420
76	AUS 6	Robert Buchanon, GGM	216	133	GBR 4	Russell Ward, GM	420
77	AUT 350	Peter Groegl, GM	217	133	GBR 553	Paul Beasley, GGM	420
78	RSA 574	David Kitchen, GGM	218	133	NED 72	LacusJan Groenhout, GM	420
79	SWE 2	Svante Collvin, GM	218				

## PRIZEWINNERS



**SUPER LEGEND: GERD BOHNSACK, RSA**



**LEGENDS: 1. HENRY SPRAGUE, USA, 2. DAVID BULL, AUS, 3. CHARLES RUDINSKY, USA**



**GRAND GRAND MASTERS: 1. MARC ALLAIN DES BEAUVAIS, FRA, 2. ROB COUTTS, USA, 3. DAVID HOOGENBOOM, NZL**



**GRAND MASTERS: 1. LAURENT HAY, FRA, 2. MICHAEL MAIER, CZE, 3. KARL PURDIE, NZL**



**MASTERS: 1. VLADIMIR KRUTSKIKH, RUS, 3. PIET ECKERT, SUI, 2. RAFAEL TRUJILLO, ESP**

**OTHERS: GEEST PERSEVERANCE AWARD: PETER LANGER-LANGMAACK, GER, ART OF RACING PRIZE: ULI BREUER, GER, THE CRUTCH (11TH): ANTONIO PONCELL, CHI**





Carlisle Bay. Trujillo dropped to second while Piet Eckert moved up to third. The strong winds continued and, after holding the fleet ashore early in the day, the race committee sent everyone ashore after one race was sailed as it was getting a bit hairy. There is only so much fun that is good for you.

Eckert led his fleet all the way round in huge seas and winds going well past the recorded 22-23 knots. In the other fleet, Trujillo built a nice lead and extended on the fleet only to fall into a hole on the final approaches to the finish line. Maier capitalised on that and passed him, only to nearly lose it again as he headed for the wrong finish mark. He recovered and crossed just ahead of Trujillo to take the overall lead.

Marc Allain des Beauvais summed up the feeling of most sailors when he said, *"This is a fantastic venue. This is the first time I am sailing my Finn in hot water, and the first time I am sailing with flying fish, taking off in front of me, it is very nice. The beer is fine, the sun is fine, the beach is white, this is absolutely terrible, where will we find this again next time. It's impossible to conceive."*

**TRUJILLO WAS BACK** in charge after one race on Wednesday as winds eased

slightly, while Maier dropped to second, and Eckert remained third. After two days of very strong winds, the third day brought a much-needed relief, though the racing was perhaps even tougher as almost everyone was now racing rather than just surviving. Trujillo, dominated his fleet to win from Krutskikh and Eckert, while Allen Burrell won his race with a great performance over Allain des Beauvais and Christoph Burger. The make-up of the medal race was slowly taking shape.

Burger commented on the day, *"This is obviously quite a special place. No one really knew what to expect but we found really nice conditions with pretty strong winds so far. Today was actually the first day with little bit less. The wind shifts a lot, with a lot of puffs, which makes it really interesting and quite a few lead changes through the races and it's really enjoyable because you don't really sail a one-way track too much."*

**THE FOURTH DAY**, Thursday brought perfect scores for both Trujillo and Hay, each adding two bullets each after another windy, tough day. Krutskikh moved up one place to third.

Most of the big names were in the Yellow fleet, with everyone trying to get

some valuable points advantage into the medal race. Maier had his chances, but sailing the wrong course and gave up hard earned distance. Trujillo later took the lead for his first win of the day and led throughout the next race. In Blue fleet Hay was just as dominant to produce a brilliant day on the water to remain in touch with Trujillo.



Photos: Claire ADB and Robert Deaves

Steve Hayles commented on sailing in Barbados, *"Barbados is an awesome place to go sailing. Not many of us have been here before, but there is a fantastic breeze, testing conditions, big waves, and a bit of tide and current. It's just a really tough race course. You bring a tough boat in a tough fleet, in tough and testing conditions and at the end of it, a fantastic atmosphere, and Barbados for sure is a fantastic place to go sailing."*

**THE FINAL DAY** began with the Final Race for everyone except the top 10. Antonio Poncell, from Chile, dominated the Yellow fleet in tough conditions, with a severe chop upwind and a hairy downwind. In the Blue fleet, the Scandinavians dominated, with the win going to Johan Wijk, of Sweden. The downwind mark had drifted away and was replaced by a





mark boat, but several sailors got confused and ended up being disqualified after missing out the final mark.

Then it was time for the final showdown. The medal race would define who took home the medals and it turned out to be a dramatic, and for some, calamitous, conclusion to an otherwise perfect week of racing in the Caribbean. With the course set just off the beach, it produced a plethora of wind shifts, overall place changes, mistakes from sailors and general chaos on the race course with 40 degree shifts and huge pressure changes as the wind pulsed off the shore.

**AFTER TRAILING THE** leaders all week, the 2015 champion, Krutskikh, turned the tables on the fleet to win the medal race and the title. Hay had his chances, and ended up second, but also took the Grand Masters title as well. Trujillo, the regatta leader for much of the week and definitely the best sailor of the week after winning five of his six races, ended up third. Three sailors, including Trujillo, picked up a yellow flag for pumping on the first downwind in 16-20 knots as the race committee had failed to raise



Oscar flag. Then, having clawed his way back, Trujillo made a fatal mistake and did penalty turns after dropping his mainsheet which caused his mast to touch Krutskikh's as they rounded the final top mark. Krutskikh, passed early leader Eckert and went on to win the race while Trujillo dropped to sixth. The title was going back to Russia.

**ANYONE DREAMING OF** a relaxing Caribbean sojourn at these Finn Masters will have been sorely disappointed as the conditions were about as challenging and tough as any Finn World Masters in recent memory. The upside was that the sea was very warm, the air was

warmer, the sailing was awesome and the beach side was simply fabulous, while the racing all week was close and competitive. Do we want to go back? You bet your Mount Gay we do. ≈


A sailboat with the number 174 and the name 'zhik' on its hull, racing on the water. A sailor in a wetsuit and a white cap is leaning over the side of the boat, celebrating with his arms raised. The boat is white with a yellow sail. The background shows a rocky coastline and other sailboats.

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(C) Berit Hainoja





# Joaquín Blanco receives Finn Gold Cup 40 years late

**T**he 1977 Finn Gold Cup never happened. The winner of the renamed Finn World Week was never officially acknowledged as World Champion. Now, 40 years later, Spaniard, Joaquín Blanco has been acknowledged by the class and his peers as the 1977 Finn World Champion and has had his name engraved on the Finn Gold Cup, denied to him four decades ago by the unwelcome intrusion of global politics. On Saturday, 24 June, 2017, the Finn Class rewrote history.

In 1977, 115 sailors from 27 countries gathered in Palamos, Spain, for the 22nd running of the Finn Gold Cup. However, after the Spanish Government refused to accept the entry of the two South African sailors, the International Finn Association withdrew the Finn Gold Cup from the event. It was renamed Finn World Week and has become a scar on the grand history of the class; a decision that cost the 21 year old Blanco his right to lift one of the greatest trophies in sailing.

