

Laser World



September 2010

Multala Retains World Title



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Laser Championship Round Up

European Laser 4.7 Youths in Hourtin

Up & Coming Champions

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Croatians Take the Title in Tallinn

Stipanovic & Mihelic Crowned European Laser Champions

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Good weather conditions at Tallinn Bay welcomed Laser Standard and Laser Radial athletes on their first day of the European Championship & Trophy event.

With a southern wind of 4-7 m/s and partly cloudy sky, the Laser Standard sailors started the event in three fleets. Milan Vujanovic (CRO) won the first race in the Yellow fleet while Yuval Botzer (ISR) enjoyed victory in the second race. In the Blue group, Malo Leseigneur (FRA) and Tom Slingsby (AUS) were winners of the respective races. In the Red fleet, which struggled with three general recalls and 12 black flag disqualifications in the second race, Rutger Schaardenburg (NED) did a clean job, winning both races and taking the overall leader position.

At the end of the day Schaardenburg was in front, with Paul Goodison (GBR) in second and Tom Slingsby (AUS) in third.

Laser Radial sailors performed smoothly on the Pirta waves. Natalia Szymczyk (POL) and Francesca Clapcich (ITA) won the first race in their respective fleets but their modest results in the second race pushed both athletes out of the top spots for the opening day. Tina Mihelic (CRO) won her fleet in the second race and, with a stable performance throughout the day, placed herself as the current leader. Charlotte Dobson (GBR) finished the day in second, with Tuula Tenkanen (FIN) in third.

The second day of racing was delayed, as thick fog enveloped Tallinn Bay, with racing finally starting in the afternoon.

Schaardenburg was once again the flying Dutchman in the first Laser Standard race of the day, securing his third victory. In the fourth race, however, wind and luck both turned their back on him and he finished 26th. Despite this, at the end of the day he was the overall leader with three points, while Slingsby had moved into second, and Andreas Gertzer (AUT) in third.

In the Laser Radial, Mihelic overpowered her fellow competitors by finishing the races first and second, propelling her to the top of the leaderboard with four points. Maiken Schütt (DEN) ended the day in second with nine points, with Dobson just one point behind in third place.

The third day of racing saw off-shore gusty and shifty winds of 16-24 knots blowing throughout the day, getting a bit heavier during the first race but slowing by the second race. Overall it was an exciting mixture of wind, speed and challenge for the sailors.

Slingsby enjoyed the challenging conditions, achieving a third and a first place in his group races, which put him in top spot with 10 points. The wind also favoured Gertzer, who rose to the second overall place with 16 points, while Schaardenburg slipped to third with 23 points.

Mihelic held on firmly to her leader position in the Laser Radial for the third consecutive day, scoring a second and an eighth, ending the day on just nine points. Dobson climbed to second place with 20 points, while Sari Multala (FIN) shot into third place after winning one race and coming second in the other.

Day four had a slow start with a cloudy sky and shifty winds of three knots causing the starts to be postponed for almost an hour.

In the Laser Standard, Slingsby maintained his leader position with a seventh and a first, finishing the day in the lead with 18 points. "The day was good – sort of up and down pressure and the wind

was 5-12 knots and really shifty", he said.

Tonci Stipanovic (CRO), won both races in his fleet and ended the day in second place with 27 points, while Gertzer was in third on 31 points.

In the Laser Radial, Mihelic again outperformed her competition, winning both races in her fleet and strengthening her leader position once more. Dobson was 18 points behind in second place, while Evi Van Acker ended the day in third.

Day five was a day of anticipation with the Laser Standard starts being postponed and Laser Radial races abandoned due to lack of wind.

The first race for the Laser Standard sailors was held in shifty winds of up to eight knots. Ryan Palk (AUS) took the first final race, with Philipp Buhl (GER) second and Stipanovic in third. After a period of waiting for the wind to stabilize, the second race was started. German sailors took a double lead with Simon Grotelschen first, Buhl second and Evangelos Chimonas (GRE) third.

There was a change in the leaderboard at the end of the day. Stipanovic led the Laser Standards with 30 points. Buhl managed to climb from eighth to second with 34 points, while Paul Goodison (GBR) moved to third with 36 points.

The final day started with slow shifty wind, blowing 2 knots, but kept increasing and reached up to 5 knots by the second race. The Laser Standards held two final races, managing to complete the full 12 races. The Laser Radials sailed 3 races, to make up for the lost racing on the previous day, completing 11 races in total.

