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Photos: François Richard

The Olympic Finn fleet in Weymouth



GOLD
Ben Ainslie
Great Britain

The pre-regatta favourite didn't perform as expected and by the half way stage was struggling. However he turned it around in the second half and went into the medal race with just a two point deficit to take his third Finn Olympic Gold Medal after a tense 30 minutes to become the most decorated Olympic sailor of all time.



SILVER
Jonas Høgh-Christensen
Denmark

In many ways the dark horse of the regatta, the double world champion surprised everyone by leading through the entire event, amassing a 10 point lead by the half way stage. A capsize and a bad start cost him heavily in the second half and then a poor shift out of the start in the medal race gave the early lead to Ainslie and the dream was all over.



BRONZE
Jonathan Lobert
France

After a consistent performance all week and always near the top, he left himself one last chance to go home with a medal. His positive attitude brought him to the front in the medal race to dominate and win comfortably, but as events behind him developed the bronze medal was never a surety until the final mark was passed.



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Cover photo: Ben Ainslie celebrates his third Finn gold medal in Weymouth.

Photo: François Richard

Insets: Start in Weymouth (*photo by François Richard*), Silver Cup, Michele Sandrucci (*photo by Marina Prinzivalli*).

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President's Letter

Dear Finn Sailors,
Dear Friends of the Finn Community,



With the 2012 London - Weymouth Olympics now over there is another four year cycle ahead for the Finn Class.

Weymouth showcased a great fight for Olympic Finn medals with Ben, Jonas and Jonathan occupying the podium. However, the whole Olympic Finn fleet contributed to the fact that the Finn repeatedly appeared on the media headlines before, during and after the Games. The Finn not only delivered a memorable fight between true sailing heroes, but showed the world that sailing is a truly athletic sport complemented with a variety of technical skills, meteorological and tactical knowledge. On top of that, the Finn looked great on TV thanks to our gear evolution and the boat's athleticism.

Leading up to the Olympics the best Finn sailors of the world participated at the 2012 J.P. Morgan Asset Management Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth and the Finn Festival created around the event. Thanks to the organisers and all participating competitors the event proved to be a major success both on and off the water.

All in all, this summer saw the Finn in extremely good shape and on behalf of the IFA Executive I would like to thank everyone for their support from sailors to coaches, event organisers to supporting parents, sailing clubs, sponsors and federations.

Olympic Finn campaigns offer the challenge that is envisioned in the Olympic ideals. The Finn allows the widest range of weight, age and physical sizes to compete on a truly equal level and is the only dinghy to allow sailors above 85 kg to compete at Olympic level.

All countries across the world bring more and more sailors to the Finn at a younger age. Class newcomers are now mainly juniors or ex Laser sailors with many new countries starting Finn programmes targeting the 2016 Rio Games.



Photo: Conrad Brown

Finn news

New President for British Finn Association

The British Finn Association (BFA) held its AGM during the Finn Open weekend at Christchurch on the 7-8 July. Andy Denison (right) stood down as chairman and was thanked by all for his contribution to the class over the past seven years, Graham Brookes (left) was duly elected the new president of the BFA.



New Secretary of Italian Finn Association

Francesco Faggiani (ITA 4) is the new Secretary of the Italian Finn Association. He was unanimously elected on September 23 at the AGM which was held in Scarlino during the Italian Open Championship. Francesco has been actively sailing the Finn for more than 10 years and is one of the top Italian Masters. He was 10th at the 2012 Finn World Masters in Pwllheli. His predecessor Marco Buglielli stepped down after eight years and will continue sailing the Finn and supporting the Italian Association. Thank you Marco (left) for all your hard work and welcome Francesco (right).



Last but not least let me congratulate our Masters fleet which enjoyed another successful Masters Worlds, this time in Wales, and a newly introduced European Cup regatta on Lake Balaton.

Best regards

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
HUN-1
IFA President

Big Ben Sail Past

Could this be the last time that Olympic Champion Ben Ainslie sails his Finn? To celebrate his Olympic success he sailed his Finn specially adorned with a Union flag in front of the famous Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament on the River Thames in London. He was welcomed by a nice breeze and a big crowd of onlookers coming to support him. It ended a spectacular summer for Ainslie after winning the Finn Gold Cup for the sixth time, being the first bearer of the Olympic torch in the UK and then winning his third Finn Olympic gold medal to take his total tally to one silver and four gold to become the most decorated Olympic sailor of all time.



ISAF World Rankings - all change

ISAF has introduced a new world ranking system using a simplified formula that it hopes will be more representative of true sailor performance. The final ranking list using the old scoring system was released on August 15 2012 and it is interesting to note the changes from one scoring system to the other

• Olympic Games and Test Events will not be graded regattas.

The new formula for calculating ranking points is: $Points = \frac{E(N-P+1)}{N}$ (E is Event Rank, N is # entries and P is place). The top 85% of finishers at a regatta will receive points and scores will be rounded down to the next whole number.

Fleet racing - Open - Finn - August 15 2012

1	Rafa Trujillo Villar	ESP	5460
2	Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic	CRO	5433
3	Pieter-jan Postma	NED	5419
4	Deniss Karpak	EST	5412
5	Jonas Høgh-Christensen	DEN	5286
6	Brendan Casey	AUS	5231
7	Zach Railey	USA	5190
8	Jonathan Lobert	FRA	5015
9	Dan Slater	NZL	5010
10	Ben Ainslie	GBR	4989
11	Daniel Birgmark	SWE	4971
12	Vasilij Zbogor	SLO	4818
13	Eduard Skorniyakov	RUS	4773
14	Tapio Nirkko	FIN	4719
15	Edward Wright	GBR	4620
16	Michael Maier	CZE	4608
17	Gregory Douglas	CAN	4586
18	Björn Allansson	SWE	4493
19	Andrew Mills	GBR	4487
20	Oleksiy Borysov	UKR	4446

All ISAF Sailing World Cup regattas will be 200-pointers along with the class World Championships and the ISAF Sailing World Championships. A sailor may count a maximum of three results from the World Cup. ISAF Regulation 27 sets out the other considerations for regatta grading. The first ranking release using the new system was published on 19 September. Regattas that have taken place since 6 November 2011 have been re-graded and the new calculation system applied.

Fleet racing - Open - Finn - Sept. 19 2012

1	Jonas Høgh-Christensen	DEN	1001
2	Brendan Casey	AUS	983
3	Pieter-Jan Postma	NED	980
4	Deniss Karpak	EST	968
5	Zach Railey	USA	938
6	Rafa Trujillo Villar	ESP	917
7	Björn Allansson	SWE	901
8	Gregory Douglas	CAN	874
9	Caleb Paine	USA	827
10	Alexey Selivanov	RUS	787
11	Matthias Miller	GER	771
12	Ben Ainslie	GBR	767
13	Oleksiy Borysov	UKR	741
14	Eduard Skorniyakov	RUS	740
15	Andrew Mills	GBR	732
16	Michael Maier	CZE	714
17	Matt Coutts	NZL	691
18	Daniel Birgmark	SWE	687
19	Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic	CRO	677
20	Dan Slater	NZL	675

On September 18 ISAF released a new scoring system using a new formula. The new calculation uses an annual system, a simpler formula and three possible event grades. The key changes are:

- A one year rolling system
- Sailors can count points from a maximum of six regattas
- The grading of regattas for the Olympic classes will be allocated one of the following three grades: 200-pointers, 100-pointers or 50-pointers
- Simplified calculation formula



London 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition

The London 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition for the Finn class was, perhaps, the highlight of the sailing events with the enthralling battle on and off the water between Ben Ainslie and Jonas Høgh-Christensen making headlines across the world. While the end result was what many expected, the way it played out was not. The Finns were the first class to start and after a week of exceptionally tough racing, it all came down to the medal race in front of the capacity crowd, and more, on the grassy banks and rocky beaches by the Nothe Fort.

Day one

The regatta started where it ended, on the Nothe course area with spectators and wind-shifts galore. With the wind gradually increasing from 11-12 knots up to around 16-17 knots, Jonas Høgh-Christensen won the pin with Florian Raudaschl just above him. Ben Ainslie started mid line and then favoured the right side of the course. Given the often shifty nature of the course it was interesting to see that the fleet was almost evenly split across the course area going upwind. Høgh-Christensen judged the first



Photos by François Richard and onEdition

beat perfectly to lead round from Raudaschl and Ioannis Mitakis. He sped away downwind and was never really threatened to win the race by a margin of around 20 seconds.

two leaders with Høgh-Christensen winning his second race of the day from Ainslie.

Raudaschl sailed well to stay near the front, though he slipped to sixth on the final downwind while Mitakis hung on for fourth. Ainslie rounded the first mark in tenth but pulled up to third at the gate with some superb downwind sailing. He went right on the next beat and lost places back to sixth. He was back to third on the next downwind, but Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic was now in second. Ainslie finally went left on the final beat and then slid into second on the last downwind with Kljakovic Gaspic third.

There was a lot of talk in Weymouth about Ainslie's chance to become the most decorated sailing Olympian of all time – winning gold would break the record held by Paul Elvstrøm – but also about Høgh-Christensen protecting that record for Denmark. Both went on record to say that this was not their main concern. Høgh-Christensen said, "That was not my main focus. Paul Elvstrøm was the greatest sailor of all time. If I get a chance to protect that legacy that's what I will do."

Høgh-Christensen, "Great crowd, great experience. I felt like a football player walking into a stadium."

The second race, sailed out in Weymouth Bay in slightly less wind, followed a similar pattern with Høgh-Christensen winning the pin again and sailing away from the fleet. He rounded the top mark with a nice lead over Ainslie. Brendan Casey rounded in third, but his repairs after a collision in race 1 were not holding well and he dropped to seventh as sea water found its way into his boat. Kljakovic Gaspic worked his way up to third on the second beat, but couldn't catch the

Despite two second places Ainslie had sailed his best ever opening day at an Olympics. At previous Games he had always picked up high scores or had some misfortune. He said, "It wasn't the greatest of races in the beginning, but that spurred me on. I have been better, but it is where you finish." The crowd on the Nothe provided encouragement. "I could hear it clearly and it really spurred me on."



FINAL RESULTS - LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC SAILING COMPETITION - FINN CLASS

Pos	NOC	Crew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MR	Total	Net
1	GBR	Ben Ainslie	2	2	6	(12)	4	3	1	3	6	1	18	58	46
2	DEN	Jonas Høgh-Christensen	1	1	2	7	1	2	(8)	4	5	3	20	54	46
3	FRA	Jonathan Lobert	9	4	4	2	6	7	5	(10)	3	7	2	59	49
4	NED	Pieter-Jan Postma	5	10	3	4	(20)	13	2	2	1	2	10	72	52
5	CRO	Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic	3	3	7	9	5	6	3	7	4	(10)	8	65	55
6	SLO	Vasilij Zbogar	8	6	5	3	8	5	(9)	6	2	6	14	72	63
7	NZL	Dan Slater	7	11	1	6	(17)	11	6	15	8	14	4	100	83
8	ESP	Rafa Trujillo Villar	12	12	12	(23)	7	4	15	1	13	4	6	109	86
9	SWE	Daniel Birgmark	(17)	5	14	1	9	9	10	12	10	8	12	107	90
10	FIN	Tapio Nirkko	11	13	8	5	3	12	4	5	15	(17)	16	109	92
11	EST	Deniss Karpak	(14)	9	11	11	11	1	7	13	11	11		99	85
12	USA	Zach Railey	10	15	13	17	2	8	12	8	12	(19)		116	97
13	AUS	Brendan Casey	dnf	7	dpi	14	10	17	19	9	9	5		131	106
14	GRE	Ioannis Mitakis	4	21	10	8	ocs	10	20	19	7	9		133	108
15	CAN	Gregory Douglas	16	(23)	16	13	12	18	13	17	20	12		160	137
16	POL	Piotr Kula	dsq	16	17	16	13	20	ocs	11	14	16		173	148
17	RUS	Eduard Skorniyakov	13	8	(22)	15	19	22	16	16	22	22		175	153
18	TUR	Alican Kaynar	18	14	18	18	dne	14	11	(22)	16	20		176	154
19	UKR	Oleksiy Borysov	rdg	rdg	19	19	15	19	(23)	14	17	18		183.6	160.6
20	BRA	Jorge João Zarif	15	20	15	20	16	(24)	14	21	19	21		185	161
21	CZE	Michael Maier	19	18	21	10	18	(23)	18	20	23	15		185	162
22	ITA	Filippo Baldassari	20	22	(24)	21	14	21	17	18	18	13		188	164
23	AUT	Florian Raudaschl	6	19	23	24	ocs	15	21	24	24	23		204	179
24	CHN	Lei Gong	ocs	17	20	22	ocs	16	22	23	21	24		215	190

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Day two

The second day's racing set the pattern for the rest of the opening series. Located on the western course in big waves and big tides, it often became a one way track that favoured the risk takers on the start line.

Race three belonged to Dan Slater. He rounded the top mark with a narrow lead from Pieter-Jan Postma and Mitakis and extended on every leg. By the bottom mark Mitakis had dropped down the fleet while Høgh-Christensen had climbed to second, with Postma third. Ainslie rose to fourth on the run but lost places upwind again and finished in sixth. The top three remained the same with Slater extending to win by half a minute.

The fourth race was full of drama. First Høgh-Christensen hit the pin end on the start and after re-rounding headed out right to clear his wind, but in last place. Ainslie also had a bad start and at the top mark the two were 14th and 21st. At the front Tapio Nirkko rounded first from Daniel Birgmark and Rafa Trujillo. Nirkko then capsized at the downwind mark, though recovered his boat quickly and rejoined the race in sixth.

Then Trujillo also capsized after his rudder popped off. The new leader was Jonathan Lobert who had moved into second on the downwind. Lobert held onto the lead round the next windward mark but the fleet had compressed slightly with Høgh-Christensen making the biggest gain to round in seventh. He had taken more than a minute from his deficit on the first leg to trail the new leader by just 30 seconds. Ainslie had dropped to 12th, another 30 seconds back. Two offwind legs remained to the finish, and it

was a great test of stamina and strength, as well as a thrilling finish.

With the wind up to 18-19 knots Birgmark powered down the run and just sneaked round the leeward mark ahead of Lobert to scream down the final reach to take the winner's gun. Lobert crossed three seconds later with Vasilij Zbogar another two seconds later in third. While Kljakovic Gaspic moved from 13th to ninth, neither Høgh-Christensen nor Ainslie could make any gains.

Ainslie, "I wasn't happy with my own performance. It will get me fired up for the rest of the week. It's a very fine line between success and failure at this level. I don't think I went the right way all day."

Høgh-Christensen said, "I am very happy so far. Today was actually a good day. In

the first race I didn't know what was going to happen. There was big cloud coming down the course and I thought it could go both ways so I decided to start in the middle and play it safe. I rounded the windward mark in sixth or seventh. And then I had a good downwind and got to second."