The wind at that 1977 event matched the mood of the competitors, with only five races possible in unusually light and feeble breezes. Blanco, who was already European Champion, won two races, was always in the top 10 and finished 23.3 points ahead of second placed José Luis Doreste, also of Spain, who would go on to win gold in Pusan at the 1988 Olympics. Blanco himself finished fourth at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Wind the clock forward 40 years and both were again sailing Finns in Palamos, with the Nàutic Club Costa Brava and Club de Vela Palamós organizing a regatta to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1977 Finn World Week. This gathering of Spanish Finn talent past and present seemed like too good an opportunity to miss to finally acknowledge Blanco's achievement. On the Saturday evening he was presented, albeit 40 years late, with the Finn Gold Cup, his name newly engraved to finally recognize his victory. Winning

the Finn Gold Cup is a supreme achievement in the sport of sailing, and his name now sits alongside some of the greatest names in sailing of all time.

Holding the trophy for the first time, he said, "It's so emotional for me because I have been waiting for this for 40 years. I did my best sailing



*JOAQUÍN BLANCO RECEIVES THE NEWLY ENGRAVED FINN GOLD CUP FROM FINN CLASS PRESIDENT OF HONOUR GERARDO SEELIGER*

*in 1977 and won and I was very happy then. I also won the Europeans that year as well. I know there were problems politically and the Finn class made the correct decision, and at that moment they couldn't give the prize to me."*

*"Now, after all this time, when you are getting old and your name is still not on the Finn Gold Cup, then you feel sad, but now my name is on the Finn Gold Cup I am very happy. It's very difficult to say but it was very important for me to be in the list of world champions in the Finn Class."*

IFA President, Balazs Hajdu explained, "The decision taken 40 years ago to remove the Finn Gold Cup from competition is not in question here. We cannot, and shouldn't, comment at such a distance, in such a difficult and different political climate. It was a very different time. But we can, and should, acknowledge the achievement of Joaquín Blanco."

IFA President of Honour, Gerardo Seeliger, who competed in 1977, presented Blanco with the Finn Gold Cup







and a Finn half model to remember the occasion, said, "Correcting a decision is the great privilege of wise men. At the time we were pressed by politics, and we, the Class, had a long fruitless debate. As a member of the then Executive I feel proud to give to the sport what belongs to the sport. We have in Olympic sport so many similar precedents."



#### REGATTA

The Trofeo 40 Aniversario de la Palamós Finn Gold Cup 1977 was held on 24-25 June 2017 to commemorate the passing of four decades and the clubs and the Spanish Finn fleet did a great job inviting many sailors who took part in 1977.

On Saturday, the 32 Finn sailors, old and young, had three fantastic races in Palamos Bay. A light wind in the first race built through the day to 12-14 knots by the end and with blue skies, temperatures in the 30s, it was a perfect day's Finn sailing. Miguel Fernandez Vasco held the lead overnight by virtue of two race wins to Alejandro Muscat's one, while Paul McKenzie was in third.

However, on Sunday no more racing



TOP LEFT: JOAQUÍN BLANCO, LOWER LEFT: JOSE DORESTE, LEFT: MIGUEL FERNANDEZ VASCO, BOTTOM: ALEJANDRO MUSCAT

was possible with persistent cloud, light rain and an almost non-existent wind. Despite going afloat for a few hours and the best efforts of the race team, the fleet came ashore with no more races sailed.

One of the big questions was how the stars of yesterday would perform, and that answer was, in fact, very well. While Blanco found himself at the front for a while in Race 2, it was Doreste who beat his old rival and ended the regatta fourth.

Blanco almost didn't come, but was glad he did. "It's been the first time I have sailed with the new boats and it is really quite different. I think it's more difficult but a lot more fun. Last time I sailed Finns was in 1995."

Jose Luis Doreste, another former Finn Gold Cup winner said, "It's been fantastic. We had a very nice wind on Friday for training and yesterday we had three very nice races. Today not so much but it is my first time sailing the Finn since many years ago and I enjoyed it very much."

He laid down the gauntlet for next year when the Finn World Masters is being held at El Balis, near Barcelona. Asked if he would sail, he joked, "We have to. It's at home, so we are obliged. I don't know if we want to or not but we have to."

"It's a completely different boat to the boat I was sailing many years ago. But I felt very good, fast, not so hard, easier

#### FINAL RESULTS

1	ESP 161	Miguel Fernandez Vasco	5
2	ESP 7	Alejandro Muscat	5
3	AUS 22	Paul Mckenzie	10
4	ESP 111	Jose Luis Doreste Blanco	14
5	FRA 49	Dorian Gachon	18
6	ESP 117	Carlos Ordóñez Sánchez	18
7	ESP 1	Joaquin Blanco	19
8	ESP 86	Francisco Castañer	27
9	ESP 337	Miguel Ángel Cabrerizo	29
10	ESP 11	Miquel Alvarez Valls	36
11	ESP 8	Adrian Bedoya Mey	39
12	ESP 260	Victor Serrano Conesa	40
13	ESP 39	Jose Maria Pujadas	44
14	ESP 114	David Ordóñez	47
15	ESP 196	Pablo Lopez-Baldan	51
16	ESP 112	Axel Muñoz Valls	53
17	ESP 430	Jesus Pintos Ager	55
18	ESP 5	Jaume Alis Pallares	60
19	ESP 77	Jesus Turro Homedes	61
20	ESP 6	Roger Jordana Quer	62
21	ESP 739	David Rivero Martinez	63
22	ESP 99	Gerardo Seeliger	65
23	AUS 261	Alejandro Prieto Gonzalez	67
24	ESP 75	José Luis Castells Ruiz	70
25	FRA 96	Florian Faucheux	74
26	ESP 43	Miguel Ángel Mateo	74
27	ESP 35	Pedro Jiménezmeifren	77
28	IRI 69	Ahmad Ahmadi	78
29	CHI 10	Marco A. Montalbetti D.	78
30	ESP 435	Nicolas De Ros Wallace	84
31	ESP 97	Carlos Cantín Mas	84
32	NED 849	Bert Stevens	90

downwind and I enjoyed it very much."

The event was also proof of the ever-growing Spanish fleet. Overall winner, Fernandez Vasco said, "I am so happy because I am sentimental with Joaquín's recognition for his Gold Cup win, 40 years ago, it was such a happy moment for us and to win this regatta 40 years later with Josele Doreste and Alex Muscat, one of the best sailors in Spain, is so nice for me."