In the Laser Standard, Stipanovic was crowned European Champion, with a 10 point lead over Goodison in second place. European bronze went to Gertzer. In the European Trophy score, which includes all competitors, Slingsby came third.

"I dreamt about it every day, but you can never tell for sure if this is day that you will become the European Champion. But I had a feeling this morning, did the best that I could and now I am the first Croatian to win the Europeans in Laser Standard," Stipanovic said.

In the Laser Radial, Mihelic was named the new European Champion. The leader since the first day of racing, she won with an impressive 19 point lead over the rest of the fleet. The silver medal went to Dobson and bronze to Gintare Sheidt (LTU).

"I had been sailing really well the entire week and I had a good feeling for today. When we started the final races in the morning, I was leading by already 15 points, so I was confident and not under much pressure," said Mihelic.

Chloe Martin (GBR) was the Laser Radial U21 European Champion, with the silver medal going to Tenkanen and bronze awarded to Mathilde de Kerangat (FRA).

For daily reports, full results and more images, please go to www.laser2010tallinn.eu.



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Conditions Challenge Radials in Largs

Multala Retains World Laser Radial Women's Title



Gold Medallist Sari Multala (FIN)

The breeze in the first race was a blustery and damp curtain raiser for the 2010 World Laser Radial Women's and World & European Laser Radial Men's Championships. The committee boat recorded a wind of 26 knots, which most sailors reported was a test of hiking strength and smart sailing.

The second contest was raced in a diminishing westerly breeze. The second downwind in particular just edged into really difficult territory with big swings in wind direction and considerable differences in wind pressure. The race committees on the water must have heaved a collective sigh of relief to get racing concluded before it became too fluky.

With the breezes gusting and swirling, the sudden changes in direction and the pressure rising and falling on different sides of the race course, the challenge was especially difficult to stay consistent across the two races sailed on day two.

Even those who had a good day came ashore admitting how hard they had found it to read the breeze, to predict what was going to happen next, whilst there were several top seeded sailors who suffered a rollercoaster day – one good result and one bad one; even the odd horror show.

Vital to the first race was being in a position to reap just the right amount of benefit from the right side of the course when the wind shifted right. At the top of the leg it had changed so much that some of those who had invested most heavily came reaching in to the windward turn. The second contest saw the wind fade back slightly from the puffy 5-10 knots with bigger holes in the breeze to be avoided at all costs.

Patience was required over the duration of what proved to be a very long day ashore on day three, with successive postponements required from morning until the strong westerly breeze subsided to allow racing. It was only at 1700hrs that the warning signal was finally scheduled.

As the fleets entered the Finals phase there was little in the way of extra cooperation from the fickle and shifty breezes which finally thwarted all

attempts to complete the scheduled two races.

When the sailors set off in the morning in a north westerly breeze which was not showing on most of the forecasts, then perhaps that was a foresight of what was likely to happen. Early sunshine was the bonus, but the breeze swung round and the start was delayed.

On the first downwind for the gold fleets the breeze died nearly completely and on the second upwind the extra pressure had started to push in true to the forecast from east, but when it came in the course ended slightly skewed. On the final beat the wind had finally swung round the best part of 100 degrees since the start direction.

More than five hours of frustrating drifting on the Clyde on day five proved to be in vain for the sailors awaiting racing.

The mirror-like waters were only occasionally ruffled by light airs from conflicting directions, and only as the appropriate signals were made, was there anything close to a breeze.

It is never an especially satisfying way to win world titles, but with no racing on the final two days, Sari Multala (FIN) and Marcin Rudawski (POL) prevailed and were piped up on to the podium as the 2010 World Laser Radial Champions.

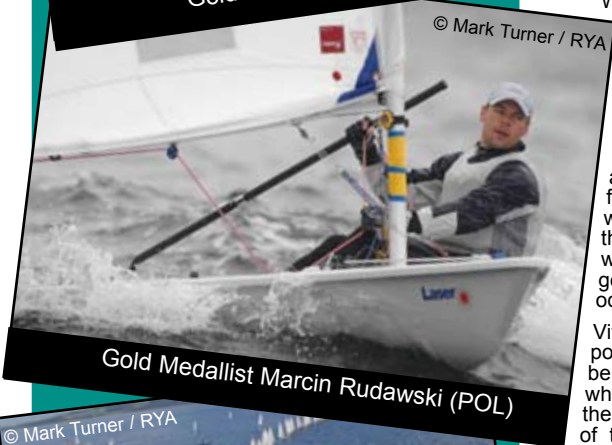
Both sailors successfully defended the championship titles they won last year at a breezy regatta in Japan. This time it was all the more challenging for the variety of wind strength and the difficult shifts in direction which made consistency all the harder to achieve.