"Then in the second race I hit the pin end committee boat. It was really frustrating and a stupid, stupid mistake. It was a little bit of tide and a bit of bad timing. I had a chance to bail out at 20 seconds but didn't take it, when I should have. I had to go round and do a turn and started way last and had to fight my way back up. I fought my way back to the top guys and was right next to them downwind and then passed them on the second beat so I was really happy with that. It was fantastic to come back like that, but I pushed really, really hard and it felt good."





Day three

Race five was dominated by Høgh-Christensen. Starting in the pack, but away from the pin-end boat he soon pulled ahead and with Postma suffering gear failure on the far left, the Dane rounded the top mark with a small lead over Trujillo, Ainslie and Zach Railey. After a flat out reach to the wing mark, there was a fascinating dual on the run, though Høgh-Christensen was starting to pull clear. He held his lead on the next upwind and extended slightly as the wind faded on the final legs. Nirrko and Ainslie passed Trujillo and Ainslie looked to be closing on Nirrko but ran out of track. At the finish it was Høgh-Christensen, Railey, Nirrko and Ainslie, with Kljakovic Gaspic staging a great recovery from 19th at the first mark to fifth.

Ainslie was now firmly on the back foot and needed something special in race six. He started well, winning the pin and controlled the lane to the favoured left side and looked to be coming into the top mark well placed. Meanwhile Høgh-Christensen was forced to tack off to find clear air and trailed on the right. However many boats overstood the top mark and first round was Trujillo from Mitakis, Nirrko and Høgh-Christensen. Ainslie rounded in seventh.

Trujillo led down the run with Deniss Karpak moving up to second from Nirrko and Ainslie, but by the gate Karpak had made big gains to round in first. The Dane was forced to tack away again after he had been passed by Ainslie for the first time this week. However it was all change on the final upwind with Høgh-Christensen splitting from the fleet and making places all the way up to second to round behind Karpak. Trujillo rounded third from Zbogor while Ainslie slipped to fifth.

Karpak extended down the run to lead into the finish and win by nearly a minute. Høgh-Christensen rounded in second but Ainslie had caught up for a thrilling spray filled chase to the line. He just held on for second with Ainslie third and Trujillo fourth.

Ainslie: "He is sailing really well. He is a good sailor and a big guy. He is having the regatta of his life. He's on fire."

Up to this point Høgh-Christensen had been producing the type of performance that everyone expected Ainslie to produce. Some great race wins, all round speed dominance and some incredible comebacks. He went into the lay day with a 10 point lead over Ainslie. He said, "I am super content with that. Another good day. You have got to take your breaks when you can. I am an old man in the fleet and I definitely need a rest."

Ainslie sounded slightly dispirited, "It's tough. Sometimes these things work out, but unfortunately for me, this week it hasn't."

Day four

After a rest day on Wednesday the fleet returned to the water on Thursday for the fourth day's racing. It was a big day out on the water with big winds, big waves and bigger stakes. For Ainslie it was crucial that he started to narrow the points gap and he did just that. He owned the start of race seven, locking into the dangerous pin end position early and controlling it with perfection until the gun. The Dane was just to windward and just a bit back from the line, but his problem was the Polish boat that was ahead and on his wind. Piotr Kula was OCS, but he damaged Høgh-Christensen's start enough so that he had to tack to get clear air.

Ainslie controlled the left along with Trujillo and Postma and they rounded the first mark in this order with Høgh-Christensen in fifth. The reach to the wing was a spray filled sleigh ride. The Dane slid into fourth, and then after rounding the mark dived low to get some separation from the leading bunch. Then disaster struck as he capsized on a big wave. He was up and sailing again in 30 seconds but looked clearly rattled as he rejoined the race in 15th.

At the front Ainslie and Postma were battling for supremacy downwind in the big conditions, rounding opposite gates. Postma briefly got in front of Ainslie at the next top mark but Ainslie soon passed him downwind to extend and win his first race of the week by some 20 seconds from Postma. Kljakovic Gaspic crossed in third with Nirrko in fourth. Third overall Jonathan Lobert (FRA) was fifth while Høgh-Christensen was back in eighth. Early performer Trujillo had gear problems again and dropped to 15th at the finish.

Onto race eight and Høgh-Christensen was back on the offensive, winning the favoured pin end of the line, though he had Trujillo just to windward off him. Ainslie started slightly further up the line but was soon forced to tack off to find a lane. The fleet again favoured the left side with Ainslie heading furthest left when the leaders crossed back.

Round the top mark Trujillo led from Høgh-Christensen, Postma, Nirrko and Ainslie. The Brit went low on the reach and moved up to fourth and then also overtook Postma on the run. At the gate the top four boats rounded the same mark within 10 seconds of each other with a nice gap on the fleet. There was some shouting and Ainslie did a penalty turn. Did he hit the mark? He is adamant that he didn't. Postma and Høgh-Christensen were adamant that he did. Whatever the truth, Ainslie took a penalty, lost a little bit ground and gained a lot of anger. The press got a lot of good quotes.

On the final beat the fleet went all the way to the port layline. Trujillo held onto his lead down the run with Høgh-Christensen

Top to bottom:

Ben Ainslie, Jonas Høgh-Christensen
Jonathan Lobert, Pieter-Jan Postma
Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic

and Postma holding a small lead over Ainslie. The final downwind to the finish was a thrilling battle. Høgh-Christensen immediately made inroads into Trujillo's lead while Ainslie tried to find a route past Postma so he could attack the Dane. But it was Postma who made the first move going wide and then crossing in front of Høgh-Christensen and Ainslie.

Round the last mark it was Trujillo and Postma with Ainslie just sliding round the mark ahead of Høgh-Christensen. Nothing else changed by the finish with Trujillo winning the race from Postma. Ainslie had taken around 70 metres off regatta leader Høgh-Christensen on the run to inflict his second victory over him in one day and further close the points gap. After a third and seventh Kljakovic Gaspic had moved up to the bronze medal position.

Lobert, "It was a rough day. There was a lot of tension this morning. I was quite nervous. I was trying to manage it and in the first race I succeeded a little bit because I had some good downwinds and managed to finish fifth. In the second I had a terrible start and then it was just too hard to come back. So not so good a day for me."

Høgh-Christensen's lead had dropped from 10 points to just three but he remained optimistic. "I think I've sailed well and done what I've wanted to do. I was a bit unlucky today. I don't think I was more nervous this morning than any other day. But you're always a bit nervous at the Olympics. We have a very detailed plan from when we wake up to when we go to bed and we've been following that plan and it seems to work and it takes a lot of the pressure off."

Day five

Friday was always going to be a showdown between Ainslie and Høgh-Christensen. The Dane made the best of the start of race 9 and, with the fleet heading to the left yet again, the pin end was bunched up. Høgh-Christensen did well on the left, forcing Ainslie to tack off, with Postma doing well on the right. As they approached the top mark Ainslie had trouble finding a clean lane and trailed round in ninth. Mitakis led round from Postma, Casey and then Høgh-Christensen.

By the gate, Postma had worked out a 50 metre lead and he comfortably extended away to win his first race of the series. Behind him there was a tense battle with Kljakovic Gaspic making a huge gain on the downwind to move up to fifth at the gate. Lobert also gained to second with Zbogor close behind in third.

On the final beat Postma pulled further away while Zbogor found his way into second. Nothing much else changed in the closing stages except Kljakovic Gaspic moved into fourth from Høgh-Christensen while Ainslie

took three places on the final downwind to finish one place behind the Dane.

Høgh-Christensen had extended his lead to a crucial four points, but all that was about to change in the final opening series race. Postma and Ainslie started well by the pin while Høgh-Christensen was forced to tack away. Postma went furthest left and came back just above Ainslie, while Høgh-Christensen was struggling out to the right. As they approached the top mark it was clear that the left was still paying and Postma rounded first from Ainslie, Greg Douglas, Mitakis, Trujillo and Høgh-Christensen.

While Ainslie soon passed Postma and sailed away from the fleet, Høgh-Christensen put on a surge to pass four boats and round the gate in second, but nearly a minute behind Ainslie. On the second beat, Ainslie slowed up for a while and looked to be waiting for the Dane. He would have liked to have one boat between then to make life easier in the medal race and everyone watching expected a confrontation. But he never really got closer than 100 metres so the physical effect was minimal, even if perhaps the psychological effect was obvious.

But then Postma found a way past Høgh-Christensen and Ainslie rounded the top mark with a 90 metre lead to lead down to the finish. At the finish Ainslie led by a considerable margin while Postma held on to second. Høgh-Christensen had to settle for third with Trujillo fourth.

Trujillo must have been the unluckiest person in Weymouth. Over the course of the week he had suffered numerous random gear failings. His mainsheet, halyard, rudder and kicking strap all failed at key moments causing him to lose all hope of a second medal to add to the silver won in 2004 in Athens. "Making the medal race is not really any consolation for all that has happened this week after all the work we have done in the past years. We have checked everything 100 times before the Games. I have never lost a rudder upwind before. But if it's not meant to be then it's not meant to be."

Ainslie, "I was pretty frustrated yesterday, but when you get out there you have to put it behind you and sail smart. It's taken me all week to find the turbo button and get out in front."

Høgh-Christensen, "It was a tough day today but I thought I did quite well. I didn't have the best downwind in the first race but I managed a to get a fifth." On the tactical move by Ainslie on the final beat. "Ben stopped for a bit but didn't do anything. I think he was thinking about doing something but it was probably too big a risk for him to try and put boats in between us."

The two point gap meant that it was almost a straight match race between Ainslie and



Top to bottom:
Vasilij Zbogor, Dan Slater, Rafa Trujillo
Daniel Birgmark, Tapio Nirkko

The physical requirements of sailing a Finn are like no other boat on the Olympic Circuit. You have to be big and have the frame to build the strength needed to sail the boat. Power is the number one word I think of when I think of a Finn sailor; we are just big powerful guys. With the new sailing techniques and especially the new 10 knot free pumping rule we have seen the fleet become much fitter while maintaining the strength needed to control the boat.

The top Finn sailors in the World will spend four days a week lifting in the gym, three days a week doing cardio training sessions, eating the right nutrition and will do all of this while sailing five days each week because the boat requires that type of

dedication. Finn sailing requires you to hike against a boat that has non-stop power while sailing upwind. The burn and pain that runs through your body while hiking, I have never felt in another boat in my career.

Finn sailing is simply a test of power and endurance. Then imagine doing that for 20 minutes upwind and then going straight into a downwind or reach where your heart rate is at 180 bpm or higher; do this over and over again until you reach our target race time of 75 min. Then do that at least two times a day and then do that for six days straight. I challenge anyone to do this and come back and tell a Finn sailor that the Finn is not physically Olympic.

Zach Railey, USA

Høgh-Christensen for the gold medal, with the added complication that Postma could take gold if these two were right at the back and he was in the top two.

Trujillo, "This is the best venue we have ever had for an Olympic Games."

Medal race

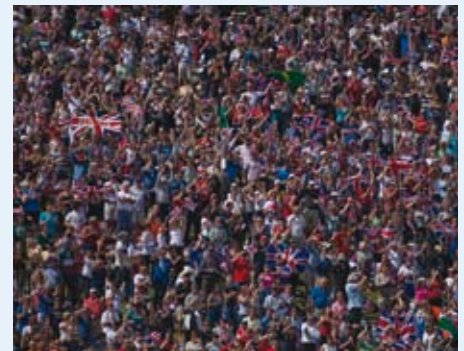
On Sunday 5 August, the whole sailing world was on the edge of its seat for 30 agonising minutes as the Finn fleet duked it out for the medals and left everyone waiting right until the thrilling ending. None of the medals were decided until the final stages of the calamitous final leg.

Høgh-Christensen had the advantage over Ainslie out of the start forcing the Brit to tack off to the right, the normally unfavoured side. The left has been favoured all week, but Ainslie through luck or judgement found a shift back to be ahead of the Dane at the top mark, though both were deep in the fleet. Kljakovic Gaspic led at the front from

Lobert, but the puffy conditions enabled Ainslie to fly down the first downwind to round in second behind Lobert.

As the wind went lighter Høgh-Christensen tacked off to the right and Ainslie followed. It was nearly his undoing. The two dropped back to ninth and tenth in the race. As Lobert extended away from the fleet, on the final beat, the left side came in big and Postma made a spectacular recovery to round in third. He was one place from taking gold as the fleet approached the final downwind mark before the short reach to the finish. Unfortunately he pushed too hard, his boom touched the back of Dan Slater's boat and after doing his turns he was back in fifth and out of the medals.

Ainslie had stuck to Høgh-Christensen. Being so far back in the fleet all he could do was make sure he stayed in front. He stayed there to the finish to claim the gold medal to the deafening roars of the local crowd. It was a suspense filled race, made even worse by the unstable puffy winds,



Gear used at the Olympics

Country	Hull	Sails		Rudders		Masts		Booms	
GBR	Devoti	N	N	D	D	W	W	N	N
DEN	Devoti	N	N	D	D	W	C	A	N
FRA	Devoti	WB	WB	D	D	W	H	N	N
NED	Devoti	WB	N	RB	RB	H	H	N	N
CRO	Devoti	N	N	D	D	W	W	N	N
SLO	Devoti	N	N	D	D	W	C	A	
NZL	Devoti	N(NZ)	N(NZ)	D	D	W	W	N	N
ESP	Devoti	N	N	RB	D	H	H	N	N
SWE	Devoti	WB	WB	D	D	W	H	N	N
FIN	Devoti	WB	WB	D	D	W	W	N	N

Codes: Sails: N – North, N(NZ) – North New Zealand, WB – WB-Sails
 Rudders: D – Devoti, RB – Ron Bull
 Masts: W – Wilke, C – Concept, H – Hit
 Booms: A – Allen, N – Needlespar



with sailors moving up and down the fleet, and they all kept everyone guessing to the very end. It was a made for TV thriller.

Lobert commented, "It was a crazy race and a very difficult one. I said I would do my own race and I would try to win it if I could and try not to make any mistakes and I did that. I didn't see what happened to PJ because I was already on the last reach. I heard shouting behind. When I started the second lap I was already in a medal position. PJ was far behind but got this magic shift on the left and came back, so I decided to make sure I won the medal race and then this happens."

"I think this is good for the sport because we are always sailing long races so far out and as you see in this type of racing a lot can happen. It's a new game. Today for me it was good, sometimes it's not so good, but anything can happen. So I think it's much more exciting for TV."

A disappointed Høgh-Christensen was upbeat about his performance. "I did what I wanted to do but it just didn't go my way. I got the start I wanted and got in the perfect position and squeezed him off the to the right. I totally followed my plan. Unfortunately the right paid for the first time this week. Ben put a cover on me then, probably too tight. At one point PJ had the gold."