At the prizegiving everyone received a prize, from first to last, proving once again that if you sail a Finn, everyone is a winner. ≈







# Andre Budzien claims Balaton Masters Euro Cup

1	GER 711	Andre Budzien, GM	1	1	2	2	(6)	6
2	UKR 8	Havrysh Taras, M	3	2	15	(46)	1	21
3	RSA 1	Ian Ainslie, GM	7	6	1	9	(40)	23
4	CZE 318	Martin Plecity, GGM	10	3	(29)	14	9	36
5	HUN 7	Antal Székely, GM	5	7	10	(52)	15	37
6	HUN 11	Péter Haidekker, GM	6	11	(ufd)	6	17	40
7	AUT 333	Gerhard Weinreich, GM	8	13	(21)	19	2	42
8	CZE 67	Josef Jochovič, GM	13	14	8	(17)	7	42
9	UKR 14	Vladimir Stasyuk, M	4	15	18	(25)	10	47
10	HUN 50	Ákos Lukáts, M	(dnf)	10	3	1	39	53



11	GER 8	Jürgen Eiermann, GM	56	51	RUS 71	Leonid Kleimann, GM	165
12	UKR 1	Volodymyr Bogomolkin, M	57	52	GER 42	Jürgen Kraft, L	166
13	RUS 3	Alexey Boroujak, GM	64	53	RUS 137	Albert Nazarov, M	172
14	CZE 33	Ivan Rames, GM	65	54	DEN 39	Jacob Dalgaard Nielsen, M	172
15	CZE 4	Zdenek Gebhart, GM	66	55	FRA 53	Gilles Corcaud, GM	177
16	CZE 75	Vladimir Skalicky, GM	71	56	POL 87	Marcin Mrowczynski, M	181
17	RUS 1117	Andrew Bill, GM	72	57	POL 27	Piotr Rosinski, GM	190
18	UKR 13	Andriy Podvezko, M	82	58	GER 30	Ralf Heim, GGM	191
19	UKR 55	Oleksandr Gusenko, M	84	59	GER 3	Walter Mai, L	199
20	HUN 88	Zsombor Majthényi, M	85	60	GER 92	Detlev Guminski, GGM	203
21	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski, GGM	87	61	RUS 18	Evgeny Dzhura, M	203
22	ITA 111	Bruno Catalan, L	94	62	HUN 95	József Farkas, GGM	204
23	GER 157	Frank Dinnebie, GM	95	63	HUN 114	Zoltán Kovács, M	216
24	AUT 11	Bernd Moser, GM	100	64	HUN 30	Zsigmond Kántor, M	219
25	CZE 8	Jiri Outrata, L	103	65	GER 35	Hans Günter Ehlers, L	219
26	HUN 4	Gábor Antal, GGM	109	66	HUN 33	Zoltán Horváth, M	224
27	CZE 43	Ladislav Hyrs, M	111	67	CZE 119	Martin Transvsky, M	236
28	UKR 10	Valentyn Klymentyev, GM	112	68	GER 119	Peter B Peter, L	238
29	POL 2	Andre Skarka, GGM	112	69	HUN 69	Csaba Stadler, M	244
30	HUN 1	Huszár Géza, M	113	70	HUN 32	Zoltán Balla, M	261
31	CRO 110	Lukša Cicarelli, L	115	71	HUN 961	Attila Varga, GM	267
32	HUN 907	Botond Berecz, GM	116	72	GER 137	Karl Schmid, GGM	272
33	AUS 22	Paul Mckenzie, M	121	73	LTU 7	Rymonis Tauras, GM	281
34	HUN 41	Zoltán Bartos, GM	124	74	HUN 140	Gábor Mészáros, GGM	292
35	POL 100	Marek Jarocki, M	126	75	POL 3	Jam Okulicz Kozaryn, L	294
36	RUS 13	Lev Shnyr, M	127	76	POL 31	Maciej Rozkrut, GM	294
37	HUN 1111	Imre Scholtz, M	136	77	HUN 51	István Rutai, M	295
38	POL 38	Juliusz Reichelt, GGM	138	78	AUT 320	Csaba Gál, L	295
39	GER 118	Oliver Bronke, M	139	79	HUN 111	Gábor Ujvári, GM	303
40	GER 146	Friedrich Müller, L	142	80	HUN 9	Tamás Beliczay, GGM	321
41	HUN 2	Péter Sipos, GGM	145	81	HUN 81	Imre Solymosi, GM	324
42	HUN 59	László Taubert, GM	151	82	HUN 1225	László Szalai, GM	360
43	GER 811	Michael Knoll, M	152	82	HUN 64	Balázs Szűcs, GM	360
44	HUN 8	Zsolt Mészáros, M	153	82	GER 979	Stefan Haak, GM	360
45	ITA 140	Ennio Cozzolotto, GM	154	82	HUN 26	Szilárd Zsitvay, GM	360
46	HUN 972	Gyula Mónus, M	158	82	AUT 330	Tina Sperl, M	360
47	HUN 6	Mihály Demeczky, GGM	158	82	ITA 23	Umberto Grumelli, GGM	360
48	CZE 80	Jozif Martin, GM	160	82	GER 34	Dieter Borges, GGM	360
49	RUS 142	Yury Polovinkin, GGM	161	82	CRO 44	Borut Cinin Sain, L	360
50	HUN 27	Andrik Szabolcs, M	163				

**T**his year the seventh edition of the Finn Masters Euro Cup took place again in Tihany, Lake Balaton hosted by the friendly club of Tihanyi Hajós Egylet (THE), write Marton Beliczay.

The timing of the regatta was not the same due to the fact that the Masters Worlds was outside Europe; the club wanted to propose an opportunity for those who could not afford the go to Barbados, but still wanted to do some Finn sailing in the time of Pentecost. Also, all the buildings in the marina will be demolished and the construction of a new one is going to start at the end of the summer, which would have prevented organising a regatta in September. We saw the biggest fleet ever in the history of the regatta with 89 entries from 15 countries participating, including many Masters world champions and Olympians, who had a great regatta in very demanding and sometimes tricky conditions.

**ON THE FIRST** day of the regatta there was no chance for any racing. There was some wind during the day but only close to the harbour, which did not allow a race course to be set. In the afternoon a thunderstorm came which brought some



wind but it was too strong and shifty to allow racing, so eating the roast pork and chicken with some beer and wine was the only sports activity the sailors could have that day.

The next day the wind was very promising. The weather was a bit cloudy, but still warm and the forecast was very good, with winds blowing all day from the north. The organisers were able to finish three races in the strong, but still tricky, winds, where displaying the oscar flag was not a question. In one of the races there was a gust with 26 knots which was a bit hard to handle for some of the competitors, but most managed to finish safe and in time. After the three races, all the competitors had low batteries and everybody went to sleep early after sharing their experiences next



to a beer or two. The race winners of the day were André Budzien and Ian Ainslie with two and one wins respectively.

**THE THIRD DAY** started the same way, but it was sunny. The wind was a bit shiftier, but still good to race in it. The organisers had to change the course many times and the fleet sailed two races that day before the wind died. The RC remained on shore and tried to set a course, but the wind was too light and shifty to be able to start a third race. Winners of the day were Ákos Lukáts and Taras Havrysh. The top three after the day were André Budzien, Taras Havrysh and Ian Ainslie. In the evening the competitors went up to the city close to the 'inner lake' where excellent food and a spectacular view was waiting for them.

On the last day the wind was not so promising. We had north-easterly winds with 2-3 knots in the morning,

which kept the fleet ashore. Around 11 o'clock, the wind picked up and we had sometimes even 10 knots which looked very promising. Unfortunately just before hoisting the orange flag, the wind stopped and prevented any more racing. Even though we had a few shifts which looked like something was coming, they only lasted for 10 minutes. At 2 pm the RC decided not to wait anymore and finished the event.

**AFTER 5 RACES**, the top 6 overall and the top 3 in every age category received prizes handed by the Mayor of Tihany. The only super legend, Walter Mai received a prize as well for his accomplishments. I think all of us would be happy to be able to sail the Finn over the age of 80.