Across the five qualifying heats and one Finals race which were completed, Multala's one finish outside the top five was her discarded 49th, gained when the late Sunday afternoon breeze was at its most fluky.

She finished seven points clear of Holland's rising star Marit Bouwmeester. Finishing in third place was Paige Railey (USA), tallied on the same points aggregate as Sarah Steyaert (FRA).

Rudawski had a six point lead over fellow countryman Wojciech Zemke. One sailor to watch in future is 16 year-old Mitchell Kiss (USA), who had a fantastic championship, taking bronze with 21 points. His impressive performance also saw him crowned Under 21 Champion.

For full results, daily reports and more images, please visit www.laserworlds2010.co.uk.



Gold Medallist Marcin Rudawski (POL)



Sarah Steyaert (FRA)



Silver Medallist Marit Bouwmeester (NED)

Unstable Conditions in Istanbul

Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships 2010

In contrast to the wet and unstable conditions of the practice race, the opening day's racing at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship in Istanbul, Turkey provided a light breeze of 5-7 knots from the north-west and warm dry conditions once the early clouds had dispersed.

The first day in the Laser Radial boys fleet saw Giovanni Cocoluto (ITA) and Levent Ahiskali (TUR) go head-to-head. Both snatched a first and second place with Thomas Saunders (NZL) in third. The Lasers only managed to fit in two races before the fickle wind conditions prevailed.

In the Laser Radial Girls Patricia Coro (ESP) and Michelle Broekhuizen (NED) battled it out in the first race. Broekhuizen led for the majority of the race, but Coro eventually pipped her to the post by winning the race.

In the second race of the day Broekhuizen dropped to 16th ending the day in 8th overall. Coro finished with a 10th in the second race to be in the bronze position after day one. Consistent results scored by Paulina Barwinska (POL) and Chiara Steinmüller (GER) gave these two girls the top two spots.

On the morning of day two, 250 boats were rigged in the dinghy park in the blaring Istanbul sun waiting for a sea breeze to form.

Competitors had to wait until 16:30hrs local time for the breeze to fill and then when the gun went a blaze of dinghies sailed off into the early evening sunshine to try and get at least one race completed. The breeze filled to around seven knots on the three courses but it remained puffy and made for a long day on the water.

In the Laser Radial Boys, Ahiskali opened up a commanding lead with a second in the only race of the day. Hermann Tomasgaard (NOR) started well and held the lead all around the course to win the race and jump from 10th to second overall. Ard Van Aanholt (AHO) claimed the bronze position.

The Laser Radial Girls had a very close finish in their only race of the day with a big bunch of boats crossing the finish line at the same time keeping the race officials on their toes. Despite finishing 20th in the only race of the day, Steinmüller held onto a narrow lead from Broekhuizen who jumped up from eighth. The biggest surprise of the day was the winner of the day's race Maria Cristina Boabaid (BRA) who scored a bullet.

After the scheduled lay day, Wednesday dawned with another hot and hazy day on the Bay of Marmara.

For the second day the fleet of nearly 350 boats were rigged and sitting in the humid Istanbul summer heat whilst everyone waited for a sea breeze to blow.

Eventually by around 15:00 hrs local time, a faint breeze started to form and classes on all three courses were called out. Most classes managed at least one race in wind ranging from 5 - 9 knots before the land started to cool and the sea breeze shut down again.

Ahiskali had a day to forget, getting black flagged on the start line. In the meantime Aleksander Arian (POL) sailed a solid race to finish seventh and take the overall lead. At the end of the day, Keerati Bualong (THA) was only one point adrift in the silver spot and the top five remained quite close.

Despite the tireless efforts of the Race Committee on the Laser Radial course, the Girls were unable to complete a race.

Shifty was the word of the day to describe the penultimate day racing. For the third day in a row competitors were held ashore until the winner of the battle between the land breeze and the sea breeze was decided.