"I am pretty happy with silver. I have lost by the smallest margin possible. Of course that's good fun and great for the sport. But it's just a shame as I did what I wanted to do. Looking back at the week there's a couple of races where you can gain same points, like the capsize, of course. I had the gold in my hands and just couldn't materialise it."

Ainslie said, "It was really nerve racking. It was a really tense race. There was a lot at stake in really difficult conditions. I was just really glad to come through it. PJ sailed really well after a great series. Jonas as well. They both sailed so well, especially Jonas who had one of the best series I've ever seen, so to come back was big relief."

At the medal ceremony the medals were presented by HRH The Princess Royal and the flowers were presented by HM King Constantine.

Ainslie, "It's just an amazing feeling and big thanks to everyone who has supported me over the years. From being a kid down in Cornwall, to my time in the Finn class, I have really enjoyed every minute of it. It's been fantastic."



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Silver Cup 2012, Maubuisson, France

Martin Robitaille from Canada took the 2012 Finn Junior World Championship for the Jorg Bruder Finn Silver Cup after a week of close racing on the Lac de Maubuisson. The Junior European Champion Michal Jodlowski from Poland took the silver, while the defending champion Arkadiy Kistanov from Russia took the bronze.



A small but talented fleet of 24 boats and 12 nations took part in the 11 race series from 1-6 July, which was sailed in generally light and shifty winds. Russia once again fielded the largest team with eight sailors. The championship was declared open by Brigitte Viaud, President of the host club, the Cercle de Voile de Bordeaux.

Lennart Luttkus early leader

Lennart Luttkus took the lead after consistent racing on the first day of racing. The championship started with nice but tricky conditions with varying pressure and shifts making it tough for the young sailors. The first race gave the choice between the right with more pressure or the left with a more favoured angle, with sailors spread over the course, some taking drastic options on each side of the course.

The race winners came back from the left side on the third beat. Cem Gozen was in front of the fleet for the last downwind but failed to pass through the gate before crossing the finish line. The young Turk switched from the Laser to the Finn earlier this year. He bounced back in the second race with a fifth place. Meanwhile, it was James Hadden who took the bullet closely followed across the line by Luttkus and Milosz Wojewski.

Vice European Champion, Dimitar Vangelov recovered in the second race after a difficult first one. The Bulgarian led from start to finish to take the bullet. Viktor Filippov and Luttkus took second and third in the race. At the end of the day Luttkus was leading the regatta by four points over Filipov and Wojewski.

Double win to Robitaille

After picking up some letter scores on the first day Martin Robitaille put it all behind him with two victories on day two in light winds. The conditions were difficult again, with wind averaging five to ten knots and varying across the course.

In the first race he was leading most of the way, though on the second lap upwind Andrei Yanitckii got very close. The Russian finally placed second with Luttkus third.

Race two started at the third attempt with three sailors penalised for premature starts. Robitaille took a great start at the pin end and went on to take his second win of the day. Sergey Akulinichev placed second with Luttkus in the top three again.

Robitaille said, "I had an excellent day, everything came back together. I was calmer and less ambitious, taking what I could on the water and in the end it paid off."

Luttkus had now increased his lead to 24 points while the top seven had yet to win a race.



Kistanov pulls back

Defending champion Arkadiy Kistanov enjoyed the best of day three and narrowed the gap on the leader.

After a clear start, Kistanov played the shifts and pressure well in a medium breeze, to take the lead from the first mark to the finish. Never really threatened he covered his track and didn't allow compatriot Andrei Ianitckii or Robitaille, in second and third, to pass him.

The second race started after a change of course to allow for the constant wind shifts. A group of six sailors led by Wojewski played the left of the course to pass the top mark in front of the fleet. With a yellow flag collected in the previous race, Wojewski played it safe on the downwind; allowing Cem Gozen to take the lead. The Turk kept the lead until the finish with second place swapping from Dimitar Vangelov to Peter McCoy and finally Michal Jodlowski at the finish.



Top three: Michal Jodlowski (left), Martin Robitaille (centre), Arkadiy Kistanov (right)

Luttkus still led overall with a seven and tenth, but now only had a seven point lead.

World Champion into the lead

Kistanov took the overall lead on day 4. In race 7 he started on the pin end to get to the left where the wind was more favourable. He was leading at the top mark and led the two Polish sailors Wojewski and Jodlowski across the line in second and third.

Encouraged by his third place, Jodlowski went on to win the next race. "I think I have finally broken the code of this lake. I feel more confident making my choices, especially upwind. I had watched the wind between the races and the right seemed better this time. I saw the fleet go left like in the first race and was one of the few to chose the right side. I was first at the windward mark and sailed the rest of the race conservatively on the run, trying not to make any mistakes."

Kistanov, said, "It will be hard to keep the lead. There are a lot of sailors who can still win and the World Champion will be decided on the last race."

Second and third place in race eight went to Robitaille and Thomas Morel. The Canadian was now in second overall and only one point from Kistanov. Early leader Luttkus was in third place, but the scoreboard remained tight with six sailors within four points of each other.



Final results - Finn Silver Cup 2012

1	CAN 110	Martin Robitaille	dpi	o+d 1	1	3	8	4	2	11	1	1	46	
2	POL 13	Michal Jodlowski	13	8	8	6	8	2	3	1	6	4	7	53
3	RUS 6	Arkadiy Kistanov	4	dsq	5	10	1	5	1	6	4	9	13	58
4	GER 64	Lennart Luttkus	2	3	3	3	7	10	6	12	5	11	11	61
5	RUS 111	Andrei Yanitckii	14	12	2	11	2	4	11	7	2	15	8	73
6	RUS 5	Viktor Filippov	6	2	dnf	4	4	11	10	5	9	19	3	73
7	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	9	4	12	13	12	3	13	15	3	2	4	75
8	POL 1	Milosz Wojewski	3	6	6	d+r	16	7	2	8	dnf	8	16	76
9	RUS 91	Viacheslav Sivenkov	5	9	14	7	5	15	5	10	7	10	15	87
10	FRA 114	Thomas Morel	8	13	18	5	19	9	9	3	14	12	2	93
11	NOR 1	Anders Pedersen	dnf	7	15	8	15	14	20	9	1	3	5	97
12	CZE 81	Tomas Hrnchal	10	11	10	14	6	12	8	13	10	5	12	97
13	TUR 1	Cem Gozen	dsq	5	7	15	9	1	7	ocs	13	7	20	109
14	GBR 18	James Hadden	1	15	13	16	11	13	15	17	17	6	6	113
15	BUL 855	Dimitar Vangelov	15	1	16	dnf	10	6	22	16	12	14	9	121
16	CZE 11	Patrick Deutscher	7	10	4	ocs	17	17	14	11	16	16	10	122
17	GER 595	Simon Gorgels	11	14	11	19	13	16	12	ocs	8	13	14	131
18	NED 94	Tijmen Van Rootselaar	17	20	9	9	18	19	19	14	19	17	19	160
19	RUS 03	Sergey Akulinichev	20	16	21	2	22	18	16	18	15	21	18	165
20	FRA 177	Fabian Pic	19	19	19	17	14	ocs	17	20	20	18	17	180
21	AUT 251	Nikolaus Lehner	21	18	ocs	20	20	22	23	4	18	20	21	187
22	RUS 27	Denis Kotlyarov	18	dsq	17	12	21	21	21	19	21	22	22	194
23	RUS 28	Artur Kotlyarov	16	17	20	18	23	20	18	21	23	23	23	199
24	RUS 8	Alexander Ananyev	22	21	22	21	24	23	24	22	22	24	24	225

Robitaille takes lead

With finally some good breeze increasing to 14 knots on the second race and raising of the Oscar flag for free pumping, Anders Pedersen from Norway sailed his best races with a win and a third. Another one to enjoy the breeze was Peter McCoy who scored a third and a second place to climb to eighth overall.

The first race started with medium wind and a windward leeward course. Pedersen was third at the top mark, behind Kistanov and Yanitckii, but passed them on the following legs. "Today was a better day for me," explains Pedersen. "All week I have been fast but in the wrong place. The wind was still very shifty and tricky on the downwind today but I managed well." Yanitckii placed second and McCoy third.

The second race was won by Robitaille taking him into the regatta lead. Second place went to McCoy who scored his best results today. "I enjoyed more breeze today, the shifts were more manageable for me. I made my gains downwind on the reaches passing from sixth to second."

Martin Robitaille wins Silver Cup

Robitaille and Kistanov were on equal points, while Jodlowski was only one point behind. The final race was a tight one with lots of pressure. They all played cat and mouse at the front, with each of them taking the lead at times, but the Canadian came back on the last run taking the race and the title.

By winning the last race of the Finn Silver Cup, he didn't leave any doubt that he truly deserved the Finn Junior World title. Despite a difficult start with an OCS, a penalty from the jury and one from the measurer, the Canadian was able to bounce back, winning four races and the title. "It was a tight event and I am happy that I was able to stay focussed. Results were up and down for most sailors, but I gained confidence and sailed well," he said.

This is the first Finn title for the Canadian who has already set his mind on the future. "I would like to reach the top 16 in the rankings within two years and qualify for the next Olympic Games in Rio." A lot of the Junior Finn sailors are sharing the same objective for the 2016 Olympic Games and given the standard seen this week, many among them will be there to represent their country. Until then the road will be paved with more Finn challenges.




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The closing of the London 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition was also perhaps the end of a magnificent era within the Finn class. With three time gold medalist Ben Ainslie announcing that he is very unlikely to ever set foot in a Finn again, his decade of domination is complete and he leaves the stage open for a new generation of heroes to take his place.



As one era ends a new one begins

The goodbyes are not just limited to Ainslie. Almost a dozen of those who competed at Weymouth and Portland have probably sailed their final Finn regatta and have hung up their hiking pants one last time. The game is changing at a fast pace. The new generation are younger, taller, stronger and fitter than ever before. And they are all hungry for success. Silver medalist Jonas Høgh-Christensen pointed this just before the Games, "I love the Finn and think it has gotten a revival with the new physical aspects. It is for sure the hardest boat on the Olympic programme. Real athletes pushing super hard. Next time around there will be no old school sailors with a bit too much fat. They will be fit, tall and young. With that said it looks like my time is up."



The group of elite athletes that was the Finn fleet at London 2012 had trained together, competed against each other and enjoyed the thrill of the battle together for most of their adult life. Many had done two or three Olympics. Some were newcomers, but all had faced the journey together, living the old cliché, 'The journey is the reward.'

As we witnessed during the competition, the sailors can be ruthless on the water but have a great sense of camaraderie off the water. Bronze medalist Jonathan Lobert put it best, "The most important thing I learned in the Finn Class is that it is possible to sail like gentlemen – enemies on the water, but very good friends on the shore."

While the older sailors have perhaps had their day in the limelight the young are ready to move in to try and emulate their heroes.

Many of those sailing in London 2012, and some who missed selection, have already started their campaign for Rio 2016. But there is no easy route. It's a long hard road of perseverance and dedication. Some of those who learned valuable lessons in 2012 will be those who will shine in 2016. London 2012 is behind us, and we look forward to the challenges that Rio 2016 will bring.

Highlight

The battle in the Finn class proved to be the highlight of the sailing competition at London 2012. Quite how it played out no one could have guessed, but it turned into a nail biter right through to the closing minutes of the very last race.

The best sailor of the opening series was undoubtedly Høgh-Christensen. The best sailor in the medal race was probably Lobert. Meanwhile Ainslie was making headlines because he was not producing the dominating performance that everyone expected. He said, "It is always hard when people say you are a dead cert to win; you try to tell them that is not the case, but they don't listen."

Though Høgh-Christensen ran away with the first half of the competition in terms of a points lead, in fairness, Ainslie had also put together a pretty good series. His only problem was that the Dane had beaten him in all six races.

Then, in the second half of the week, Høgh-Christensen started making a few mistakes. He'd already had a start boat collision in race 4 and then a capsize in race 7 perhaps showed the pressure was getting to him. Ainslie did what he does best. He pounced, grabbed the opportunity by the throat and sank his teeth in hard so he couldn't let go. With a grimace of determination on his face he gradually clawed back the points gap going into the deciding medal race.

However, in spite of that comeback, Ainslie was clearly under par, we later learned in pain and, in the end, probably quite lucky to come away with the gold. While he struggled with making comebacks in most races, Høgh-Christensen was making them with much more regularity – his epic speed taking him to the front for a while in all but a few races. Only once or twice did Ainslie show the kind of form that had made him the out-and-out pre-regatta favourite for the gold.

The Nothe spectator area provided a great view of the minefield of windshifts and holes on the medal race course, right across to the Portland Harbour wall on the far side. It played havoc within the fleet. We were told it was a price everyone had to pay, though some paid more dearly than others. In the medal race, for the first

Photos by onEdition



time the whole week, the right paid on the first beat which negated the advantage Høgh-Christensen had over Ainslie out of the start.

From then on it became a simple match race between the two best performing sailors of the week. Ainslie led Høgh-Christensen at the top mark and once he had control he never let it go. There was a heart stopping moment when Pieter-Jan Postma emerged from a big left shift on the final beat to round the final top mark in third on a last minute charge – one more place for Postma and the gold would have been heading to The Netherlands – but it wasn't to be.

You have to feel sorry for Postma. He had done enough for a medal but for some reason decided to push for the gold, rather than consolidate for silver or bronze. In many ways it was a brave move, but one that left him without a medal of any colour. It was barely 50 metres to the finish and he had a medal in his hands. As he tried to pass Dan Slater, the end of his boom touched the back of Slater's boat. Slater explained, "I said to him, 'Mate you've got a medal. Don't have a go here. It's not on.' I was in a good position to beat Rafa for seventh overall so I had a race on myself. I felt for PJ because he totally made a meal of it. But that's the pressure of these things. He had a medal sewn up and he took a big risk considering where we were and the timing of it."



In the end Høgh-Christensen's mistakes, combined with Postma's rash move in the medal race, all conspired to hand the gold medal to Ainslie. It seemed like he was destined to win it all along, to irrefutably make his mark in sailing history.

With both Ainslie and Høgh-Christensen hinting at their 'retirement' from the class – Ainslie stated, "It can never get any better than this and I'm not sure I would want to go through it again," while Høgh-Christensen said, "I don't have any sights for Rio. I've been talking with Ben about this and we'd either like to see it on TV or go there as commentators" – what of the next generation? Bronze medalist Lobert is typical of the kind of sailor the class is now attracting. He towers over most of his fellow sailors, is many years younger and is at the peak of his career. He is the perfect epitome of the new generation Finn sailor: very tall, very fit, very strong and very athletic. Just watch him move around the boat and you'll understand.