We hope to see you again soon with a new clubhouse, but the same hospitality. ≈

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# Finn format trials survey: The pros and cons

**F**ollowing requests to trial a 'first across the line' race format, the Finn class carried out trials at two events early in 2017 – the Trofeo Princesa Sofia in Palma and the European Championship in Marseille. Both were designed around a winner-takes-all final race where the first boat across the line was the winner. As expected, both events produced a lot of feedback, good and bad, and after the Europeans the Finn Class organised an online survey to assess the success or otherwise of the trials and gather further feedback.

The purpose of the trials was to investigate new formats to try and make sailing easier to understand for media and non-sailing spectators, and to try and add some extra excitement and thrill to engage more viewers. This was attempted through creating a final race format where the winners were the first across the line. The first three across the line in the final race won the medals.

Of course, this is widely contentious because it goes against all yacht racing tradition where the winner of a regatta has to perform consistently over a

range of conditions over a long period and perhaps leads to the question: do we want sailing to be sport or entertainment?

## EVENTS

There were a few differences between the two events. Palma was the more complicated system. After an eight race opening series the top two boats progressed to the final and the next three to the semi final, to be joined by the top five boats after a final full fleet race (the semi final qualifier). The top three in the semi final progressed to the final for a five-boat winner takes all race.

This was simplified in Marseille with a 10 race opening series followed by a semi final of seven boats, of which the top two would join the top three from the opening series in a winner takes all final.

On the water, the title in Palma came down to who made the final gybe in very windy conditions. The best sailor of the opening series and the leader up to the final mark, Alican Kaynar, slipped up on the final gybe, and let Max Salminen, one of the biggest critics of these trial formats, through to win the race and the event.

Kaynar ended up with bronze. However he proved himself two weeks later in Hyeres by winning a traditional format event, which ended with a 10 boat medal race.

In Marseille, the overall winner, Jonathan Lobert, ended the opening series three points behind the best sailor of the week, Anders Pedersen. However, in the semi-final, fourth placed Ed Wright and ninth placed Ben Cornish qualified for the final and then took silver and bronze. This dropped Pedersen dropped to fourth overall, a result many sailors regarded as unfair after he had sailed the best week of his career, and would have won a medal under any other format.

## SURVEY

The survey initially focussed on the demographics with responses from a good mix of sailors and coaches as well as spectators watching both on the water and through the media. Although other areas were discussed the pertinent questions focussed on the fairness, excitement and preference of the sailors when comparing the two format trials alongside the World Cup in Hyeres, which had a standard medal race format.

Opposite are the results from six of the questions asked. It is quite clear that the majority of respondents did not think the trialled formats were either fair or more exciting than any normal race. The final 'crunch' question "should we use this format again" was particularly clear.

The survey also provided ample opportunity for respondents to feedback with comments and it is these that perhaps are most illuminating.

The majority of comments from the respondents were unfavourable. From nearly 350 comments received, around 15 per cent were positive, while 85 per cent were negative and often quite lengthy. Many of these comments have been included below. Though it was not an anonymous survey, for simplicity, names have not been included.







Positive comments largely focused on a few key words and phrases: exciting, easy to understand, simpler, everything to play for until the end, easy to follow and broadcast.

- Creates a focus for TV and media
- Creates some excitement at the end
- Creates interest by emotion and high stakes
- Easier to follow as non-sailor spectator
- Easy to understand
- It makes the sport simpler for non sailors as the person that wins the race wins the gold
- It provides interesting medal races, that are void of people that can't win
- Removes chance of match racing at the back of the fleet and second or third placed being sailed out of the medals
- Was engaging to watch and not complicated to understand who would win, as when there are points to calculate
- Winner takes all gets away from someone having wrapped up a championship prior to the medal race.

Negative comments largely focussed on lack of fairness, devaluing a championship title, less spectacular with smaller fleets, potential randomness of the final result, consistency and performance not rewarded, going against the traditional nature of sailing.

- Unfair system that does not reward a sailor who has sailed well in a variety of conditions
- I feel the first across the line final format is terrible, and leads to a devaluing of the title of champion. I do not like the medal race either, but it is infinitely fairer than the final format.
- Turns sailing into a game of luck; may as well pick the winner out of a hat
- A sailor could win every race up to the final and miss a medal
- A format should reward a week long performance. It's the whole reason why sailing events are held over a number of

days, to mitigate the influence of luck

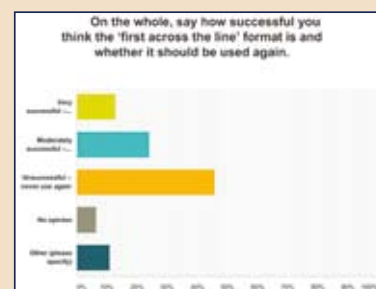
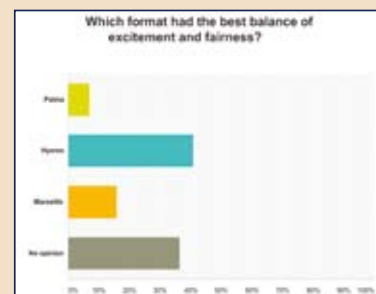
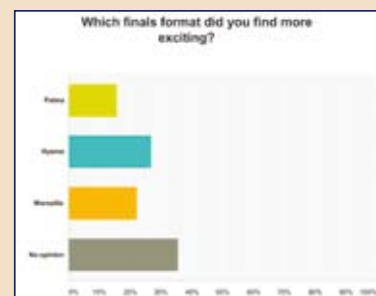
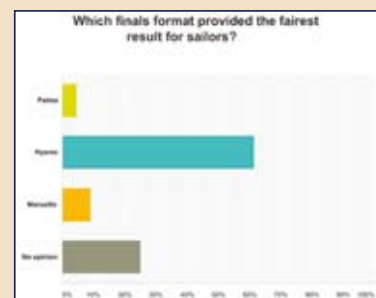
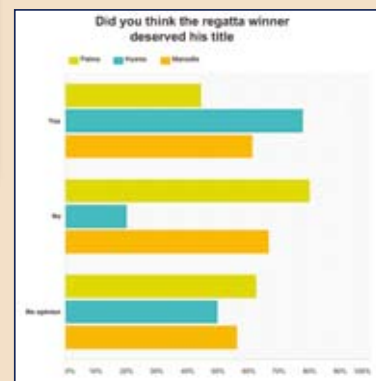
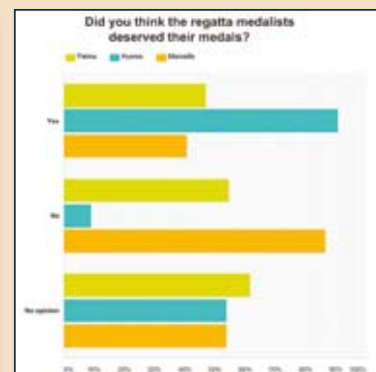
- Goes against the traditional feeling of fairness, on which is what our sport is based
- 'Winner-takes-all' in the final is grossly unfair on the sailor who has raced a consistently good regatta, building a lead in a series of races.
- Anyone in the top 15 could still win after a week's hard racing. Is that fair?
- A fleet of 5 boats is less exciting to watch than 10
- This is a bad attempt to make sailing popular in media. Instead you take away the joy of racing from the competitors. It's selling the soul of sailing.