The Lasers spent around seven hours on the water and after a number of recalled starts the girls division produced a new leader. Amélie Riou (FRA) scored two bullets to leap up the leader board into the gold position and help boost the chances of France retaining the coveted Volvo Trophy. Viktoria Andruyte (LTU) and Erika Reineke (USA) both took the remaining podium spots from the earlier leaders.

The Laser Radial Boys completed seven races and a new leader emerged in the form of Thomas Saunders (NZL). His strong results left him with a commanding lead of 15 points over Cocoluto.

A spectacular summer day with warm sunshine and a gusty offshore breeze ranging from 8-14 knots provided a superb last day of racing and the majority of sailors came off the water with broad smiles on their faces.

In the Laser Radial Girls, Broekhuizen snatched gold from Heidi Tenkanen (FIN), who won the last race of the championship with a strong second half of the week. Reineke claimed

the bronze medal.

In the Laser boys Saunders won the gold medal sailing a steady race in the puffy conditions. Bualong came good at the latter end of the week to claim silver for the Asian region, with Cocoluto taking bronze. Overall Volvo Trophy for best performing nation went to France with Great Britain in second and Spain in third.

Full results, daily reports and more photographs can be found at www.sailing.org.



© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Alexander Arian (POL)



© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Heidi Tenkanen (FIN), Michelle Broekhuizen (NED) & Erika Reinke (USA)



© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Levent Ahiskali (TUR)



© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Viktoria Andruyte (LTU)



© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race

Keerati Bualong (THA), Thomas Saunders (NZL) & Giovanni Cocoluto (ITA)

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Excitement for Laser Radial Youths

'Extremely Talented' Sailors Conquer Largs



© Mark Turner/RYA

After a day and a half sitting waiting for the wind, a steady, building northerly breeze trickled down the Clyde allowing racing to commence at the World Laser Radial Youth Championship in Largs, Scotland.

The conditions were far from what the senior Radial fleet experienced at their world championship the previous week when gusts of 40 knots swept through the fleet. However, conditions were adequate enough to allow the 320 competitors to enjoy the first tactical race of the series.

Elliot Hanson (GBR) enjoyed a good race with Matthew O'Dowd (IRE) to win the one and only race of the day on the Boys course. Tadeusz Kubiak (POL) was also on top form, winning the Blue fleet, while Matthew Mollerus (USA) made his intentions clear by winning the Red fleet.

On the Girls course the situation was equally exciting with Julia Vallo Arjonilla (ESP) winning the first race in the Blue fleet and finishing third in Race 2 which put her in a leading overall position. Pauline Barwinska (POL) snatched a win in Yellow fleet when Marketa Audyova (CZE) who crossed the line first, was deemed OCS.

Barwinska was another race sharp sailor who showed she's a real force to be reckoned with. She's only been competing at international level for a year, so the day's result gave her a massive boost. The Japanese girls were also on top form with Manami Doi, and Momoko Tada taking wins in the second races (Yellow and Blue fleets).

On day three, the wind arrived on the Clyde a little later than predicted causing yet another long postponement, but thankfully a light south-westerly made its way up towards the race course area by mid afternoon allowing two qualifying races to be held.

Fully refreshed from the opening races, the young sailors enjoyed another afternoon of intense racing in a steady 6-8kt breeze, which saw new stock emerging at the head of the leaderboard.

The racing couldn't have been much closer in both fleets with the consistent Americans scoring a collection of first places. In the Girls fleet, 17-year-old Erika Reineke (USA) kicked off well with two second places in the previous day's opening races, and sailed impressively to better that position with two firsts. She ended the day just one point behind Doi, who sailed an exceptional race again, adding another first to her 2,1 scoreline.

In the Boys category, Mitchell Kiss (USA) provided spectators with a fine display of impressive racing with a first place in Race 1, as did Yuval Schwartz (ISR). He notched up a win in the first race in his fleet. But it was Giovanni Coccoluto (ITA) with

a win and a fifth who led the fleet by two points from Paul Leroy (FRA). With a 14th and 4th, Elliot Hanson (GBR) remained in third place.

They may have had to wait a few days but when the breeze finally arrived on the Clyde on the morning of day four, the fleet knew they were in for a good day's racing. A steady 9 knot south-south-westerly in sparkling sunshine more than made up for the lack of wind, allowing the final qualifying races to take place.

Powered up and on tip-top racing form, the extremely talented young sailors battled it out all day and once again there were some new faces appearing at the top end of the fleets.