Some are saying the Finn medal race was probably the most watched race in Olympic sailing history. About 70,000 people are thought to have descended on Weymouth to watch Ainslie secure his fourth gold medal and overcome the Great Dane. The spectator area was full to capacity. The free areas on either side were straining at the seams, while more than 3,000 had gathered on the stone pier. Thousands more filled the free live site on Weymouth Beach.

There is no doubt that having spectators at the sailing events proved very popular with the spectators, while the sailors clearly loved it and thrived on the atmosphere it created. For some, the cheering crowd was the high point of the week, while others would have preferred a fairer playing field instead of a show in front of the public. In how many other Olympic sports has the requirements of the spectators, and the TV audience, been allowed to take precedence over the quality of racing? It might have been the same for everyone, but elements of randomness were always present.



And so, after 10 years of Ainslie domination, it certainly does seem like the end of an era. Ainslie has left the door slightly open with a 'never say never' comment, but he also dropped enough hints that this will be the last time we see him in a Finn, and maybe the last time at the Olympics. After a decade at the top he has not only broken all the records in the class but made new ones that are unlikely ever to be broken. Along the way he achieved the highest accolade the Finn class can bestow on its sailors with his entry into the Hall of Fame way back in 2004. Since then he has won three more world titles and two more Olympic gold medals. It was quite a run.

If we have written the last chapter of the Ainslie era in the Finn class then it has been a privilege to watch. Almost single-handedly he took Finn sailing to a whole new level of excellence and focussed the spotlight of the world's media on the toughest Olympic class of them all.

But the class is already moving on. As one era ends, a new one is about to begin.

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Shortly after the end medalists to get their and closest Olympic



Has it sunk in yet what you have achieved?

Yes and no. I was so busy after we finished racing with commitments, and then competing in the ACWS, that I never really stopped to take it all in and that's a shame in a way. Now, after some time to reflect, I am really proud of what I achieved and relieved that it was not only worthwhile for me but for all the people that gave me so much help and support.

Was there any point at which you thought it wasn't going to happen?

I knew after race 6 that something had to change if I was going to win. Jonas was on fire and I wasn't sailing that well, I was too conservative and I knew that I needed to start racing to win.

Was David getting worried that you weren't going to pull it off and what was he saying to you?

Sid is probably the best coach in the World in those situations. He is completely deadpan, he doesn't change his feedback or processes he just keeps supporting you 100%.

How did you cope with the rest day to come out fighting to turn it around?

The rest day probably saved me. It gave me a chance to consider what I was doing wrong, why I wasn't sailing to my best capabilities. I also took quite a lot of motivation from watching some of the other sports and Bradley Wiggins winning the cycling time trials.

How badly was your back affecting your performance?

It was an issue the last six months; it had an impact on my training more than my racing but it was just one of many issues I had to manage and deal with.

Explain the decision not to announce it earlier?

To be honest there were so many things going wrong with my body that it was just one of many issues. Everyone knew I had a problem with my back anyway so there was no point trying to make a big deal out of it. It's usually not a good idea to announce to your closest rivals that you need injections in your ankles to be able to hike, your back's knackered and you're suffering from positional vertigo.

Did a home Games live up to expectations?

I think it was an amazing Games, a real credit to everyone from the organisers, the athletes to all the volunteers. Everyone in Britain was incredibly proud to have hosted such a successful event.

Would you like to see the Finn remain an Olympic class through 2020 and beyond?

I'd like to see that because I think it's still the most challenging single handed out there for guys over 90kg and there aren't many options in Olympic sailing for guys that big. I was initially against free pumping but I now think that the physicality it brings to the sailing is exceptional.

Sum up the week for you.

Emotional.

You were clearly upset when we last spoke but has it sunk in yet what you have achieved?

There is no doubt that the achievement in winning the Silver was fantastic and I am very happy with the result in all. But when that is said it will haunt me forever that I did not win. Nobody thought Ben could be beaten, but I knew that if I sailed my very best I could do it. I made one too many mistakes during the qualifying races that ended up costing vital points before the medal race.

How do you now feel about winning the silver medal?

I feel good. Very good. But again it still haunts me that I did not win. I was too close to win for it not to leave a mental scar. I am still not able to watch the medal race and probably never will be.

Having dominated the first half of the week, was it hard to mentally cope with a day off?

A bit. I was feeling good going in to that day off and felt that I was dominating. We knew and had prepared for the last two days being much harder than the first three. The reason being that we would sail on the south race course that would favour Ben a lot. We had 50 meters a minute of current going against the wind. That meant the beats were shorter and the downwinds were very long. That would play into Ben's strong sides and my weak sides. On top of that I had some unpleasant experiences with vandalism of my car. Great Britain did not show its greatest colours at that moment, but in all I found a lot of support, respect and compassion from the British supporters.

How strong was your belief that you could win the gold on the morning of the medal race?

I had no doubt that I could win. I had a clear plan. We knew that Ben would probably try and rattle me by trying to match race me. I had measured the time it would take to get to the place on the line where I wanted to start. The plan was to let Ben follow me in so he would start to windward of me. The reason was that during our extensive training and during the first race the left side of the course was clearly favoured. The plan went totally as planned. Ben came and I used the committee boat to keep him at bay while staying right of the start line. At 40 seconds



Photos by onEdition and François Richard

of the Olympics we caught up with the three thoughts and reflections on one of the toughest regattas for a long time. Here's what they said...



I knew I had to bail and go for the line. I had Ben where I wanted him and soon after the start I could squeeze him off to the right. But sailing has always been a game of chances especially on the Nothe course and this time it did not go my way. I don't blame the course, but if I had been 4-8 points further ahead it would have been a totally different game and my chances would have been much better.

What has been the reaction back home to the medal and has it opened new opportunities?

The reaction has been amazing. People have been great and sailing has been the talk of the Olympics. 1.2 million people watched the medal race in a 6 million people nation. That is the same rating as when our national football team plays a world's qualifier. I have been offered many TV-shows but turned them down. I hope that this experience will open up more sailing opportunities for the nation. I would like to create both a Danish Volvo team and an AC45 team. If we could promote sailing from Optis and all the way to the seniors, whether it be racing or cruising that would be fantastic.

What are you going to do next in terms of any sailing plans?

Right now I have officially no plans. I would like to be involved in larger teams and I am sure I have a lot to offer a team. What the future brings nobody knows, I am fortunate to have a 'real' job, so sailing is not life or death to me. That makes it so much more enjoyable actually.

Is there anything you'd do differently, given the chance to do it all again?

Not really. This time around I got to do it my way. Looking back at a 12 month comeback I think I did great. I finished 4th and 3rd at the 2011 and 2012 worlds. I got that Olympic medal that I aimed for, even though it wasn't the colour that I aimed for. I managed to give the 'best' sailor of our time a run for his money and ended up at the top of the recently announced World Ranking. All in all it is hard to find anything that needed to be changed.

Would you like to see the Finn remain an Olympic class through 2020 and beyond?

Honestly, some years ago I thought that the Finn was slowly going out of fashion. But the changes to the class rules have made it the most interesting and toughest class at the Olympics. No class demands more fitness, tactical racing and technical work. The battles are always close and the sailors are colourful. I am sure that if you did research into what class had more viewers and news coverage the Finn would win by a mile.

Sum up the week for you.

The most exhilarating week of my life.

What are your reflections on winning a medal, especially after such a dramatic medal race?

As I said all week I knew that the Games would be a very tight competition. I knew that I won't be the fastest upwind but for sure really good on the runs. I just tried to never give up on any boat I could catch and try to focus on myself. In the medal race I knew I couldn't control all the guys so I just sailed my race. After all you always can say I could have done better but I am really happy with the bronze.



What has been the reaction back home to the medal?

People were very nice to me. A lot of non-sailors told me that they saw the end of the medal race live on the French TV. It is really nice to see the eyes of the kids when they see the medal. I try to put Olympic sailing under the lights and try to make the people realise that it is a great sport.

You were very positive all week, what was the plan going in to the medal race?

As I told you I love the medal race. It's short and always very intense. You have to be full on all the time. My plan going on the water was simply get some clear air, sail fast and give all you can to have no regrets.

Sum up the racing over the whole week for the whole fleet?

I think in the Finn we had a very consistent week as the top guys didn't make any big scores. I thought I would sail all week with Vasilij and Bambi, and it was always a big fight between us. Jonas had something more upwind and Ben was always around. I really enjoyed the weather and the waves.

Has the medal win opened new opportunities for you?

For now nothing, but I hope to get some new sponsors to be able to not lose money on the next campaign. I would like to join the America's Cup and try some big boat regattas, so I am open to any solicitations.

Did the Olympics live up to your expectations?

Yes. It is really a different regatta but it is so good to be part of it

What are you going to do next in terms of any sailing plans?

For now I take a break with my Finn but I will back next year in Palma to start a new campaign. For the rest everything is still open.

Would you like to see the Finn remain an Olympic class through 2020 and beyond and why?

Of course the Finn needs to stay in the Games. It is the last boat for the big guys. It's also very good looking on TV, especially with the free pumping with the on board camera. I think we need as the class try to make to something more attractive to the public. The medal race format is great – it's intense, close to shore and a lot can happen. I think we need more races like the first one in the games to have the public taking part. We need to mix a bit of the classic sailing race and this new format. Like that the Finn will be, as before, an experimental boat going forward.

Sum up the week for you.

All lot of emotions, stress and pain but so much fun.

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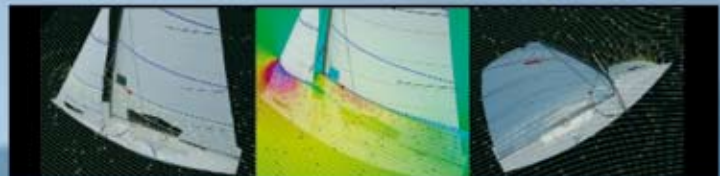
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Alpen Cup 2012

It was on one of these perfect afternoons at the Finn Cup in Malcesine 2011. A couple of Finnsters were sitting around a table on the beautiful terrace of the unique clubhouse of the Fraglia Vela Malcesine, making a very satisfied impression after a perfect day of sailing and the obligatory after sail pasta feast. Maybe the Italian sun was already shining through a few glasses of red wine, when it was decided, that the Alpine Finn sailors should meet more often to share these moments on the water and on land. In this afternoon the Finn Alpen Cup was (not yet born but) conceived. [Text by Andreas Bollongino]

A team of Bernd Rohlfs – Austria, Giuseppe di Stefano – Italy, Jiri Huracek – Switzerland and myself was formed to get this idea on the road. We decided to have a series of four existing regattas in the Alpine region, which will count to one trophy. Each regatta will be located in a different country, and we will find some sponsors for prizes and publish the ranking on a website.

The first obstacle was to get a schedule for the regattas, without cannibalising other regattas in the countries, and for this we had very long phone conferences discussing possible regattas and dates. Finally we had a schedule for the series; the regattas counting in the Finn Alpen Cup were:

Italy: Lago di Caldero, Kalterer See (April)
Switzerland: Niederhornkanne Thun (June)
Austria: Mohilla Trophy Mondsee (July)
Germany: Meckatzer Cup Rottachsee (August)

The second obstacle was to find the right ranking calculation for the cup, motivating sailors to compete at as many regattas as possible on one side but being fair if you could not make it to all events. We had an idea for this, but honestly to say, will have to make a few adaptations on the calculation mode for the next year.

The third obstacle was to find sponsors to make the cup attractive and give the competitors a little extra motivation to take part. We convinced Beat Aebischer from Elvstrøm Sails Switzerland and Christof Wilke that it would be a great honour to sponsor this unique event series.

Setting up a webpage for such an event was the next step. This, in the time of Facebook and Wordpress, is not that challenging anymore, though filling it with content is still the same work as years ago.

But finally in the beginning of April we were ready to go, announcing the prizes of a Wilke voucher of CHF 1000 for the winner and one of the great Elvstrøm sails made Beat Aebischer for ninth; the series started to be a great success.

About 15 Finn sailors on average were attracted in addition to the normal regatta fleets of the four regattas around the Alpine massive. Some sailors like the Swiss flock were making a holiday event from this, always arriving early to the events and enjoying the weekends with their spouses in the beautiful locations in the Alps.

Lago di Caldero had over 50 competitors and was the biggest event of the series, offering windy conditions and the traditionally rich buffet from the club. The regatta in Thun was embedded in the party for the 50th anniversary of the Finn fleet in Thun, with fine sailing and a big party in the evening. The spectacular weather conditions at the Austrian regatta at Mondsee will be talked about for a long time by the sailors and the unique flair of the small club and lake at the German Regatta at Rottachsee will make the sailors want to return next year.

All events were in different locations and with different conditions but had one thing in common: Finn sailors were having fun, competing against new competitors and were making new friends having a beer in the evening with them.

Of course we will continue the Finn Alpen Cup next year, please check the event-page. <http://finnalpencup.wordpress.com> for updates on the Finn-Alpen-Cup 2013.

See you on the water
Bollo, GER 19

Results 2012

Ranking after 14 races (3 discards)

1	Martin Mitterer	435,000
2	Florian Demetz	303,000
3	Michael Pandler	251,000
4	Carlo Lazzari	198,000
5	Christian Scheinecker	19,000
6	Bernhard Klingler	-19,000
7	Giuseppe Di Stefano	-230,000
8	Pierluigi Pinzan	-241,000
9	Marco Kolic	-246,000
10	Peter Stuffer	-248,000

European Finn Grand Prix

In addition to the Alpen Cup, a proposal from some German Finn sailors is aimed at introducing a new initiative for all European Finn sailors.

The goal of European Finn Grand Prix is to encourage Finn sailors from all levels to travel around more and enrich local regattas with international competitors.

With this we will

- Be able to close the gap between Olympic level sailing and club sailing.
- Make local regattas more attractive for media and interested newcomers
- Improve the quality of local Finn regattas as preparation for bigger international events
- Show that the Finn Class is THE class with the widest base, overall skill and age levels
- Get smaller Finn countries to grow faster.

We are thinking of a format, that each participating country will name two (existing) regattas to count for the series, of which one should, if possible, be the national championships; the other can be chosen by the organising country authority.

There will be overlapping regattas within the series, but the ranking will be calculated with this in mind. Regionally the regattas should not overlap (like it is now already in most countries with the national championships).

You can find more information and a self-maintainable Google calendar for the events on <http://finneuropegp.wordpress.com>.

The feedback so far is great: Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands and Great Britain are supporting this initiative. Other country officials are enthusiastic about it and are going to sell it at their country meetings.

The idea is not to set up new regattas, but to use existing regattas to make sure not to cannibalise on existing regattas. The Grand Prix will not replace any existing local or international ranking. We are searching sponsors now for the prizes.

We are still developing the idea and would be grateful for any feedback.

Bollo GER 19





European Masters Cup, Tihany, Hungary

The Finn Masters European Cup was held on Lake Balaton for the second time, this year between 5-9 September organised by Istvan Rutai at THE sailing club. 61 competitors came from 6 countries. [Text by Márton Beliczay, photos by Jankó Virág.]

