

FINAL RESULTS:

Men / Women

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RACEBOARD

2nd - 7th September 2013



One of the biggest Raceboard World Championships of recent times with a near record entry of 110 competitors and the first major windsurfing championships to be hosted in the Czech Republic; World Champion Max Wojcik, who stormed the 2012 Worlds in Finland, was back to defend his title, along with Slovakian Patrik Pollak, 2011 Champion.

The 2013 Raceboard World Championships had an impressive start. A great flag ceremony opened the event followed by a dinner with traditional Moravian music to accompany the meal along with free beer and local wines.

A full day of racing on day 1 - The men were divided into groups - blue and yellow - for a qualifying series before going into gold and silver groups for Championship titles.

At the morning briefing Principal Race Office, Jan Blahonovsky, advised competitors of difficult racing conditions, at least for the first part of the day, with strong winds and sudden gusts expected. That is exactly what happened during the morning session - two races 'back to back' in winds between 14 and 28 knots. A third of the men's fleet remained ashore and only 3 women were able to complete the 2 races. However, after the break the majority of the fleet were able to complete the 2 'back to back' races scheduled for the afternoon.



The qualifying series for the men ensured a close contest at the top. Leading the way were past and current world champions - Patrik Pollak (Slovakia) and Max Wojcik (Poland) with 3 race wins each. Another race winner, Petr Kucera jr from the Czech Republic, was in 3rd place but not far behind was the chasing pack of top raceboarders from Great Britain, Argentina, Spain, France, and Portugal - no less than 8 countries represented in the top 10. The men's fleet would be reseeded into new groups for racing on day 2.

Over in the women's fleet Jana Silvova had a clear lead over fellow Czech Martina Hrubá; however the last 2 races of the day were won by Vita Matise, also a world champion, who struggled in the morning session but was able to master the lighter conditions later in the day.

Two days with no wind for racing

Two days of no wind meant no racing. However, the organisers ensured full days of entertainment: a series of SUP races with the support of one of the many sponsors lined up for this event - many thanks to Patrik Hrdina and Jan Rott, representing the Paddle Shop Praha (Prague) for the equipment and expertise – a climbing contest on inflatable ISOLINE wall, presentation of JetSurf, a barbecue in the party tent and with a lucky dip, the main prize being a JetSurf, a Wine Tasting Evening . . . and much more.



Men's Qualifying Series Completed!

Three races on day 4 made a total of 7 in the qualifying series, with 6 to count. Race five started on time after the 10 am warning signal with racers taking to the water in 8-10 knots of stable wind and glorious sunshine. Race six followed before a break for the pasta lunch, then race seven was away in the afternoon. At the end of the day's racing the men's fleet was divided into gold and silver fleets for the remainder of the championship.

Past champions Patrik Pollak and Wojcik Maksymilian were on equal points with 6 race wins apiece, ranked first and second respectively on the leaderboard purely by their discard. It was going to be a tough battle between them for the World Championship 2013 title!

It would also be a close fight for Great Britain's Louis Morris and Czech Petre Kucera jr for the third position on the podium, both having very consistent results, just one point separating them. Spaniard Curro Manchon would also be joining this fight, if he could recover from the disappointing OCS he scored in race 7, and others close behind Curro were still in with a chance and pushing hard. All to play for!!

In the Women's Division, Jana Slivova had a very healthy lead with 3 race wins under her belt and half the points of her closest rivals fellow Czech Martina Hruby and Latvian Vita Matise. Vita also had three race wins but sadly carried a DNC from day one. She really needed to lose that as a second discard to stand a chance of the Women's title.



Just one Championship racing day remained. Would the wind gods be kind enough to make a difference?

Wojcik Retains World Championship Title!

No doubt about it, light winds were definitely more suited to **Max Wojcik** (POL-7) than to Patrik Pollak (SVK-1) as Max claimed all three bullets in the last three championship races and thus took the title of **2013 Raceboard World Champion**.

Tension mounted as the start of the day's races was delayed waiting for the wind to appear but eventually conditions similar to the previous day allowed for two good championship races, and then a third in perhaps marginal conditions but enough to count towards the championship. Definitely a day for light wind specialists.

Max thrashed the competition finishing on 9 points, a clear 8 points ahead of Patrik who floundered in the light wind conditions but nonetheless claimed the First Master Trophy as well as second overall.

Brit Louis Morris managed to maintain his foothold on the third place on the podium with a consistently strong performance throughout the championship.



Juha Blinnikka from Finland deserves a mention as the first Grandmaster, fellow compatriot Mai Mannisto was the first Veteran. First Youth was Nikl Andras from Hungary.

Over in the Women's Fleet, overnight leader Czech Jana Slivova lost her position at the top of the leaderboard and slipped down to second, whilst **Latvian Vita Matise** edged past with three bullets taking her just one point ahead of Jana at the close of the championship, earning her the title of **2013 Raceboard Women's World Champion**. Consequently Martina Hruby was left to take a well deserved third place on the podium.

The organisers put on an amazing event on behalf of the Czech Windsurfing Association, providing great entertainment when the wind gods didn't want to come out to play, and all at DYJE Sailing Club were wonderful hosts. The Race Committee did an excellent job in trying conditions and provided the maximum amount of racing possible.

Special thanks of course go to sponsors Generali, Rubio and a whole host of other partners who have ensured that such a high quality event could be delivered.

Max on the Worlds in the Czech Republic

- "It was one of the most successful Raceboard Championship events. 110 competitors from all over the world is just one of many proofs that this class is growing. Why? My personal opinion is that it will keep growing as we, competitors, are enjoying it very much. The competition, except of great racing and organizing skills, was full of small but nice things such as paddle board competition, climbing competition, unofficial table soccer world championship, almost every day grill, free lunch in between races, lottery for all competitors (every second competitor won a prize!), on time races, great atmosphere, even greater organizers and last but not least, happy hour with free bar!

I am amazed how little we adults need to have as much fun as children. But first we need to put ourself in a situation without roles, such as Mr Important Manager, CEO, lawyer etc. Once we put on wetsuits, we create new, better, more pleasurable environment. When that happens, even when we take off our wetsuits after races, the positive energy is still there - a miracle of raceboard class.

One doctor, a raceboard competitor once told me, that being on water makes her forget about all the worries in the world. When I asked her why, she answered: "there are so many things going on, there is no time for anything else"....