#### FAIRNESS

The lack of fairness and potential randomness of the first across the line format also prompted a few comments:

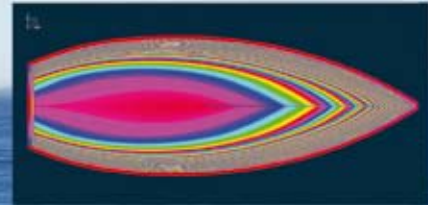
- Many nations and sailor might give up sailing if they perceive the final as a lottery
- Risk factor in finals is great: the winner of all previous races, even having a 40 points advantage, can lose medal if for example a halyard breaks. That reduces fairness a lot.
- Unfair. And too much racing for all class events. Too much to follow. Reporters would be too busy to report.
- We still insist on racing far too close to the shore, if we want to showcase our sport, then flat water and shifty wind is not the correct way
- There is no reason to sail ten 75 min races if everything is decided in a 20 min race.
- If the press and public can understand that a Formula 1 driver can win the championships by coming higher than seventh in the last race of the season, they can understand the same about a sailor in a 10 race series.

One lengthy comment was, "Sailing is not like other sports in the Olympics with a winner takes all final race of the top 10. For track and field (other than decathlon) the winner takes all format works, as there





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is no major influence on the podium by weather conditions through the week. Also track and other winner takes all sports have a continuous elimination throughout the event, but this is not the case with sailing. Sailing is unique as results are weather (wind, waves and current changing race to race) dependent and that plays directly into the tactics and strategy as well as the preparedness and skills of the crews involved. It is a test of the best over a number of races spanning six days. To have it come down to a winner takes all final race is a disservice to all competitors in my opinion."

#### FUTURE

As shown by these comments, the overriding response from the sailors was negative. The feeling expressed was that a winner-takes-all final race was too big a price to pay, it doesn't reward consistency and can certainly punish the best sailor of the week.

In contrast, others felt that the final race format added excitement and made the racing easier to understand for non-sailors and spectators.

A much-aired view was that it is the media that should change its coverage of the sport, rather than changing the sport to 'dumb it down' for media and spectators.

One sailor said, "Poor coverage has led to people thinking there needs to be change, when there doesn't. We need good commentators who knows the sailors and can explain the sport properly."

"Rather than trying to change our race formats to suit TV and media coverage and having to race on tiny land affected medal race courses, why not use new technology such as drone photography and graphic overlay to showcase Finn sailing at its best, in big fleets on offshore courses? Stadium racing does not work and does not suit



the boat - it needs wind and waves to show it at its best; racing in the lee of huge mountains does not."

So is the format actually the problem?

Another comment, "It doesn't matter what race format you use if the TV coverage is rubbish. Millions more people would have watched the Rio Games if we got to see the big winds, big wave courses outside of the bay. Race format will not fix this. For over 100 years we have raced boats over a series to find the best all-round sailor.... how much of our sport's soul are we willing to sell, just to make life easier for people who will never sail a boat?"

"Should there be no reward for consistency? The best sailor should win, I think we all agree on that. Isn't that best achieved over a pretty long period of time where we can get different conditions and really put the sailors to a test? Some may say that is too boring, but look at one of the world's biggest sports events when it comes to TV viewers, Tour de France. Lasting for a month, watching people suffer on a bike. They never say: Hey, let's bike for shorter time in major cities. No, go to the most deserted place in France, top of Alp d'Huez. Why, because we want to see if they can do

it. We want to see them being put to the test and do stuff we ordinary people can't. We have examples in the world of sailing as well. Volvo Ocean Race and Vendee Globe. Consistency is rewarded."

One Olympian said, "Sailing sucks live. It is really hard making sailing look good live, and somehow keeping some degree of fair racing. If we bring sailing to the crowd (the arena) the conditions will

probably be lighter and shiftier in flatter waters, which is not spectacular to watch."

"Technical development can help us here. Cameras are getting better, cheaper, lighter and smaller. Why not put them on all boats, not just top three in the last race of the Olympics. All boats, each race, all week. Then top that with two or three drones. It can't be that hard or that expensive."

"If the America's Cup can do it we can dream about it. But when World Match Racing Tour, Star Sailing League and 18' Skiff Worlds have ten times better coverage than the Olympics you start wondering what's going on. We want graphics with speed, distance to mark and heart rate. Audio together with cameras on board; we want to get on board."

"I would bet on that the sailing audience is the most loyal of all sports. Simply because there is so little to watch, there's a screaming need for televised sailing. I'm sure the sailing audience want to see all races at the Olympics. I mean it's a once-in-every-four-year chance to watch Olympic sailing on TV. But today we somehow still manage to disappoint these guys by having a live-tracker that doesn't work and really poor coverage from the medal race."

And, "The mainstream audience want to see their guy race. If you are from Sweden you want to see your Swedish hero race. If he is not in the televised Final the Swedish broadcaster will show something else. So why then cut the fleet to five instead of ten? Half the national broadcasters will be interested."

In this report we have tried to reflect the feedback the class received from the survey, even if perhaps it seems a bit biased against the new formats. But, the responses against far outweighed the responses for, both in number and in length.

But the whole argument can perhaps, in this writer's view, be summarised by one comment received. "I don't believe it's about the format but more about how we deliver it to the audience." ≈





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## BRAZIL



**A FANTASTIC REGATTA** with plenty of wind and fierce competition is how we can define the Federal District Championship held by late Clube de Brasilia over two consecutive weekends last June, writes new Brazilian Finn Class Secretary Luis Mosquera.

Lake Paranoa blessed all competitors with heavy winds and big shifts, adding complexity to the game. With nine entries, 100 per cent attendance from the recently launched Brasilia fleet, the overall winner was Juliano Camargo Rosas from ICB, followed by Renato "Tinha" Moura, also from ICB, as a runner up, and Carlos Freitas from AAB in third. This is the second title in a row for Juliano, but he acknowledged that the competition level is getting higher from one year to another, so he knows that maintaining his title next year will be anything but an easy job. Juliano also paid a tribute to the support he got from his friends Felipe Rondina, Antonio Moreira and the superchamp Jorge Zarif.

We see a bright future for the Brasilia



fleet and we are looking forward to seeing people from Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo next year at the 2018 edition of the Federal District Championship.

1	BRA 6	Juliano Camargo	11
2	BRA 111	Renato Moura	14
3	BRA 53	Carlos Freitas	20
4	BRA 109	Marcus Amaral	20
5	BRA 09	Leonardo Seger	37
6	BRA 2	Eugeno Gerth	53
7	BRA 8	Ian McKee	54
8	BRA 1	Carlos Aviz	59
9	BRA 126	Diogo Pelles	67

New secretary - Last March 25 Brazilian Finn Sailors were together at Yacht Club Santo Amaro for the Annual Class Meeting. At that occasion the group decided on the dates of the next events such as the Nationals, South American Championship as well as the Copa Brazil. They also voted for the new class management in the country. Effectively immediately, Luis Mosquera from the Sao Paulo fleet was elected National Secretary, replacing Jorge Rodrigues who is stepping down. At the same moment Ricardo Santos was named the Sao Paulo Fleet Coordinator, Leo Seger will lead Brasilia fleet and Jorge Rodrigues will lead the Rio de Janeiro Fleet. Good luck for the new class leadership. ≈



## GREAT BRITAIN



**28 FINNS TRAVELLED** to Menegham for the second of the RYA Spring Series of ranking events – 5 short sharp races per day to keep the fleet together and to provide plenty of early season starting and mark rounding practice in glorious sunshine and a positively tropical 21 degrees. Six U23 sailors were joined by 22 Masters. U23 sailors Hector Simpson and Jack Arnell didn't have it all their own way, but finished ahead of the top Masters, many of whom were in final training for Barbados.