Reineke extended her already impressive scoreline by clocking up another first and two more seconds, and grabbed the overall lead from Doi. Tiril Bue (NOR) also logged some good results, leaving her in third place overall going into the finals.

Kiss added a second place to his first place earlier in the week to improve his overall standing to sixth, and Carson Crain (USA) scored a second in the Red fleet. Hermann Tomasgaard (NOR) also moved well up the leaderboard with a string of top three results.

With 12-13 knots of breeze kicking in from the south on the morning of day five, the conditions could not have been better.

Fully powered up, the competitors enjoyed the best conditions of the week as they engaged themselves in the first two of four scheduled races in the finals.

Reineke was looking exceedingly good at this stage of the regatta in the Gold Fleet. She made a big impression during the event scoring a string of seconds and firsts. One of her closest rivals was the super-lightweight Doi but a capsized on the line in the opening race hampered her chances.

Tenkanen generally suffered in the light winds, but the day's fresher breeze suited her and she notched up her second win of the week.

Overnight leader Kubiak had a poor day in the Boys fleet. He capsized on the first run in the second race and didn't really recover which meant he dropped down the rankings to third behind Kiss. Coccoluto also had a relatively bad day but managed to hold an impressive 17 point lead over Kiss going into the final two races.

The upper reaches of the Clyde just to the north of Cumbrae, provided the perfect stage for the final two races of this very competitive and enjoyable series, allowing competitors to really push to their full potential.

In tricky, shifty, light to moderate winds reaching no more than 8-15 knots, Reineke won the event with a race to spare, which is exactly what she set out to do when she left the shore.

In what turned out to be her last race, she had a fairly conservative first beat but this bubbly, determined yet incredibly cool young sailor kept her head when the going was tough and worked her way to the top of the fleet finishing in fourth place, which was enough to secure the overall world championship title.

Evgeniya Kuznetsova (RUS) sailed an impressive race to take her first win of the week, followed by Amalie Riou (FRA) and Chiara Steinmueller (GER) in second and third respectively.

Doi managed to retain her second place overall with a seventh in the last race, while Broekhuizen had to settle for third.

The day's 7th and 37th may have ranked among his worst results of the week but the extremely cool-headed Coccoluto still managed to pull off an exceptionally impressive series to win the Laser Radial Youth Boys Championship.

Coccoluto, fresh from winning bronze at the recent ISAF Youth World Championship in Turkey won the regatta by a margin of just two points over second placed Kubiak, while Luca Antognoli (ITA) took bronze.

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© Mark Turner/RYA

Girl's Champion Erika Reineke (USA)



© Mark Turner/RYA

Boy's Champion Giovanni Coccoluto (ITA)



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Up and Coming Talent

Sailors to Look Out For

By the time this edition of LaserWorld goes to print, the 2010 World Laser Standard Seniors Championship at Hayling Island will be well underway. All top Laser sailors will be attending this year's event, with Paul Goodison defending his 2009 title from the likes of fellow countryman Nick Thompson, 2009 runner up Michael Bullot and previous World Champion Tom Slingsby.

However, some new faces are emerging from the youth ranks and some of whom will be attending this year's event. These remarkable young sailors have worked their way through the Laser 4.7 & Laser Radial Youth events and have now moved to the Laser Standard rig. Here is a rundown of the up and coming talent.

Pavlos Kontides, CYP

Pavlos Kontides competed in his first event, the Optimist National Championship, at the age of nine in 1999. Within only a few years, Kontides had moved to the Laser Radial rig and was competing in international championships, coming seventh in the 2006 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships, and taking the title just a year later.

Since then, he has continued to take part in international events. He came 13th at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, 19th at the 2009 World Laser Standard Seniors Championship in Halifax and second at the 2009 Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta in Weymouth.

Currently tenth in the ISAF World Rankings, Pavlos Kontides, who cites Robert Scheidt as the person he most admires, is certainly one to watch in the future.

Philipp Buhl, GER

Aged only 20, German Laser Class talent Philipp Buhl has already picked up some medals. Having started sailing Optimists when he was young, by the time he was 17 he had taken silver in the Laser Radial class at the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship. He then graduated to senior events and has become a regular on the ISAF Sailing World Cup circuit.

By 2008, he had moved to the Laser Standard class, coming second in the European Laser Standard Youth Championship. He recently came 4th at the 2010 European Laser Standard Seniors Event in Tallin and took bronze at Kieler Woche in August.