On the first day of the regatta, there was a long distance race around the peninsula, which started at noon. Although due to light winds there was only a small race course and only few of the fleet were racing, but the competitors had a great fight for the first place. After that, a practice race was scheduled, but it was cancelled due to lack of wind.



On the first racing day a very nice northerly wind came, similar to last years, but more stable and a bit stronger, gusting up to 25 knots. The sky was a little cloudy, but the air and water temperatures were over 20 degrees, which was enjoyable for everybody. The course was a classical up and down with an offset mark at the end of the beat and a gate at the downwind, after which the competitors had to go reaching to the finish. Bulgarian Mihail Kopanov was the leader after two laps, but he failed to go for the reaching finish and pulled the first few competitors with him for another upwind. Antal Székely knew the course well and slipped under the others and won the race.

The second and the third race were held in similar conditions, although in the last race the wind got a bit lighter and the free pumping was off for the last lap. At the end of the day Minski Fabris (71) was the leader with three third places. After racing the competitors shared their experiences of the day with some nice wine and beer.

Finn results - European Masters Cup 2012

1	CRO 2	Minski Fabris	3	3	3	1	(4)	2	3	4	1	24
2	HUN 7	Antal Székely	1	4	5	3	2	(13)	12	9	8	57
3	RUS 31	Igor Frolov	4	2	4	14	3	15	16	1	(18)	77
4	RUS 17	Vasiliy Kravchenko	17	6	7	6	5	5	10	10	(21)	87
5	HUN 270	Géza Huszár	23	12	8	7	1	(24)	8	3	17	103
6	BUL 24	Mihail Kopanov	10	1	21	2	13	3	(23)	8	22	103
7	HUN 88	Zsombor Majthényi	8	9	1	19	7	12	(34)	14	12	116
8	RUS 34	Alexander Kasatov	12	19	14	5	11	1	(dnf)	24	3	151
9	RUS 41	Felix Denikaev	7	(45)	6	26	6	14	7	23	5	139
10	CZE 8	Jiri Outrata	20	(22)	11	11	22	16	17	2	4	125
11	HUN 1	Péter Sipos	138	37	HUN 4	László Taubert	288					
12	HUN 18	Mihály Zoltán Demeczky	136	38	HUN 44	Gyula Scharbert	321					
13	CRO 88	Marin Mrduljac	178	39	HUN 6	Andre Skarka	315					
14	CRO 110	Luksa Cicarelli	148	40	HUN 972	András Mónus Gyula	342					
15	RUS 3	Andrey Voloshin	177	41	HUN 82	András Csonka	331					
16	HUN 50	Ákos Lukáts	172	42	SVK 101	Dusan Vanicky	369					
17	RUS 51	Mikhail Petriga	195	43	HUN 9	Tamás Beliczay	383					
18	HUN 41	Zoltán Bartos	182	44	HUN 21	László Zsidó	405					
19	POL 26	Boguslaw Nowakowski	184	45	HUN 81	Imre Solymosi	407					
20	RUS 25	Anatoly Voschennikov	196	46	HUN 201	Péter Elek	405					
21	RUS 142	Yury Polovinkin	201	47	HUN 19	Dr Tamás Farkas	421					
22	CZE 75	Vladimir Skaliczky	202	48	HUN 3	Antal Kálóczy	428					
23	GER 171	Tetzlaff Volker	209	49	HUN 300	Egon Payr	439					
24	RUS 21	Vladimir Butenko	207	50	RSA 1	Ian Ainslie	441					
25	RUS 7	Alexander Novikov	213	51	RUS 11	Valentin Danilov	442					
26	CZE 67	Josef Jochovic	218	52	HUN 2	András Gerő	439					
27	RUS 16	Oleg Khudiakov	268	53	CZE 4	Bozena Smidova	451					
28	HUN 143	László Wehovszky	251	54	HUN 347	László Zsindely	458					
29	HUN 51	István Rutai	256	55	HUN 961	Attila Varga	453					
30	HUN 728	Zoltán Kovács	284	56	HUN 64	Balázs Szűcs	466					
31	HUN 55	András Schömer	271	57	AUT 338	Csaba Gál	463					
32	HUN 69	Csaba Stadler	269	58	HUN 26	Szilárd Zsitvay	473					
33	RUS 71	Leonid Klyayman	280	59	CZE 76	Jiri Dvorak	499					
34	HUN 20	Dr Árpád Kávássy	278	60	HUN 34	Tibor Kozma	537					
35	CZE 231	Petr Vinkl	281	61	HUN 29	Péter Kovács	544					
36	HUN 95	József Farkas	294									



Next day the weather was very sunny, the wind was lighter and it was blowing from almost the opposite direction of the previous days. Three races were held in an oscillating, but steady southwesterly breeze of around 7-10 knots. By the end of the day, Minski Fabris was still in the lead with Antal Székely in second place. In the evening, goulash was offered to the competitors along with some wine and beer.

On Saturday the wind came a little later than the day before, but the conditions were the same and after a short postponement, the fleet went out racing. Since the weather forecast said no wind for Sunday, the race officer held all the remaining three races. This brought victory for Minski which is a very big deal considering he is 71 years old this year. Second place went to Antal Székely, third to Igor Frolov, fourth Vasilij Kravchenko, fifth Géza Huszár and sixth Mihail Kopanov.

After racing, the prizegiving ceremony was held on the main square of Tihany. The overall top six and the winners of each age category received their prizes. Everybody was happy about the event and assured the organisers to come next year as well.



World Masters News

At the moment of writing this it is the end of September 2012.

On September 18th I visited SRR in La Rochelle, the club that will host the 2013 Finn World Masters Championship. We discussed the latest version of the Masters Guidelines. After the voting for La Rochelle we changed the format, especially that part regarding the medal race and I felt the need to go through this with the organisers.

I supplied the articles of the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions that we wish to be published unchanged in the NoR.

I received only one proposal for the format and it agreed with the format as published in the Masters News in the July 2012 issue of Finnfare: there will be no medal race when we sail in one group and one medal race for the top ten in the overall ranking on the Thursday evening. This is what I discussed with the organisation in La Rochelle.

We have gone through accommodations such as apartments, hotels and camping, as well as camper places. On the marina there will be limited camper space (max 30) and this will be without water and electricity. Not far from the marina there is a free public camper area with water and electricity, without cost, and there is also a municipal camping with full service, but paid. So there will be different possibilities.

Apartments will be available close to the marina of differing quality, but booking will not be possible before the beginning of January 2013. All information about accommodation



will be on the event website. This website will be, as promised, on-line during the course of November. Then the Notice of Race will be published as soon as possible and entering can start.

When I left the SRR in La Rochelle the President of the club, Mme Claire Fountaine, said to me: "We will organise a beautiful World Championship for you." And that made me happy.

Please keep your eye on www.finnworldmaster.com and, when you have a Facebook account, please like Finn World Masters.

I wish you all good winds and hope that many of you will compete in the Finn World Masters 2013 in La Rochelle from May 17 - 24, 2013.

Fons van Gent
NED 748
(Vice) President Masters Fleet





The OFF (Old Finn Farts) Regatta, RCYC

Finn sailors develop an intense and intimate bond. It comes from the knowledge that the challenges are yourself and the ever evolving techniques and technologies of racing an elegant powerful sailing craft. Finn friends and training partners help with both these challenges. The bond extends over and between generations.

Some months ago three old Canadian Finn friends, Roger Potts, Dave Hendry and Tom Johannsen were out cruising aboard Tom's Huckleberry II. Looking at each other around the cockpit they noted that there they were, just three old Finn farts. So there and then developed the germ of a reunion regatta for 'Old Finn Farts'. The OFF Regatta was mainly to have fun and see old friends again. Paul Henderson and others liked the idea and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club agreed to be the host. Tom Johannsen and his daughter Tanya worked mightily to make it happen. Many wanted to come; the 16 who made it (including some grandfathers and great grandfathers) brought wives, families and assorted Finn friends.

The regatta was sailed in RCYC's fleet of Bruce Kirby (Canadian Finn Representative in the 1964 Olympics) designed Ideal 18s, which, as there are no hiking straps, were ideal for those who carried 50 lbs of wet sweaters and have bad backs and creaking knees and can no longer hike. (And some never did.)

Races were sailed without spinnakers, two to a boat, six races on Saturday, four on Sunday, on a windward/leeward slalom course. There was a suggestion in the racing instructions that in the two last races each day boats were to cross the finish line sailing backwards - but it never happened. In order to have as many as possible sail together, there was a draw for races 1-3 and 4-6 on Saturday and races 7-8 and 9-10 on Sunday. As the organisers guaranteed,



there was flat water and shifty winds on Toronto Bay along with mild temperatures and brilliant sunshine.

The races were clean and close with lots of position changes. The guys showed that they still really know how to apply the Racing Rules although they had to be a little forgiving at times. The best cumulative score was Paul Henderson's but that should have been. Paul has been racing on Toronto Bay for more than 70 years and seemed to know what the wind was going to do before it knew.

The Friday barbecue and Saturday banquet were filled with stories by everyone. The depth, breadth and intimacy of the weekend is best told in the words of the participants.

Tom Johannsen - "What luck we had this weekend with the weather. There are few opportunities in life where one can create an atmosphere of genuine friendship and joy as I had the privilege to do."

Art Diefendorf - "I had no idea it would be so good; none."

Kit Tatum - "Fellow OFFs, I knew it 40 years ago that those 'Finn days' would be the most fun days of my life, and last weekend confirmed that fact all over again."

Bill McNaughton - "...the weekend highlighted that Finn sailors really are an incredible sailing fraternity that none of us realised we were joining at the time...a continuing presence in all of us that just won't go away."

Sandy Riley (Canadian Finn Representative in the 1976 Olympics) - "Unless you have sailed the Finn, it is difficult to describe the magnitude of the challenge presented by the boat in heavy winds, or the intensely competitive nature of the people who race it, or the extraordinary camaraderie and friendships that were created in the dinghy park. It's a unique fraternity that spans countries and continents."

Bruce Brymer - "These special old friendships are so important in life. Do not let them slip away. Pick up the phone or email; make the effort to keep in contact with each other."

Brian Todd - "So many friends and now it seems, so many years ago but I still tell the



young sailors about the importance being self motivated, living in a van and travelling around the world, and the friends you make and compete against, those are things you never forget."

The reunion showed why 300 show up for the Finn World Master's Championship. It showed that the character of those that sail the Finn has remained very much the same although the Finn itself and the way it is sailed has undergone extensive evolution.

Pumping, ooching and rocking, especially offwind has been a controversial subject for all generations of Finnsters, Paul Henderson being one of those stirring the pot. The current Finn rules solution was developed by judges and sailors. The latest equipment development is an angled foot brace at the front of the cockpit for the deep squat thrust of a sheet pump to drive the bow through and over a wave offwind when the wind is more than 10 knots. This is a developing athleticism that has grown out of the physicality that earlier generations knew well. The IOC and ISAF have to be impressed, as were the OFF participants, by the physical athleticism of the Finn as noted by viewers of the Olympic TV coverage.

For all the developments in technique and technology, racing a Finn is still 99 per cent in the mind and that shared human element is key to what made the OFF Regatta so special. [Text by Gus Miller]





Photo: Conrad Brown

Finn sailing from across the world

DENMARK



Danish Nationals

Gilleleje Sailing Club, 2-4 August

During the three days there was all wind conditions, starting Thursday with fresh winds up to 12 m/s with big round waves. On Friday and Saturday the wind had subsided to a moderate breeze, but now with about 2 knots of current, luckily in the same direction as the wind.

As in previous years the Dutch did well, however, two Danish sailors Jørgen Svendsen and Thomas Mørup-Petersen were right behind them. After nine races Karel van Hellemond won five of them, two were won by Sander Willems, and one each by Cees Scheurwater, and Michael Staal. Jørgen Svendsen won the Danish title with a string of top places, only once outside the top four, with Thomas Mørup-Petersen taking the silver and Michael Staal the bronze.



1	NED 41	Karel van Hellemond	14
2	DEN 3	Jørgen Svendsen	22
3	DEN 9	Thomas Mørup-Petersen	32
4	NED 80	Sander Willems	34
5	NED 780	Jan Willem Kok	53
6	NED 7	Cees Scheurwater	61
7	DEN 80	Michael Staal	61
8	DEN 231	Kenneth Bøggild	67
9	SWE 14	Stefan Nordström	87
10	DEN 262	Bo Teglers	95
11	NED 724	Stefan Marechal	101
12	NED 27	Paul Kamphorst	109
13	DEN 201	Nikolai Ratzlaff	112
14	DEN 1	Frank Hansen	112
15	DEN 6	Lars Hall	127
16	FIN 112	Seppo Ajanko	133
17	DEN 249	Svend Vogt	135
18	NED 11	Henk de Jager	140
19	DEN 10	Christian Stormark	142
20	SWE 59	Lars Edwall	142
21	DEN 210	Henrik Helmer	148
22	NED 704	Erik Verboom	161
23	DEN 258	Christian Qvist	166
24	DEN 140	Michael Bæk	178
25	SWE 111	Torsten Jarnstam	192
26	DEN 14	Jan Verner	192
27	DEN 77	Flemming Jensen	196
28	FIN 220	Risto Ajanko	199
29	DEN 192	Ole Blichfeldt Madsen	205
30	DEN 700	Jon Voetmann	207

31	DEN 220	Michael Nielsen	224
32	DEN 234	Matti Lintunen	230
33	DEN 18	Richard Berg-Larsen	249
34	GER 26	Willi Meister	252
35	GER 23	Otto Strandvig	271
36	DEN 771	Torben Sandø	276
37	NOR 6	Zelimir Saljic	287
38	DEN 246	Ane Zielinski	290
39	DEN 190	Daniel Apel	301
40	NED 836	Bart Kraan	307
41	DEN 13	Peter Mikkelsen	344
41	DEN 17	Lars Juel Christensen	344

Århus

1-2 of September

Richard Berg-Larsen writes: This was a fantastic regatta with about 250 boats on 4-5 race courses, and the Finns shared course with very different classes from A-Cats to Contenders, and OKs.

The wind was unfortunately from shore, which sailors who have raced off Århus knows means lots of shifts in both strength and direction, so that made problems for most of us. We did also have free pumping in most of the races as the wind was up, before the start, but frequently down on the downwind leg. The only real problem with the race was three showers for 250 sailors, which made me, and a few other sailors decide to leave the race course before the last race both days. That made it easy to find the trolley in peace and quiet, and to get a shower before the rush.