**33 FINNS TRAVELLED** to Keyhaven on 8-9 July with a forecast of sunny blue skies and light winds and with the hope of a sea breeze that so often occurs in this part of the Solent. With all the boats returning from the World Masters in Barbados, many competitors collected their boats from Portsmouth en-route to Keyhaven which is tucked just inside the Solent and provides a great sailing area protected by Hurst Castle. When the final scores came in it was the ever-consistent sailing of Martin Hughes that took the top step. Not bad given that he has been suffering with injury for much of the season and hasn't been

1	GBR 96	Hector Simpson	25
2	GBR 28	Jack Arnell	27
3	GBR 5	John Greenwood	38
4	GBR 720	Julian Smith	49
5	GBR 2	Allen Burrell	58
6	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle	64
7	GBR 707	Callum Dixon	71
8	FIN 201	Kristian Sjoberg	82
9	GBR 100	Matthew Walker	84
10	GBR 88	Jon Tweedle	91



able to sail. Second place went to U23 squad sailor James Skuksuk and third was Colin Leonard, who had travelled from Northern Ireland with little sleep en-route due to booking issues. ≈

1	GBR 567	Martin Hughes	11
2	GBR 81	James Skuksuk	24
3	IRL 11	Colin Leonard	25
4	NED 74	Paul Douze	27
5	GBR 2	Allen Burrell	27
6	GBR 88	Jonathan Tweedle	34
7	GBR 61	John Heyes	34
8	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle	42
9	GBR 13	Roman Khodykin	44
10	GBR 69	Cy Grisley	48

# Finn races around the world





## ITALY

### ITALIAN MASTER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Italian Master Championship was held on Bracciano lake with the 42 Finns.

Three days of fierce competition with seven races in west and north winds from 10-18 knots were demanding for the fleet and saw a replica of the early 90's fight between Enrico Passoni and Emanuele Vaccari, writes Marco Buglielli.



Enrico dominated the first three races, while Emanuele started slowly but won other three races. In the end Enrico Passoni grabbed his third Italian Masters title with two points on Emanuele. Third place went to Franco Martinelli, who was at ease in the windy conditions.

Category prizes went to Roberto Benedetti (Master, 4th overall), Enrico Passoni (Grand Master), Francesco Cinque (Grand Grand Master) and Bruno Fezzardi (Legend).

The meeting of Italian Masters decided that in 2018 the Italian Masters will be held in Porto San Giorgio, on Adriatic sea, and elected Gino Bucciarelli as Masters' representative.

1	ITA 6	Enrico Passoni	11
2	ITA 68	Emanuele Vaccari	13
3	ITA 52	Franco Martinelli	26
4	ITA 114	Roberto Benedetti	38
5	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	43
6	ITA 8	Florian Demetz	45
7	ITA 77	Alberto Bellelli	51
8	ITA 67	Gino Bucciarelli	56
9	ITA 5	Francesco Cinque	57
10	ITA 920	Alberto Romano	63

### COPPA ITALIA 2017

In mid July five out of seven Coppa Italia events were successfully completed.

After Anzio at the beginning of April the Italian fleet moved to Caldaro, Grado, Castiglione della Pescaia in Tuscany and Dervio on Como lake. All events saw a participation of 30 to 50 sailors, with 85 Italians overall and several from abroad.

Caldaro (50 participants) was won with two bullets by the local Peter Stuffer, with Marco Buglielli in second and Gerhard Weinreich from Austria in third.

In Grado 40 sailors were present, and in light winds Masters world champion Vladimir Krutskikh managed to win by one point from Giacomo Giovanelli and two on Marco Buglielli.

Castiglione della Pescaia event was held in three days and 33 Finns sailed seven races in perfect conditions. Giacomo Giovanelli was very consistent



1	ITA 40	Marko Kolic	512
2	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	501
3	ITA 202	Giacomo Giovanelli	496
4	ITA 234	Tommaso Ronconi	456
5	ITA 191	Alessandro Cattaneo	404
6	ITA 114	Roberto Benedetti	365
7	ITA 6	Enrico Passoni	343
8	ITA 55	Walter Riosa	333
9	ITA 98	Marco Viti	319
10	ITA 77	Alberto Bellelli	312

and won, with Marko Kolic in second place and Enrico Passoni in third.

In Dervio on Como lake the Italian Olympic team was present and in winds from 8-20 knots Enrico Voltolini managed to score three bullets, winning the event from Alessio Spadoni and Filippo Baldassari.

After 22 races the provisional Coppa Italia scoreboard sees Marko Kolic in first place, with Marco Buglielli in second and Giacomo Giovanelli in third. Two events will decide the final outcome, Ancona on 2-3 September and Malcesine from Sept. 29 to October 1.

Coppa Italia is supported by a pool of sponsors: Quantum Sail Design Group, 3FL Saildesign, WB-Sails, HitechSailing.com, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Residence Ca' del Lago, Garnell, Behind the Cloud, Demetz Bolzano and Negrinautica. ≈



Photos: Marcus Wenk

## POLAND

**POLISH FINN RANKING** 2017 events called Polish Cup started in Wolsztyn in April. In 2017 the Polish Cup has eight events with five to be counted for each sailor. The prize for the Polish Cup winner will be a new North Sail arranged by sponsors. Trying to find new attractive regattas format this year additional ranking "Polish Sprint Cup" has been added. It includes four events and Polish Sprint Championships with three best results counting. Each event consists of short quarterfinals, semi-finals and final races lasting 5-10 minutes with 4-5 participants in one race, writes Andrzej Romanowski.

In Wolsztyn after two days lake sailing in light and medium winds top three from 12 sailors were Andrzej Romanowski, Bartosz Ptak and Szymon Winiarski.

The speed race was won by Bogusław Nowakowski from Szymon

Winiarski and Andrzej Romanowski. Since the best Polish Finn sailors were in Marseille in April and early May they joined us for the second event, Polish Yachting Association in Krynica Morska (at Vistula Lagoon) in May. The regatta was dominated by Polish multiple champion Piotr Kula who in medium and strong winds won all races in which he took part, from Łukasz Lesiński and Sebastian Kalafarski. There were 20 boats.

Next event was Fair Play Regatta in Szczecin in June where among 16 sailors again Piotr Kula won from Łukasz Lesiński and Andrzej Romanowski. The same order for the sprint races. At the Nord Cup in June at Gdańsk Bay, in strong winds the top three among nine participants were Andrzej Romanowski, Piotr Mazur and Marcin Mrówczyński.