Currently 19th on the ISAF Ranking Ladder, there is no doubt that this young sailor has great potential for Laser Standard class medals both internationally and at Olympic level.

© Mats Svensson



Philipp Buhl takes the lead at 2009 Laser Europeans

Palk, 21, continues to go from strength to strength, chasing his Olympic dream. He is currently 45th on the ISAF World Ranking Ladder with potential to climb higher following the World Laser Standard Seniors Championship in Hayling Island.

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Ryan Palk at the 2010 European Standards

Keerati Bualong, THA

Keerati Bualong burst on to the Laser Standard scene during this year's Asia Pacific Laser Championship in Thailand.

This remarkable young sailor fought off his rivals in the Laser Standard fleet, finishing nine points clear of the silver medallist. Prior to this year's triumph, Bualong had been crowned 2009 World Laser Radial Youth Champion in Japan.

Although he is not competing in this year's Laser Standard Seniors event in Hayling Island, Bualong will certainly be involved in future events with the potential to be awarded more medals. Watch this space!

Ryan Palk, AUS

Noosville's Ryan Palk has continued to gain impressive results in the major Laser championship regattas in Europe. Having sailed since the age of eight, Palk started competing at 12 years old, winning the Noosa YC Club Championship in 2000.

He has competed in Australian national championships in the Laser Radial class, only recently emerging on the international championship scene. So far in 2010, he has come 34th at the Delta Lloyd regatta in Holland, was placed 13th at the 2010 European Laser Standard Seniors and 6th at Kieler Woche.

© David Kneale/Volvo Ocean Race



Keerati Bualong in action at the ISAF Youths 2010

In the next edition of LaserWorld - ones to watch in the girls fleets.

© onEdition



Pavlos Kontides in action at 2010 ISAF World Cup

© onEdition

Thompson & Bouwmeester Take Gold

ISAF Sailing World Cup Finals



Christoph Bottoni (SUI)

The 2010 Skandia Sail For Gold regatta was a fitting finale to the ISAF Sailing World Cup season. With an official entry of over 700 boats from 57 nations, almost 1000 sailors were challenging to claim the ultimate prize of the Sailing World Cup (SWC) in each of the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

In the biggest fleet of the SWC series with regularly over 100 entries, the Laser Standard class had a clear leader at the start of the event in Javier Hernandez (ESP). With a gold medal in Palma and two bronzes in Hyères and Medemblik, Hernandez opened up an 18 point lead with a maximum of 20 points on offer.

The battle for second in the overall SWC standings was however very much up for grabs. Nick Thompson (GBR) had top four results in three SWC regattas to stand on 54 points, followed by Matias Del Solar (CHI) tied on 52 points with Jean Baptiste Bernaz (FRA).

Paul Goodison (GBR) and Tom Slingsby (AUS) both had an outside chance of climbing onto the podium but had only competed in two SWC regattas each this season. Slingsby went to Weymouth on the back of two victories in the last two SWC regattas.

The tussle for gold in the Laser Radial class was forecast to be another tense battle. Marit Bouwmeester (NED) led Paige Railey (USA) by two points at the start of the event. Railey counts two SWC victories in Miami and Kiel this season. Tied on points with Railey was Veronika Fenclová (CZE) who competed in all SWC events except Melbourne this year. Still in the hunt was Tatiana Drozdovskaya (BLR), who finished fifth in the recent World Laser Radial Women's Championship in Largs.

Bouwmeester and Fenclová both won their two races on day one, with Bouwmeester winning another on the second day. She ended day two leading Fenclova by four points.

A second and a fourth was enough for Goodison to take a narrow lead in the Laser Standard fleet after two more races sailed on day two, relegating day one leader Andrew

Murdoch (NZL) to second. Former double world champion Tom Slingsby (AUS) relished the blustery conditions to score two bullets and jump up to fourth overall.

For the ten classes heading into medal race day and the climax of the 2009-10 ISAF Sailing World Cup, it was judgement day of a kind.

Slingsby added a 16th and 19th to his scores to let Goodison back into the game. Goodison knocked in a first and third to leave him eight points adrift of Slingsby going into the medal race.

There was a desperate outcome in the Laser Radials for Drozdovskaya. She won the last race, but it still wasn't enough to make the medal race - she was eleventh by a point! Another high profile casualty was Railey, who picked up a second black flag disqualification to end her chances at the podium.