1	DEN 231	Kenneth Bøggild	9
2	DEN 6	Lars Hall	18
3	DEN 210	Henrik Elmer	21
4	DEN 249	Svend V Andersen	24
5	DEN 80	Michael Staal	25
6	DEN 258	Christian Qvist	31
7	DEN 192	Ole Blichfeldt Madsen	49
8	DEN 18	Richard Berg-Larsen	49

Retro Cup

Skovshoved, 16-17 September

On the Saturday we had very strong wind of 12-13 m/s, and only one race was sailed. 18 m/s were reported on the trip back to the harbour and nobody complained about getting back early, not least due the length of the race course which was really retro, i.e very long.

Sunday brought better weather, and four races were sailed before 1230. The weather forecast had warned about severe conditions again in the afternoon, and it was decided to start early and get finished before lunch. There was only a small number of entrants with Kaspar Andresen winning from Kenneth Bøggild, Lars Hall, Michael Staal and Jan Verner Nielsen.



ESTONIA



The Estonian Nationals were held in tough conditions with bad forecasts of cold weather, showers and light unstable winds.

Deniss Karpak once again made a good series with a 1-2-1-1-1-1. Second place was in a very hard and shifty race with an accident with Lauri Väinsalu, who fouled Karpak on the downwind mark. But Martti Kinkar was the luckiest and took first place.

1	EST 2	Deniss Karpak	5
2	EST 12	Martti Kinkar	10
3	EST 11	Lauri Väinsalu	13
4	RUS 1117	Andrew Bill	22
5	LTU 17	Sarunas Felenderis	26
6	EST 3	Heiko Eesalu	26
7	EST 1	Juhan Idnurm	33



FINLAND



Helsinki Olympics 1952

Matti Nirikko writes: 60 years ago the Finn fleet was racing at the Olympic Games in Helsinki. This year the Finnish Championship was sailed on the same water. The year of the FIN fleet kicked off at the Helsinki Boat Show where 60 years of Finn Olympic sailing was demonstrated by two boats: the original 1952 Olympic boat L-20 and the boat sailed at the Games in Beijing 2008. The wooden L-20 was sailed at the Helsinki Olympics by Norwegian Morits Skaugen to sixth position. All the 1952 boats were built by Borresen in Denmark. The owner of this wooden beauty is our secretary Jukka Alanne.



Strongly forward

The FIN fleet has had a great season with new sailors and new boats. At the beginning of this Olympiad there were only couple of boats, but now the number has increased to over 20. We are specially delighted that juniors have purchased boats and have started training in the Finn. The London Olympics Finn sailing with FIN flag flying up to the medal race with Tapio Nirikko, had good TV coverage and the Finn as a Olympic class became well known all over the country.

Regattas

The Finnish nationals were sailed in July with 13 boats. Gold and silver medals had great competition with Thomas Hacklin and Harri Kokko. For the bronze medal three men ended on equal points and finally Henry Koski took the medal home.



The FIN fleet wants to have more interaction with our neighbours and the Finnish Finns have participated in the Swedish and Danish national championships. In Sweden where Harri Kokko won the bronze medal we had seven sailors and in Denmark we had two sailors. Seppo Ajanko won series for over-60-year-old boys.

The Swedish championship regatta is also included in the Finnish ranking series, along with three local regattas. Harri Kokko was the overall Finnish Finn Ranking winner.



Finnish Championship 2012

Helsinki 30.6-1.7 2012

1	Thomas Hacklin	10
2	Harri Kokko	18
3	Henri Koski	38
4	Seppo Ajanko	38
5	Eki Heinonen	38
6	Jukka Alanne	43
7	Christian Stormark	44
8	Risto Ajanko	57
9	Jyrki Järvi	68
10	Mathias Tallberg	74

Finnish Finn Ranking 2012

1	Harri Kokko	11.8
2	Ville Valtonen	9.8
3	Thomas Hacklin	8.8
4	Seppo Ajanko	8.8
5	Henri Koski	8.6
6	Eki Heinonen	7.0
7	Risto Ajanko	6.6
8	Jukka Alanne	4.8
9	Tapio Nirikko	4.6
10	Joonatan Partinen	4.0
11	Mathias Tallberg	3.4
12	Christian Stormark	2.8
13	Jyrki Järvi	1.5
14	Ville Aalto-Setälä	1.4
15	Aleksi Lehtonen	1.3
16	Ronnie Roos	1.3
17	Jesse Kylänpää	1.3
18	Matti Lintunen	1.2
19	Jerker Skogström	1.2
20	Rick James	1.1
21	Simo Tunkelo	1.0

Photos: Boats sailed at Olympics 2008 vs 1952, Helsinki Boat Show 2012 • Finnish Championship 2012 (l-r) Henri Koski, Thomas Hacklin, Harri Kokko • Ranking winner, Silver in SWE and FIN Nationals, Harri Kokko

GERMANY



Andreas Bollongino writes: While other classes in Germany are suffering a notable decrease in active members, the German Finn Association is still growing.

We are gaining new Finn sailors from all areas of sailing. Six to seven years ago, we were gaining mainly in the Grandmaster-Class, attracting club fellows by showing them the advantages of the easy to maintain and easy to handle Finn. A few of those new entries made it into the German Ranking list, which requires to have sailed at least nine countable races. At this time the class decided to set up the Finn Team Germany to enable young sailors competing on international level. In the last two or three years, the structure of the 'newcomers' changed, and the new sailors at the Finn regattas in Germany are mainly very experienced racers coming from three different groups:

- 'Upcomers' from other classes who are now looking for a new challenge on a non-professional sailing level – typically former Laser sailors around 30 years old after

(i.e. Sebastian Schmid-Klügmann second Warnemünder- and Travemünder Sailing Week, second Kehraus Steinhude)

- 'Returners' who have been very successful Finn sailors a decade ago, and are now coming back into the class after they have realised that there were missing an important part of their life. Most of them are very good sailors and are enjoying then 'younger' master scene a lot. (i.e. Martin Hoffmann, away from the Finn about 12 years, first Travemünder Woche, eighth Steinhude in spring)
- 'Switchers who switched classes because the Finn is a brand for 'no-crew-hassle', lots of regattas, high quality sailing, growing fields, great comradeship, international fields. (i.e. Uli Breuer, third Masters 2011, fourth Masters 2012)

Basically it does not matter from which 'group' the newbie comes from, the 'established' Finnster can never be sure that these unknown faces will not be in front of him.

Since the development in a sailing class is a result of class activities undertaken maybe years ago, it is not easy to find out, why we the Finn class is still doing so good and other classes are suffering.

Was it the founding of the Finn-Team – Germany (which lead to a significant press awareness in Germany)? Was it because local Finn sailors are very engaged 'selling' their class to club fellows, or was it just the colourful design of boats and sails? Maybe it's altogether and we are the lucky ones to have the right combination.

A proof that this combination works – and that I am not exaggerating – is that the German Championship which will be held in October at Lake Starnberg in Bavaria has 111 sailor registrations. (The results can be seen in the next Finnfare.)

See you on the water
Bollo GER 19



GREECE



45th Balkan Open Sailing Championship
Galaxidi, Greece, 2-8 September 2012

The 2012 Balkan Championship was won by the reigning European Champion Ioannis Mitakis from Greece. Ten races were sailed in a beautiful area with all kinds of wind

conditions from 5-28 knots. Mitakis won eight races and didn't have to sail the final race. The other two races were won by Radostin Damianov and Haris Papadopolos.

1	GRE 77	Ioannis Mitakis	8
2	CYP 19	Haris Papadopolos	19
3	GRE 8	Alexandros Dragoutis	31
4	TUR 21	Alican Kaynar	36
5	BUL 855	Dimitar Vangelov	40

6	BUL 80	Anastas Petrov	43
7	GRE 71	Panagiotis Davourlis	48
8	BUL 8	Radostin Damianov	50
9	GRE 4	Panagiotis Kotsovos	57
10	GRE 14	Anastasios Katsimidis	74
11	SRB 110	Miliah Djokdjevic	75
12	GRE 7	Dimitrios Sofitsis	78
13	ITA 44 (BUL)	Atanas Kobarelov	99
14	ROU 89	Razvan Galateanu	100

HUNGARY



The 56th Hungarian Finn Championship was held this year at the home of the Finn Class in Hungary, which is at lake Velencei, Agárd, halfway between Budapest and Balaton, close to Székesfehérvár. Altogether 60 competitors from three countries attended the event.

The lake is quite small, therefore the competitors had to sail three laps on the up and down or triangle course. After the opening ceremony there was a short postponement due to strong winds, but it soon calmed down. The first race started with a north-westerly of around 15 knots. Unfortunately the temperatures were not so high and it was rainy, which was almost like the British summer. During the day, the wind speed gradually decreased, but for the last lap in the third race, it was blowing again above 10 knots. At the end of the day, Ian Ainslie was leading with three second places. The race wins went to Márton Beliczay, Zsombor Berecz and Gaszton Pál.

Next day the wind was a lot lighter, but the direction remained the same. The wind was trickier which made the races open until the last few metres. The conditions favoured Zsombor Berecz, who started his campaign in the Finn after two successful Olympic campaigns in the Laser. The sixth race was won by three times Olympic sailor Ian Ainslie, who remained in the lead. The class had the AGM that afternoon as well and decided that the Finn Nationals next year shall be at Balatonfüred.

For Saturday, the forecast said strong winds above 20 knots, but that only arrived in the last downwind on the second race. Until

then, the wind was very tricky and unstable, just under 10 knots. Since Zsombor Berecz won all three races that day, he had a six point lead over Ian Ainslie. Márton Beliczay was the third with Gaszton Pál and Attila Szilvássy on equal points.

On the last day, there was almost no wind, but some breeze appeared on the lake which looked promising. Before the start Ian and Zsombor were match racing, which looked very exciting. The wind was really gusty and shifty which made the race open until the last metres. Gaszton Pál won the race in front of Zsombor Berecz, which meant Zsombi won his second Finn national title after 2005. Second place went to Ian Ainslie, third to Gaszton Pál. In the juniors fleet Elemér Haidekker won the regatta, while in the masters fleet, Ian Ainslie. Next year the Nationals will be at Balatonfüred, the scheduled date is September 12-15.

1	HUN 40	Zsombor Berecz	12
2	RSA 1	Ian Ainslie	21
3	HUN 6	Gaszton Pál	34
4	HUN 8	Márton Beliczay	35
5	HUN 211	Attila Szilvássy	41
6	HUN 5	Tibor Pallay	60
7	HUN 88	Zsombor Majthényi	63
8	HUN 270	Géza Huszár	66
9	HUN 7	Antal Székely	73
10	CZE 21	Cajcik Jan	79
11	HUN 101	Gergely Rick	89
12	HUN 50	Ákos Lukáts	89
13	HUN 127	Péter Haidekker	110
14	HUN 728	Elemér Haidekker	110
15	HUN 18	Mihály Demeczky	113
16	SVK 15	Sopuch Slavomir	117
17	HUN 75	Örs Németh	118
18	HUN 1	Péter Sipos	124
19	HUN 41	Zoltán Bartos	134
20	HUN 10	Richárd Hirschler	137
21	HUN 55	Dávid Schömer	145

22	SVK 5	Kapral Mateo	147
23	HUN 3	Gábor Büki	184
24	HUN 524	László Taubert	186
25	HUN 73	Zsolt Büki	201
26	HUN 69	Csaba Stadler	210
27	SVK 101	Vanicky Dusan	211
28	NZL 1	Zoltán Kovács	211
29	HUN 51	István Rutai	212
30	HUN 16	József Jung	213
31	HUN 511	Ádám Héjj	216
32	HUN 20	Bence Sipos	224
33	HUN 82	András Csonka	245
34	HUN 143	László Wehovszky	245
35	HUN 24	Egon Pay'r	250
36	HUN 95	József Farkas	253
37	HUN 9	Tamás Beliczay	260
38	HUN 99	Tamás Sváby	287
39	HUN 112	Bence Dénes	297
40	HUN 19	Márton Kovács	303
41	HUN 21	László Zsidó	303
42	HUN 20	Péter Elek	305
43	HUN 70	Márton Szendröl	309
44	HUN 961	Attila Varga	321
45	HUN 171	Marcell Dániel	328
46	HUN 26	Szilárd Zsitvay	329
47	HUN 972	Gyula Mónus	337
48	HUN 31	Miklós Meilinger	343
49	HUN 2	Dr. Kávássy Árpád	344
50	HUN 64	Balázs Szücs	369
51	HUN 2068	István Kellényi	373
52	HUN 121	Péter Kalmár	388
53	HUN 28	Dr. Ugron Gáspár	398
54	HUN 85	Attila Madzin	417
55	HUN 81	Imre Solymosy	419
56	HUN 111	Kristóf Ferenczy	431
57	HUN 1144	János Kovács	439
58	HUN 743	Zoltán Balla	468
59	HUN 1879	Attila Dömötör	470
60	HUN 201	Mátyás Fehér	490



ITALY



Italian Open Championship

The Italian Championship was held in Scarlino from September 22 to 25 in perfect conditions. A steady south-easterly from 12 to 18 knots allowed all the eight scheduled races to be sailed.

The fight was tough but fair between Giorgio Poggi and Filippo Baldassari, who shared first and second places in all races. It was a real match race, and it was Giorgio who managed to score five bullets and win his fifth Italian title. It was probably an anticipation of the battle for Olympic selection in four years time.

Third was Riccardo Cordovani, back in the Finn after one year spent coaching Lasers. Fourth place went to the Junior Umberto De Luca, a former Laser sailor from Lake Garda, who made his debut on the Finn at the Championship and immediately showed a great potential.



1	ITA 117	Giorgio Poggi	9
2	ITA 1	Filippo Baldassari	11
3	ITA 101	Riccardo Cordovani	21
4	ITA 212	Umberto De Luca	28
5	ITA 985	Federico Laici	32
6	ITA 6	Enrico Passoni	53
7	ITA 11	Paolo Cisbani	57
8	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	60
9	ITA 5	Francesco Cinque	63
10	ITA 1000	Francesco Grigolon	76

Italian Master Championship

Anzio offered three nice sunny days for the Italian Master Championship at the beginning of September. Light steady winds in the 6-12 range and plenty of fun for the 38 Masters participating. Michael Gubi, one of the best sailors from Austria and Grand Master World Champion in 2010 was a very welcome guest.



After seven races sailed it was Enrico Passoni who won for the second consecutive time the Master title on equal points with Francesco Cinque, who was very consistent but could win only one race.

Third was Michael Gubi, winner of race 5, and fourth Marco Buglielli who scored two bullets but had a couple of bad races.

The Grand Grand Master champion for the fifth time in a row was Franco Dazzi, seventh overall and very fast in the light winds, as was his rival Antonio Pitini who scored a bullet in the first race.

Two Legends were present and Marco Petroni confirmed his title winning from Martino Rossi Doria from Bracciano.