At the beginning of July 18 sailors met in Rewa at Puck Bay where Yacht Club Rewa Cup took place. Piotr Kula again confirmed his supremacy, winning in light and medium conditions. Second

was Łukasz Lesiński and third Krzysztof Stromski. The sprint races were won by Piotr Kula from Łukasz Lesiński and Marcin Mrówczyński. Polish Sprint Championships will take place in Gdynia in July.

In August there will be Memorial of Janusz Sadowski in Poznań from 12-13 and North Sails Polish Masters Championships in Świnoujście from 18-20 sponsored by North Sails.

The Polish Championships will be at Gdańsk Bay 14-17 September and final regatta Warsaw Championships 07-08 October. ≈





## NEW ZEALAND



### 2017 NZL NATIONALS 10-12 MARCH 2017

Maraetai Sailing Club hosted the 2017 NZL Finn Nationals. The start of new Olympic cycle traditionally sees a lower than normal turnout. This year was no exception, also with many of the South Island Finnsters prepping their boats for the container to Barbados. However Maraetai is a glamour place to sail and always produces a great contest, writes Ray Hall

Favourites for this year's regatta were Karl Purdie and Ray Hall, who as part of their World Masters campaigns were competing in Fantasticas and testing new sails for Barbados. This proved to be the case with the two duking it out, often trying to demonstrate a speed edge over each other to the detriment of their place in the field. Day 1 was a 15-18 knot sea breeze with great waves so champagne sailing. Day 2 saw the wind lighten and shift to the north, the fleet was treated to the sight of Emirates Team New Zealand training. The racing tightened up with shiftier breezes and the lighter sailors had their moments. Day 3 was a tempest in the making, heavy rain, thunderstorms and the wind shifting

1	NZL 111	Karl Purdie	8
2	NZL 2	Ray Hall	14
3	NZL 4	Mark Perrow	19
4	NZL 10	David Hoogenboom	31
5	NZL 9	Rob Coutts	33
6	NZL 11	Hans van der Wal	42
7	NZL 23	Alan Dawson	46
8	NZL 18	Gerald Lelieveld	47
9	NZL 193	Gerrit Bearda	59

around the compass but excellent work by the PRO allowed a very good race to be held in 8-12 knots from the SE with Mark Perrow coming from the dead on the last beat after hitting the right corner to hold out Hall and Purdie for the gun. The final race the wind swung to the south-west and nuked, 25-30 knot rain squall and the fleet was off - the squall lasted the first beat and then a magic ride down to the bottom mark. Final beat to the finish ended up in 5 knots but still a lot of fun.

### NZL MASTERS TEAM FOR BARBADOS

Nine Kiwi sailors represented the largest ever contingent to compete at a Finn World Masters. A lot of fun was had in the preparation of the container and it was great to sail with our own gear rather than chartering. The team was disappointed in the fleet numbers and

hearing the Europeans bleating about distance and cost doesn't wash with us who travel for 30 hours on planes to compete. We had a great time however and the post sailing swims were a tradition quickly embraced. The sailing conditions were typical kiwi winds so much fun was had sailing in 20 knots with 24 degree water temperature. Good results with two of the team in the top 15: Karl Purdie 8th and Ray Hall 13th. Some of the team were competing in their first Masters at the young age of 60 and had a great time making new friends. Plus the beer was cold. ≈



*2017 NZL MASTERS TEAM (FROM LEFT) MAURICE DUNCAN, BEN WINTERS, DENIS MOWBRAY, KARL (SHORT LEGS) PURDIE, HONORARY KIWI RAFA, DAVID (THE HODGE) HOOGENBOOM, ALAN DAWSON, RAY HALL, GERRIT BEARDA, CHRIS WELLS*

## RUSSIA



**THE 2017 RUSSIAN** Finn Cup is up and running. Eight stages have been completed while another three are left, write Vasily Kravchenko.

The Russian Finn Cup covers 11 regattas in Sochi (the capital of 2014 Winter Olympic Games), Gelendzhik, Taganrog, Sevastopol, Toliatti, Moscow and Siberia. The main target of this Cup is to motivate sailors to travel across the country and to support key Finn class growth points. More than 100 sailors are taking part in this cup. Each stage collects usually around 20 sailors except Open Russian, where up to more than 70 Finn sailors take part every year. The first stage – the Christmas Regatta in Sochi immediately after New Year celebration and was won by junior Ilya Malysenko from Taganrog. The next two stages took place at the same place in February and March since most of other waterways were covered by ice or it was too cold to sail there. Alexey Borisov (Sevastopol) took the



win of Stage 2 while Arkadiy Kistanov (Moscow) won Stage 3.

The next regatta was organised in Gelendzhik and was won by junior Kiril Luzan (Anapa). Stage 5 was organised by Sevastopol sailors. Local junior sailor Evgeniy Deev took the gold there.

Stage 6 is traditionally devoted to our friend Alexander Novikov and carried out in Taganrog (Azov see). Junior Finn sailor Luzan Kirill took his second win in the series in that regatta.

The seventh regatta of the series was organized in Toliatti. There, a big lake with the name 'Kuybishev see' was made by hand alongside the Volga river. Alexander Kulyukin (Bronze at 2014 World Masters) took the win.

Stage 8 of the Russia Cup took place in Moscow at of Moscow Sailing School. Another talented sailor Konstantin Lashchuk was incredibly fast and almost unbeaten in that regatta.

The next stage will take place in

Siberia near Krasnoyarsk city in August. Then it will be followed by most valuable stage of the series - Open Russian regatta in Moscow. The final stage of the Russian Finn Cup will happen back in Sochi in November. In addition to that Russian Finn sailors have plenty of other good races. An Open Siberian Championship took place not so long ago in Sharypovo (between Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk cities) and 20 Finn sailors took part there. We will have the International Moscow regatta in the middle of July. Also many junior sailors will take a chance to get good practice before Silver Cup at Balaton in lake conditions in Moscow during International University Sailing Cup.

The best point for Finn class in Russia is that we have many new junior faces, which have a good fight on the water. It makes us confident that Finn class in Russia has a good future.

For more details about Finn class regattas in Russia please visit [www.finnclass.ru](http://www.finnclass.ru). ≈





## SPAIN



SPANISH CUP of Finn Class 2017- II Memorial D. Emilio Plágaro Pérez

Miguel Fernandez Vasco writes: As is traditional, from April 29 to May 1, the Spanish Cup was sailed in the marsh of Entrepeñas, this edition was also the second Memorial to D. Emilio Plágaro Pérez.

A total of 22 boats from several communities gathered, with many new Finn sailors who were released in the swamp, and the return of Gerardo Seeliger who, at the age of 15, was required by the government at that time to do a display of kite-surfing during the inauguration of this marsh.

The regatta was sailed in strong winds, rain and cold. On Saturday there were three races with 12-15 knots and a light rain during the entire race. On Sunday, three more races were held, with winds of 20-25 knots and gusts that



exceeded 30 knots and caused some material breaks. Finally, on Monday it dawned with splendid sunshine. Although the fleet was sent out on the water and an attempt was made to start a race twice, the weakness and variability of the wind prevented any races being completed.

Miguel Fernandez Vasco (Real Club Nautico de la Coruna), won, followed by the youth Carlos Ordoñez (Club Vela Blanes) and Miguel Cabrerizo (Real Club Náutico Motril) in third.

