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c Alfred Farre

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**Ivan Pastor (ESP-7)** is declared the **Raceboard Men's World Champion**, Maksymillian Wojcik (POL-7) is second and Nicolas Huguet (FRA-8) takes a well-deserved third place, also first Master. First Grand Master is Franck Loup (FRA-58), 10th overall, First Veteran is Rafael Ros-Pardo (ESP-91), First Youth is Fernando Lamadrid-Trueba (ESP-211).

**Vita Matise (LAT-1)** is declared **Raceboard Women's World Champion**, Ilona Grinberga (LAT-18) is second and Joanna Sterling AUS-254 consolidated her position in third place.

This competition has favoured the lightweights but it has been an excellent championship with 14 races and the Raceboard Class are pleased to thank everyone at Club Vela Blanes for being wonderful hosts at a great venue - Bella Terra.

### **Nail Biting Finish for the Raceboard Worlds in Blanes!**

Drama and excitement prevailed over the final two days of the Raceboard World Championships in Blanes.

Ivan Pastor (ESP-7), dominating the final series of races by taking the bullet each time ahead of defending champion, Maksymillian Wojcik (POL-7), was forced to retire from the third race of the penultimate day with a broken boom. The two Latvian ladies, Vita Matise and Ilona Grinberga, were certain to take the gold and silver places but in the end it came down to the discard to separate them.

As every other day, patience was a virtue, as everyone waited for the wind to appear on the final day. However, Ivan Pastor knew he could not afford a slip-up today since he was carrying a DNF into his final results. Eventually race 13 was under way in 11 knots . . . POL-7 was leading by 5 seconds . . . and Wojcik took the win! Game on and into race 14! Pastor pulled one back, finishing ahead of Wojcik . . . And then it appeared the wind was dropping, the wind gods were packing up and going home - no more racing.



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In the women's fleet, Latvian Ilona Grinberga had an amazing finish to the championship with two bullets to add to her arsenal, and ending on equal points with her team mate Vita Matise. However, she lost out on the top spot with her race 11 DNC coming into play.

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The entry of 116 competitors from 16 countries, four continents, is the largest seen at a Raceboard World Championships in recent years, and the calibre of the contestants was high. At the beginning of the competition, the men's division was equally divided into two fleets, yellow and blue, with the ladies also having their own start.

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### Three Perfect Scores on the First Day of Racing in Blanes!

**Day One** dawned cloudy and with a distinct lack of wind but at long last a southerly breeze set in allowing for three back to back races for each fleet in 6-8 knots during the afternoon.

The defending Raceboard World Champion, Max Wojcik from Poland, Olympian Ivan Pastor from Spain and Ilona Grinberga from Latvia all took three bullets in their respective fleets, and all ended day one with a four point lead over their nearest rivals.

### Perfect Conditions Result in Unbreakable Tie!

An easterly wind of 8-16 knots brought perfect conditions for the maximum allowable four races on **Day Two** of the Raceboard World Championships, making a total of seven races in the qualifying round.

As the AP came down in the morning the wind averaged 7 knots but gradually increased with the building thermal breeze. Two more races were needed to split into Gold and Silver groups; to achieve four was a bonus.

Yellow fleet were away first with a clear start but the blue fleet suffered a general recall with many sailors over the line early. After two races for all fleets, there was a break ashore. Sailors then had a tricky time launching from the beach with onshore wind for two more back to back races in 13-15 knots.

In the women's fleet, Latvian Ilona Grinberga maintained her overall lead but only managed one bullet. Fellow Latvian Vita Matise was able to snatch two bullets off her and with consistent second places ended the day just two points behind on the leaderboard.

Aussie Joanna Sterling took the win in race 6 and held the third podium spot, 7 points adrift but also 7 points clear of Spanish Veteran Maria-Antonia Dominguez.







Maksymilian Wojcik and Ivan Pastor scored perfect results making it impossible to split their tie. However, at the end of the day, the men would be split into the top 52 forming the gold group and the remaining 52 would be racing in the silver group. With both men on the same start line the battle to win would be intense. They had 6 points apiece, 7 points clear of Frenchman Nicolas Huguet who was just two points ahead of Spaniard Ale Rivera-Rodriguez.

There was not much separating those in the chasing pack so everyone looked forward to some great competition ahead.



*But first, the "Giant Paella" party for the sailors in Camping Bella Terra with a live DJ.*

### Showdown in Blanes!

It was a long wait during the morning until 6-8 knots was recorded in the course area. Everyone eagerly anticipated the battle to take the lead in the Gold fleet; who would come out on top - POL-7 or ESP-7? Unfortunately the wind only allowed for two races as it became too unstable.

Spaniard Ivan Pastor (ESP-7) and defending World Champion, Maksymilian Wojcik (POL-7), battled head to head off the same start line once the men's division was re-grouped into Gold and Silver Flights. Ivan Pastor snatched both bullets ending the day 1 point ahead of Maksymilian Wojcik, now relegated to silver position on the podium. The third place was occupied by Frenchman Nicolas Huguet, first master, 10 points behind.

In the ladies fleet, Latvian Vita Matise moved 2 points ahead of her team mate Ilona Grinberga with a bullet and a second to take the top spot on the podium. Joanna Sterling from Australia in third place overall scored a second and bullet narrowing the gap by two points so now just 5 points behind. Veteran Maria Antonia Dominguez (E SP-11) was losing sight of the podium, now 11 points adrift.

But nothing was certain until the last hooter on the final nail-biting Championship day!