1	ITA 6	Enrico Passoni	14
2	ITA 5	Francesco Cinque	14
3	AUT 7	Michael Gubi	17
4	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	24
5	ITA 4	Francesco Faggiani	36
6	ITA 60	Riccardo de Sangro	49
7	ITA 9	Franco Dazzi	51
8	ITA 67	Gino Bucciarelli	52
9	ITA 23	Umberto Grumelli	58
10	ITA 7	Antonio Pitini	59

Coppa Italia 2012

The sixth event of Coppa Italia Finn 2012 took place in Porto San Giorgio on June 30 and July 1 with 26 Finns.

Three races were sailed on the first day in light winds, which favoured Marco Buglielli who scored two first and a sixth place. The local Girolamo Emiliani won the remaining race in style, leading from the first mark to the finish. Unfortunately on Sunday the wind didn't cooperate and no races were sailed, leaving Marco Buglielli at the top of the leaderboard (1-6-1), followed by Giorgio Poggi (5-3-4), Marko Kolic (3-2-5), Federico Laici (6-4-6) and Enrico Passoni (4-8-2).

The Saturday evening dinner prepared on the beach by the local Finn sailors guided by Fabio Panaro and Luca Taruschio was memorable.

The last Coppa Italia event will be sailed in Malcesine at the beginning of October at the International Finn Cup - Trofeo Andrea Menoni. The fight for the title will be harsh, with Simone Mancini leading by a small three points margin on Marko Kolic and Federico Laici who trails by another 15 points.

Coppa Italia Finn is supported by a pool of sponsors that offer their products for the final prizegiving: Grappa Bertagnolli, Quantum Sail Design Group, 3FL Saildesign, HitechSailing.com, Magic Marine-Tomasoni Fittings, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Essemarine, Residence Ca' del Lago, Azienda agricola Valpanera, Hotel Piccolo Malcesine.

1	ITA 19	Simone Mancini	631
2	ITA 40	Marko Kolic	628
3	ITA 985	Federico Laici	613
4	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	545
5	ITA 4	Francesco Faggiani	468
6	ITA 37	Paolo Visoni	468
7	ITA 872	Nicola Menoni	448
8	ITA 9	Franco Dazzi	347
9	ITA 917	Ettore Thermes	338
10	ITA 23	Umberto Grumelli	305



Photos by Marina Prinziavalli

NETHERLANDS



Ronald Ruiter writes: After the last Finnfare we continued our season with the **Vrijbouter in Loosdrecht**. With 40 boats competing, it was a great regatta at our Finn Home Loosdrecht. Karel van Hellemond won, followed by Thierry van Vierssen and Ewout Meijer.

1	NED 41	Karel van Hellemond	5
2	NED 881	Thierry van Vierssen	13
3	NED 66	Ewout Meijer	14
4	NED 11	Henk de Jager	25
5	NED 922	Roel van Olst	28
6	NED 703	Eric Bakker	29
7	NED 100	Arend van der Sluis	31
8	NED 88	Chiel Barends	40
9	NED 35	Bas Proper	41
10	NED 74	Alle Wijnand Roodbergen	42



6	NED 77	Jan Jaap Lamme	14
7	NED 820	Hennie van den Brink	16
8	NED 900	Leo Meijaard	17
9	NED 72	Lacus-Jan Groenhout	19
10	NED 860	Loek Kruijer	20

The first week in August we always sail **Sneekweek**. This is one of Holland's biggest sailing events. With over 600 boats

from Holland and Belgium competed. For the first time in years this event had many competitors. So this is really a recommendation for next year.

1	NED 787	Nanno Schuttrups	6
2	NED 841	Hein van Egmond	9
3	NED 870	Jan Willem Kok	18
4	NED 27	Paul Kamphorst	23
5	NED 43	Chris Frijdal	24
6	NED 11	Henk de Jager	27
7	NED 100	Arend van der Sluis	39
8	NED 962	Jan Bart	47
9	NED 942	Maarten Bart	52
10	NED 18	Johan van Straalen	52
11	NED 22	Peter Hubregtsen	55
12	NED 45	Bas Weijman	56
13	NED 896	Ad Hermus	58
14	NED 912	Peter Verseveldt	61
15	NED 895	Jan-Tjeerd v der Meulen	61
16	BEL 76	Paul Goossens	76
17	BEL 77	Joel Gladly	79
18	NED 51	Maarten Oberman	81



For the first time in a few years we had a Dutch competitor in the Silver Cup. Tijmen van Rootselaar, only 17 years old, and only 76 kg, was competing in France. We were very proud of his two ninth places on day three and his 18th place overall. And this is only the start.

In Loosdrecht there is almost never a weekend without sailing. So we went on with the **Loosdrechtweek**, which is in fact a Loosdrecht weekend. With 30 boats and very light winds, only two races were sailed on Saturday. On Sunday the wind was totally gone so nothing changed. Ewout Meijer won, followed by Wouter Molenaar and Karel van Hellemond. Relatively new Finn sailor, Robert Thole surprised with a great fourth place.

1	NED 66	Ewout Meijer	3
2	NED 2	Wouter Molenaar	7
3	NED 41	Karel van Hellemond	10
4	NED 965	Robert Thole	11
5	NED 777	Albert Kroon	11

in more than 30 classes on a relative small lake, it really is a great experience. 22 Finn sailors sailed during six days. It was close racing, with at least four boats able to win the series in the last race. Ronald Ruiter started with a three points lead, but lost the victory to Tijmen van Rootselaar in the last 300 meters to the finish. It's Tijmen's first win in a national event, but certainly many to follow. After the second race we all watched the medal race of the Olympics, which was breathtaking for us. We all are very proud of PJ and his fourth place and him going for gold in the last phase of the race. PJ, you're a great inspiration to us Dutch Finn sailors.

1	NED 94	Tijmen Van Rootselaar	14
2	NED 67	Ronald Ruiter	15
3	NED 958	Bart Brijder	16
4	NED 1	Jan Van Der Horst	22
5	NED 76	Klaas Bood	23
6	NED 703	Stodd Schraffordt	25
7	NED 6	Rob De Cocq	39
8	NZL 1	S.R. Van Rootselaar	42
9	NED 833	Michel Miltenburg	47
10	NED 891	Ronald Van Klooster	47



19	NED 26	Peter van Veen	82
20	BEL 14	Michiel Missiaen	86
21	NED 749	Dick Hooijer	93
22	NED 771	Ronald de Haan	102
23	NED 48	Boudewijn Kortbeek	104
24	BEL 9	Christophe Benoit	116

Reaching the end of August, we even had two events in one weekend. Our second biggest fleet, WV Randmeer organised the **Randmeerrace**. 36 sailors had six great races, a great après sailing programme and a great hospitality. Bas de Waal won the Randmeer race for the second time in a row. He was followed by local hero Jelte Baerends and Tijmen van Rootselaar.

1	NED 29	Bas de Waal	6
2	NED 69	Jelte Baerends	13
3	NED 94	Tijmen van Rootselaar	21
4	NED 912	Peter Verseveldt	24
5	NED 55	Eddy Huisman	26
6	NED 67	Ronald Ruiter	35
7	NED 1	Arwin Karssemeijer	39
8	NED 81	Gerko Visser	41
9	NED 76	Klaas Bood	48
10	NED 10	Nanne Boot	49

In Loosdrecht, **Het Witte Huis**, had their **Club Championships**. With 10 sailors and very long courses, Albert Kroon won just before Robert Thole and Henk de Jager. Next year, we hope not to separate our fleet again.

1	NED 777	Albert Kroon	8
2	NED 965	Tobert Thole	11
3	NED 11	Henk de Jager	11
4	NED 2	Wouter Molenaar	16
5	NED 963	Paul Douze	18



Traditionally a lot of Dutch sailors also sailed in Denmark and Sweden. Almost ten of us joined their national championships, but we are sure our fellow Finn sailors from Denmark and Sweden will tell us more about their result on their local pages.

A few weeks after Sneekweek, the **Benelux Championships** were held. 24 sailors

POLAND

Polish Yachting Association Cup, Puck

Puck is located in the north of Poland close to Gdynia and Sopot. Piotr Kula dominated the seven races. The event was also the qualification for the main international events. This year, Piotr Kula, with the Olympic qualification already in his pocket, showed his great potential during his last competition in Poland before Weymouth.

1	POL 17	Piotr Kula
2	POL 7	Rafał Szukiel
3	POL 9	Tomasz Kosmicki
4	POL 1	Miłosz Wojewski
5	POL 13	Michał Jodłowski
6	POL 8	Lukasz Lesinski
7	POL 11	Paweł Maląg
8	POL 5	Paweł Karłowski
9	POL 19	Tomasz Mikulski
10	POL 30	Marek Michalski



Warsaw Cup 2012, 9-10 June

Warsaw Cup is a new event organised together with Laser and Europa classes. Zegrze Lake is a well known sailing area in Warsaw. After awesome days of sailing the winner was Piotr Mazur who was back in the class, after collecting experience in other sailing classes. Piotr showed his determination this year. The fight for second place won Piotr Pajor, one point ahead of Jeremi Zimny – our new young sailor who came directly from Europe class.

1	POL 10	Piotr Mazur
2	POL 23	Piotr Pajor
3	POL 9	Jeremi Zimny
4	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
5	POL 21	Jacek Binkowski
6	BN	Jakub Reszka
7	POL 1	Paweł Karłowski
8	POL 30	Marek Michalski
9	POL 34	Stanisław Wieteska
10	POL 127	Jan Kominek

After all sailors participated in the Polish Finn Association General Meeting of Members. The new management of Polish Finn Association for 2012-2014: President: Jan Okulicz; Secretary: Piotr Pajor; Treasurer: Bogusław Nowakowski; Finn Class Coach: Dariusz Czapski; Member of the board: Rafał Szukiel; Member of the board: Michał Jodłowski.

Timberland Nord Cup 2012, June 29-July 1
New for Finn, but a very famous event for many other sailing classes in Poland, was organised in Gdansk. This year the Finn

class was there and despite little wind we showed our two-waves-sign for everybody.

1	POL 23	Piotr Pajor
2	POL 21	Jacek Binkowski
3	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
4	POL 19	Tomasz Mikulski
5	BNN	Marek Krause
6	POL 24	Jan Okulicz Kozaryn

Sopot Finn Cup 2012, 26-27 August

Sopot is a very important sailing area for Polish Masters, especially ahead of World Masters in 2014. This is why almost every time Polish Finn sailors go to Sopot for competition. This year three younger sailors won in different weather conditions. Miłosz Wojewski won from Jeremi Zimny and Lukasz Lesinski.

1	POL 1	Miłosz Wojewski
2	POL 22	Jeremi Zimny
3	POL 8	Lukasz Lesinski
4	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
5	POL 21	Jacek Binkowski
6	POL 23	Piotr Pajor
7	POL 19	Tomasz Mikulski
8	POL 41	Jakub Reszka
9	POL 75	Marek Krause
10	POL 216	Paweł Wasylkowski

Open Polish Masters Championship

Charzykowy, 1-2 September

The Open Polish Masters Championship was sailed at small Lake Charzykowy close to Chojnice. The choice of venue, two years before World Masters Championship in Sopot was done because of general plan to popularise Finn sailing in Poland. Typically for small lake in different weather conditions, only seven races were races. Bogusław Nowakowski took five races and won overall. Second, Jarosław Wojewski, a great local sailor finished ahead of Piotr Pajor. Next year the championship will be hosted by Sopot as a prelude to 2014 World Masters.

1	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
2	POL 1	Jarosław Wojewski
3	POL 23	Piotr Pajor
4	POL 12	Andre Skarka
5	POL 21	Jacek Binkowski
6	POL 75	Marek Krause
7	POL 30	Marek Michalski
8	POL 37	Mariusz Swistelnicki
9	POL 19	Tomasz Mikulski
10	POL 13	Jan Okulicz Kozaryn

Academic Polish Championship 2012

Gdansk, Górki Zachodnie 14-16 September

Our younger sailors have their own event too. Piotr Kula had his first event after Olympics. No surprise that he won almost all races and showed his good preparation this season.

1	POL 1	Piotr Kula
2	POL 13	Michał Jodłowski
3	POL 1	Maciej Maląg
4	POL 1	Miłosz Wojewski
5	POL 22	Jeremi Zimny
6	POL 666	Tomasz Wieteska
7	POL 111	Paweł Karłowski
8	POL 41	Jakub Reszka
9	POL 131	Marek Wojdakowski

NEW ZEALAND



Waiuku Winter Championships

Waiuku YC, 1-2 September 2012

Ray Hall writes: This summer is shaping up to be the busiest yet for the NZ Finn fleet with 10 regattas planned for both the North and South Islands including the addition of the Hurricane Classic in Wellington. This increase in activity is a reflection of the continued growth in the Finn Fleet here. Seven new Devotis have been imported into NZ and new sailors have joined the class from various sources creating a very competitive landscape.



The Waiuku Winter Championships over the weekend 1-2 September was the first of these regattas and the 13 boats that turned out for the event so early in the season is evidence of this growth in numbers and interest.

Saturday provided a 12-15 knot north easterly with shifts of up to 40 degrees and gusts punishing those not paying attention. We had the pleasure of hosting Matt Coutts for the two days and he reinforced his reputation as NZ's best Finn sailor currently (now that Dan is in retirement). Day one didn't go all Matt's way with a 1,1,2 result. The second in race 3 was inflicted by Ray Hall. Day 2 dawned with the a stiffening 20-25 knot north-easterly. The first race sorted the fleet out quickly with a number returning to shore. Matt proceeded to show a clean transom winning all three races. Ray nipped at his heels to keep him honest.

1	Matt Coutts	5
2	Ray Hall	9
3	Dave Hoogenboom	21
4	Royce Hawkins	22
5	Dirch Andersen	23
6	Mark Perrow	32
7	Matt Butterfield	44
8	John Duff	48
9	Alan Dawson	49
10	Gerrit Bearda	51
11	Brian Sanderson	52
12	Jim Goodare	54
13	Kevin Stone	63





Open Russian 2012

On September 2nd a fleet of 100 new Finns prepared to start at Moscow Sailing School. But this time it was not the start of a race, but of the prizegiving ceremony. The boats were built by the famous Russian national factory Gzhel as a prize for every participant of the Open Russian 2012.

The Open Russian Finn Association championship attracted 69 sailors from 14 areas and cities of Russia, and from abroad. The youngest sailor was just 14 years old (Ivan Kupovykh from St. Petersburg) while the oldest one – Victor Kozlov was 78 in September. Some foreign sailors like Lennart Luttkus from Germany came to Moscow to train with his Russian friends as well as to prepare for the International University Sailing Cup, next year in Moscow. Another sailor from Byelorussia, Kontantin Lashuk, has moved from Minsk to Moscow to have good practice in competition every day since the Moscow Finn fleet has a very intensive regatta calendar.