In the youth podium, first place went to Carlos Ordoñez (Club Vela Blanes), followed by his brother David Ordoñez (Club Vela Blanes) and third was Andrés Iván Lloret (Club Náutico Campello).

Alvaro Ballesteros (Real Club Náutico Motril) and Jesus Pintos (Royal Nautical Club of La Coruña), who were sailing for the first time in the mythical swamp, and third place David Rivero (Real Club Nautico) Of the Coruña).

To highlight the special prizes to the youngest and most veteran sailors, David Ordóñez (16 years) and Gerardo Seeliger (69), respectively, and the nobility and sportsmanship in the water, Axel Muñoz, who did not hesitate to give up the last test To rescue a master overturned in serious trouble and later jump into the icy waters to de-volve the ship. Three special prizes well deserved.

Together with the race, the Annual Assembly of the Finn Spain Class was held, with numerous changes. The appointment of the new national secretary by popular acclaim: Miguel Fernandez Vasco (El Secre). It was also decided to create a national circuit of 5 regattas, which this year consists of the Copa de España (CN Entrepeñas), 40th Anniversary of the Finn Gold Cup (Club Vela Palamós), Spanish Championship (Motril), The Atlantic Week Real Club Nautico de Vigo) and the Criterium of Mar Menor (Murcia). All these regattas will count towards the National Ranking. ≈



## SWEDEN



**STEFAN FAGERLUND WRITES:** The 2017 season started off with the **GKSS OCR** regatta in Gothenburg with 13 Finns on the starting line on 6-7 May, due to the fact that eight Master sailors already had sent their boats off to Barbados.

The winner of this year's event was Björn Allansson with Lars Edwall in second and Fredrik Tegnhd third. The Finn Masters World Championship made the first half of the season a bit weak for the fleet due to the lack of boats on home ground but a couple of new sailors have entered the class and hopefully we will see them on the starting line during the season.

1	SWE 6	Björn Allansson	6
2	SWE 33	Lars Edwall	14
3	SWE 5	Fredrik Tegnhd	17
4	SWE 16	Henrik Rydell	24
5	SWE 3	Christian Finnsgård	26
6	SWE 59	Ingvar Bengtsson	27
7	SWE 69	Erik Åberg	27
8	SWE 61	Mikael Nilsson	28
9	SWE 13	Johnny Myrin	36
10	SWE 111	Torsten Jarnstam	45



year was Fredrik Tegnhd with Lars Edwall in second and Henrik Rydell in third in the 13 boat strong field.

1	SWE 5	Fredrik Tegnhd	8
2	SWE 59	Lars Edwall	9
3	SWE 16	Henrik Rydell	16
4	SWE 77	Per-Arne Fritjofsson	19
5	SWE 61	Micke Nilsson	24
6	SWE 721	Mikael Brandt	26
7	SWE 111	Torsten Jarnstam	35
8	SWE 28	Lasse Wastesson	35
9	SWE 4	Jan-Erik Florén	41
10	SWE 12	Krister Gunnarsson	49

Coming up next is the Swedish Championships that will be sailed 11-13 August in Åmål.

On the international arena the young Swedish Finn sailor Johannes Pettersson is increasing his skills and has set his aim on reaching the top. He is training very hard and will be participating in a number

of international regattas this year. Beside Johannes, our Olympic participant in Rio 2016 Max Salminen has announced that he will have another go for the Olympics in Japan 2020. We wish them both good luck in their respective campaigns and hope that they will have many well-spent hours on the water. ≈



Next up was the **USS regatta** in Uppsala, 10-11 June. The winner this



# SWITZERLAND



## DUCS DE NEMOURS

Beat Steffen writes: The start of the 2017 season took place on idyllic Lake d'Annecy in France. As many Finn sailors had already loaded their boats for Barbados, only 15 showed up in Annecy for this traditional spring race.

Almost no wind allowed one race on Saturday, another two on Sunday morning, and a two more after a long wait on the water on Sunday afternoon. The usual suspects won these light wind races, with Jaques Fauroux, designer of 2 Americas Cuppers and former Moth World Champion, taking the Saturday race and Carlo Lazzari and Pesche Kilchenmann showing speed and the right nose on Sunday morning.

The incoming front from the west on Sunday afternoon allowed two more races in shifty winds up to 12 knots, won by Michel Baudin and Pesche Kilchenmann.



A shift in the weather overnight with temperatures dropping to around 0 degrees and with snowfall almost down to the lake did not preclude the race committee from going Monday morning. A 5-8 knot south-westerly breeze allowed two more races, won by Peter Kilchenmann and Joseph Rochat.

Two fantastic dinners were organized and discreetly sponsored by our French Finn Friend Jean-Louis Duret, one in the mountains around the lake, one in a well-known fish restaurant at the lake. Thank you for your generosity and hospitality, Jean-Louis.

1	SUI 13	Peter Kilchenmann	14
2	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari	19
3	FRA 50	Michel Baudin	24
4	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	24
5	SUI 65	Thomas Bangerter	27
6	SUI 72	Patrick Ducommun	29
7	SUI 63	Thomas Gautschi	42
8	FRA 800	Yves Zoccola	43
9	SUI 11	François Germain	58
10	FRA 74	Jean-Louis Duret	64

## MAMMERN 36. JOLLENREGATTA



Two races on Saturday in a shifty westerly were followed by three on Sunday in 10 knots from the north-east. Conditions were excellent as usual in Mammern for the 16 Finns competing. Dominik Haitz listened best to the advice of the locals, sailed attentively and precisely and won his first Finn race in a

convincing manner, ahead of Andreas Bollongino and Daniel Wehrle. The Fireballs sailed their Swiss Championship at the same event, leading to a rock solid party on Saturday night with dinner and a concert by "Tears for Beers".

1	SUI 27	Dominik Haitz	10
2	GER 19	Andreas Bollongino	13
3	GER 307	Daniel Wehrle	14
4	SUI 65	Thomas Bangerter	14
5	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	17
6	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari	20
7	SUI 13	Peter Kilchenmann	20
8	GER 181	Harald Leissner	26
9	SUI 95	Michael Good	27
10	SUI 22	Harry Geisser	29

## NIEDERHORNKASSE

The Niederhornkanne was the third Finn race on Lake Thun this year, and as the first two, it was won by Christoph Christen, with four first places.

The weather forecast was perfect for the three day regatta with many sailors thinking that it was likely going to be too hot for the usual thermal wind. This may have been



the reason that only 23 boats instead of the usual 50 gathered at Thunersee Yachtclub for this traditional highlight.

The organization proved to be perfect, as usual, both on the water around race officer Jan Schwitter, and on land around Carlo Lazzari and his team.

Friday was a perfect sailing day in 15-25 knots thermal breeze. All three heats were dominated by Christoph Christen.

Saturday allowed only one race in 5-7 knots, again won by Christen. Several attempts to sail a second heat were abandoned, and Sunday did not allow any racing. ≈

1	SUI 5	Christoph Christen	3
2	SUI 12	Franz Bürgi	10
3	SUI 27	Dominik Haitz	14
4	SUI 94	Andreas Fridrich	16
5	SUI 57	Ruedi Baumann	17
6	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari	19
7	SUI 65	Thomas Bangerter	20
8	SUI 63	Thomas Gautschi	22
9	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	22
10	FRA 800	Yves Zoccola	30



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