The Open Russian included three other competitions: the junior championship, masters championship and the Russian National University Sailing Championship. 20 juniors struggled for the main prize – a new sail (presented by the Russian Finn Association to support talented juniors).

Eduard Skorniyakov came to the regatta from the Olympics to share his experience with other sailors as well as to train in a big



fleet in the lake conditions. Not only him, but many other talented Russian sailors formed a very strong fleet with 25-30 sailors in with a chance to be in the top 10.

The regatta was four days of fleet racing, with 12 races, and one day for the medal race. The organisers and competitors got lucky with windy conditions across whole regatta with a northerly wind of 10-20 knots, gusting 25. The competition developed with instant intrigue as the leaders changed every day. A junior Andrey Yanitskiy led after day one, while next day he had to pass it to another junior Arkady Kistanov. Later the senior sailors took over and Skorniyakov moved into first place.

Skorniyakov showed his class in the lake conditions and won three races on the last day. He built up big margin, which was enough to take the Gold before the medal race. The medal race was a very tough struggle. Egor Terpigoriev won the race over Yanitskiy and Konstantin Lashuk.



1	RUS 6/H	Eduard Skorniyakov	36
2	RUS 87	Konstantin Besputin	54
3	RUS 6	Arkadiy Kistanov	71
4	RUS 14	Dmitriy Tereshkin	77
5	RUS 1	Victor Fillipov	79
6	RUS 57	Egor Terpigoriev	82
7	RUS 711	Dmitriy Petrov	85
8	BLR 12	Konstantin Lashuk	92
9	RUS 91	Vyacheslav Sivenkov	96
10	RUS 111	Andrey Yanitskiy	105
11	GER 64	Lennart Luttkus	110
12	RUS 41	Felix Denikaev	120
13	RUS 77	Igor Khoroshilov	126
14	RUS 61	Vadim Volovik	131

15	RUS 27	Denis Kotlyarov	141
16	RUS 161	Alexander Kulykin	141
17	RUS 171	Alexander Kravchenko	156
18	RUS 17	Vasily Kravchenko	160
19	RUS 34	Alexander Kasatov	161
20	RUS 131	Alexandr Laukhtin	175
21	RUS 1117	Bill Andrey	206
22	RUS 5	Sergey Zabotin	213
23	RUS 23	Sergey Akulinichev	227
24	RUS 3	Alexey Borovyak	232
25	RUS 21	Vladimir Butenko	237
26	RUS 51	Michail Petriga	240
27	RUS 13	Alexey Marchevskiy	244
28	RUS 31	Igor Frolov	249
29	RUS 29	Artur Kotlyarov	258
30	RUS 205	Sergey Stepanov	272
31	RUS 169	Dmitriy Akhramenko	285
32	RUS 25	Anatoliy Voschenikov	291
33	RUS 71	Leonid Klyaiman	297
34	RUS 496	Georgiy Gramatchikov	297
35	RUS 69	Denis Kharitonov	303
36	RUS 1111	Alexey Petrov	318
37	RUS 142	Yuriy Polovinkin	321
38	RUS 181	Kirill Bazuev	330
39	RUS 58	Alexandr Shutovskiy	334
40	RUS 7	Alexander Novikov	338
41	UKR 555	Alexander Fotev	340
42	RUS 168	Kharitonov Nikolay	355
43	RUS 141	Mikhail Bykov	385
44	RUS 55	Ivan Zabotin	388
45	RUS 581	Dmitriy Bykov	394
46	RUS 751	Victor Potapov	406
47	RUS 174	Pavel Selivanov	411
48	RUS 15	Gleb Slobodov	412
49	RUS 8	Evgeniy Elfimov	416
50	RUS 22	Nikolay Timoshenkov	429
51	RUS 739	Michail Korchagin	458
52	RUS 46	Nikolay Bobrov	458
53	RUS 88	Alexander Anan'ev	465
54	ITA 212	Lanfranco Cirillo	474
55	RUS 729	Evgeniy Kalmykov	488
56	RUS 28	Victor Kozlov	494
57	RUS 707	Alexander Eliseev	499
58	RUS 45	Artem Kalganov	504
59	RUS 81	Alexander Sokolov	506
60	RUS 151	Il'ya Vorontsov	513
61	RUS 18	Evgeniy Dzhura	538
62	RUS 11	Valentin Danilov	546
63	RUS 30	Ivan Kupovykh	564
64	UKR 4	Maksim Novikov	610
65	RUS 777	Victor Potapov	621
66	RUS 771	Andrey Berezhnov	633
67	KGZ 69	Sergey Razumov	657
68	UKR 2	Pavel Kraynev	700
69	RUS 504	Yuriy Bogdanov	700



[Russia, cont.] Overall Konstantin Besputin saved his second position while Dmitriy Tereshkin lost third to Arkadiy Kistanov.

Arkadiy Kistanov also took the Russian national junior championship and Russian national university championship. His successes across the whole season gives him the lead of the Andrey Balashov Cup as well. (Donated in 2010, it scores all internal Russian regatta results.)

A big struggle developed in the masters, and this time the defender, Igor Khoroshilov, lost his title to Felix Denikaev. Yury Polivinkin won the Grand-Grand-Masters category, Felix Denikaev won the Grand-Masters, while Vasiliy Kravchenko was the first Master.

In summary, the Open Russian has become a traditional annual big festival of the Finn class. It attracts more and more people

every year. There is a big response to this event in Russian regions and we foresee more than 75 competitors next year. Moscow Sailing School together with Russian Finn Association provide unique conditions for charter, accommodation and meals, while Klyzminskoye lake near Moscow presents unique conditions. We will be glad to see sailors from other countries next year. Open Russian 2013 is planned for September 3-8.

SWITZERLAND

Steckborn Regatta 2012

August 25-26

Three perfect races on Saturday with force 2-4 and three hard core races on Sunday with force 6-7 – and all that in warm summer weather. What else do you need for a perfect weekend? Beat Heinz won all three races on Sunday and also was the overall winner, followed by Boris Kulpe and Jean Pierre Weber.

1	SUI 55	Beat Heinz	8
2	SUI 28	Boris Kulpe	11
3	SUI 69	Jean Pierre Weber	21
4	SUI 41	Peter Röstli	23
5	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	29
6	SUI 11	Hans Fatzer	33
7	SUI 63	Thomas Gautschi	35
8	SUI 4	Jiri Huracek	38
9	SUI 17	Lukas Schenk	41



Swiss Sailing Week 2012

Sept. 5 -9, Estavayer-Le-Lac, Lake Neuchatel
The Swiss Sailing Federation organises a centralised Swiss championship every four years. The 2012 edition took place on Lake Neuchatel in western Switzerland. More than 200 boats in eight classes participated – among them 30 Finns.

The weather forecast predicted decreasing winds so the first day with a steady easterly breeze was used to sail three races. After a few years with only occasional Finn sailing Christoph Burger was back on the water in a brand new Finn. And it was a comeback in convincing style – three races with three wins. The usual suspects for the podium Christoph Christen and Peter Theurer couldn't keep up and had to settle for second and third place.

The next three days were mainly spent waiting on shore or on the water. Luckily a fourth race in very light winds could be sailed to validate the championship. The winner was Stefan Kreiss from Germany. Nothing changed in the top three and when the championship was closed on Sunday at noon Christoph Burger was celebrating his well-deserved first Swiss title.

The Swiss Finn class was very happy to welcome some new sailors among them Piet and Jan Eckert, Olympic sailors in the Flying Dutchman in 1992. They both sailed an excellent championship finishing fifth and seventh, while Xavier Rohart a former Finn sailor won the Star class in convincing style.

1	SUI 7	Christoph Burger	3
2	SUI 5	Christoph Christen	9
3	SUI 67	Peter Theurer	10
4	GER 65	Stefan Kreiss	12
5	SUI 86	Piet F. Eckert	12
6	GER 8	Jürgen Eiermann	13
7	SUI 85	Jan Eckert	19
8	SUI 71	Beat Aebischer	22
9	SUI 55	Beat U. Heinz	24
10	SUI 28	Boris Kulpe	25
11	SUI 63	Thomas Gautschi	25

12	GER 28	Christian Kühlwein	27
13	SUI 12	Franz Bürgi	36
14	SUI 11	Hans Fatzer	42
15	SUI 80	Jan Fischer	43
16	SUI 13	Peter Kilchenmann	44
17	SUI 70	Andreas Fürer	47
18	SUI 41	Peter Röstli	51
19	SUI 87	Hans-Peter Kistler	54
20	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari	54
21	SUI 4	Jiri Huracek	55
22	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	56
23	SUI 94	Andreas Friderich	59
24	SUI 64	Roland Frigo	61
25	SUI 29	Hans Althaus	67
26	SUI 21	Bernhard Krienbühl	69
27	GER 50	Jürgen Rauch	69
28	FRA 74	Jean Louis Duret	75
29	SUI 82	Lukas Schenk	76
30	SUI 69	Jean Pierre Weber	81



USA / CANADA



California Lake Championship

July 2012, Huntington Lake, California
Charles Heimler writes: Henry Sprague, Erik Liddecis, and Darrell Peck took the podium spots at this year's regatta which has a 50 year history of consistent winds at 7,000 foot elevation on a California Sierra Nevada mountain lake.

The event has been a perennial success in its current form, having been revived by the Finn Club of California. Next year's event scheduled for late July is already in the planning and will be part of the new California Olympic Finn Championship Series, culminating in the US National Championships on the America's Cup course on San Francisco Bay.

Sprague has sailed this lake many times over the course of his 50-year Finn career, and has an uncanny knack to find the shortcuts. Liddecis is having a burst of successful Finn outings, parlaying some expert coaching by Ed Wright into some blazing downwind speed. Peck, holder of more Finn regattas than any North American Finn sailor, is still on the money, even after a hiatus to coach Olympic hopefuls.

North American Championship

August 2012, CORK, Kingston, Canada.
Greg Douglas, lately Canada's Olympic representative in the London Games, and Martin Robitaille, Quebec's young adult sailor who in July won the Junior Silver Cup World Finn Championship, took until the last race of a 14 race series to decide



the win in favour of Douglas when the "O" conditions light was turned on for the last downwind leg.

The regatta this year was a homecoming for both Douglas and Robitaille as they have sailed these waters at this time of year in the CORK regatta, the capstone of each year's Canadian summer season, since their Optimist Dinghy and Laser Days. Perennial Finn maven American Darrell Peck, twenty years senior to the young Canadian, earned the bronze while American Gordon Lamphere of the US Sailing Development Team was fourth.

Kingston had typical conditions with wind, sun, and nice water for the best time in a decade. The famous Lake Ontario sea breeze generated by the heat of the limestone quarries north of the city generated winds of 12-18 knots for all but one race. New to this year was the Stadium Course near the harbour seawall, an innovation developed by the CORK organisers to introduce spectator viewing.

1	CAN	Greg Douglas	23
2	CAN 110	Martin Robitaille	24
3	USA 10	Darrell Peck	51
4	USA 21	Gordon Lamphere	53
5	USA 505	Erik Liddecis	72
6	USA 53	Ben Leibowitz	75
7	NZL 9	Rob Coutts	92
8	CAN 41	Rob Hemming	94
9	USA 74	Henry Sprague	116
10	CAN 11	Jim Cameron	133
11	USA 1000	Stephen Smeulders	138
12	CAN 4	Iain Wilson	142
13	USA 40	Chuck Rudinsky	161

14	USA 81	Joshua Revkin	181
15	USA 99	Stephen Fuccillo	185
16	FRA 126	Fabien Capeilleres	186
17	USA 32	Charles Heimler	204
18	USA 975	August Miller	210

Toilet Bowl Regatta (13 entries)

Willow Bank YC, Cazenovia Lake, NY
Sailed in light and shifty conditions, eight fantastic races, five capsizes and steak for everyone.

1	USA 21	Gordon Lamphere	10
2	USA 10	Darrell Peck	14
3	USA 40	Chuck Rudinsky	20
4	USA 11	Jim Cameron	21
5	USA 81	Josh Revkin	25
6	USA 1139	AJ Murphy	28
7	FRA 126	Fabien Capeilleres	41
8	USA 111	Thomas Shaw	42
9	USA 975	Gus Miller	45
10	USA 1146	Steve Burrell	62

Labor Day Regatta

Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

The Labor Day Regatta was sailed by a very small fleet this year but it was still great fun packed weekend. There were sunny skies, warm temperatures and classic summertime breeze of 18-20 in the first two races on Saturday making for brilliant Finn sailing conditions. The Finnsters had to hike hard and surf the Cali swells well. On Sunday the Finnsters all stumbled back, still sore from the day before, and the wind gods did not disappoint and another classic Southern Cali day was had by all. Racing on Sunday was followed by adult beverages and good food ashore.

1	USA 505	Eric Liddecis
2	NZL 9	Rob Coutts
3	USA 74	Henry Sprague



Major Finn regattas 2012-2014

2-8/12/2012	ISAF Sailing World Cup Melbourne	Melbourne, Australia
13-16/12/2012	Sail Sydney	Sydney, Australia
17-22/12/2012	Palamos Christmas Race	Palamos, Spain
7-11/1/2013	Australian National Championship	Cronulla SC, Sydney
26/1-1/2	ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami	Miami, USA
1-5/2	Sail Auckland	Akrana YC, Auckland, New Zealand
8-11/2	New Zealand Nationals	Takapuna, New Zealand
8-10/2	US Midwinters	Ft. Lauderdale, USA
12-15/2	Semaine Internationale de Cannes	Cannes, France
8-10/3	North American Masters	Ft. Lauderdale, USA
13-17/3	Split Olympic Sailing Week	Split, Croatia
29-31/3	North American Championships	Mobile, USA
30/3-6/4	ISAF Sailing World Cup Palma	Palma de Majorca, Spain
19-26/4	ISAF Sailing World Cup Hyeres	Hyeres, France
17-25/5	FINN WORLD MASTERS	La Rochelle, France
22-30/6	Kiel Week	Kiel, Germany
19-27/7	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP	Warnemunde, Germany
tbc/7	SILVER CUP	Lake Garda, Italy
23-31/8	FINN GOLD CUP	Tallinn, Estonia

More details and regatta links can be found on www.sailing.org or on www.finnclass.org
Please check all details before travelling as dates can change at short notice.

Future Championships

2014

1-15/9 (tbc)	Finn Gold Cup	Santander, Spain
tbc	Europeans	La Rochelle, France
6-13/6	World Masters	Sopot, Poland

2015

Europeans – possible combined Olympic classes championship.
Finn Gold Cup – Bids received from New Zealand and France.



Photo: Richard Langdon/Oceanimages.co.uk

MAXX Your Performance

Congratulations to Jon Lobert for a well deserved bronze. Four sails out of ten in the Medal Race were yellow MAXX-sails from WB. Proven performance at top level combined with exceptional durability.

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