It was nearly dark when the Laser Radial fleet finally stepped ashore and there had been a reshuffle at the top of the leader board with Bouwmeester jumping from third back to first. Sara Winther (NZL) rose from fourth to the silver medal position, while Steyaert dropped out of the top position to third. The points were so close that another reshuffle was expected on the final day.

After five hours of gripping racing out on Weymouth Bay, the podiums for Skandia Sail for Gold were decided and crucial points added to the ISAF Sailing World Cup Standings on the final day of the event.

The Medal Race action kicked off with the Laser Standard fleet. Slingsby had to fend off the challenge of Goodison, who had an eight point deficit.

The easiest way for Slingsby to win was to ensure that both sailors ended up at the back of the ten-boat fleet. He did it particularly effectively, inflicting a penalty on Goodison that put him to the back and into silver. Michael Leigh (CAN) picked up the bronze, while his compatriot, David Wright had the consolation of winning the medal race.

Leigh's bronze medal boosted him two places up the Standings to finish the series third overall behind Thompson and Hernandez.

The Laser Radial fleet had been locked in a war of attrition all week,

with long days on the water and precious few races to show for it on occasions, as these highly competitive teams struggled to get good starts. No such problems in the ten-boat Medal Race however, and Bouwmeester finally clinched the gold medal. Sari Multala (FIN) completed a remarkable comeback, ending up with silver. Winther took the bronze.

Bouwmeester's third regatta win of the 2009-10 season maintained her position at the top of the Standings to take the overall World Cup win ahead of Fenclová and Railey.

For full race results, daily reports and images, please visit www.sailing.org.



Nick Thompson (GBR)



Veronika Fenclová (CZE)



Tom Slingsby (AUS)

Shifty Conditions at Gdynia

124 sailors from 26 countries took part in the European Laser Standard Youth Championship & Trophy 2010, in Gdynia, Poland. The weak winds which had plagued the practice races, picked up on the opening day and sailors managed to complete the two scheduled races. At the end of day one, Gozem Cem (TUR) was in first place on two points, with Efiur Mon (GBR) in second and Philip Jurišić (CRO) in third.

A one hour delay welcomed sailors on the second day of competition, however the conditions eventually allowed the sailors to complete two races. Mon moved into first place on the leaderboard, with Jurišić moving up to second.

Mon had a fantastic race on the third day, increasing his lead over his rivals by 23 points. Stuart Godwin (GBR) and Jochem-Bart Haakman (NED) were joint second at the end of the day.

Shifty and weak winds on the fourth day meant that racing was abandoned after two failed attempts to start.

Rain, choppy water and winds of up to 18

knots greeted the sailors on the first day of finals. These treacherous conditions made racing difficult and many sailors capsized. However, Mon took it all in his stride and remained at the top of the leaderboard with 34 points. Nik Pletikos (SLO) moved up to second place with Francesco Marrai (ITA) in third. Godwin moved down to eighth.

There was a dramatic change in the leaderboard on the final day of the event. Mon fell to fourth place, despite discarding the BFD he received in the fourth race. Fellow countryman Godwin had a great day and managed to grab the gold medal to be crowned champion. Alexios Katsios (GRE) faced a big jump, moving from 11th place to second overall. Pletikos took the bronze.

Marrai was crowned champion of the Under 19s, with Aleksander Arian (POL) in second and Jurišić in third place.

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350 Sailors Enter the European 4.7s

Sunshine, an 8-12 knot breeze and huge fleets welcomed the first two races of the Laser 4.7 European Championship on Lake Hourtin near Bordeaux. At the end of day one, the fleet of 232 boys were led by Mustafa Onur (TUR), Tora Kutoglu (TUR) and Maximilian Stein (GER).

The fleet of 118 girls was split into two groups. Anna Liebmann (ITA) finished ahead

of Sara Diaz (ESP) and Ida Voutilainen (FIN) in the blue group. In the white group, Noora Koskiahde (FIN) ended the day in front of Sofia Toroi (FIN) and Vasilea Karachaliou (GRE).

Sailors awoke to a 5-8 knot breeze on the second day of the event. With the discard coming into effect after 4 races, some modifications occurred in the overall results. In the girls fleet, Toroi took the lead, while Sara Piasecka (POL) became the new second. Koskiadhe followed in third position. In the special rankings of the Under 16s, Dewi Couvert (NED) was in the lead.

In the boys fleet, Luis Fernandez-Palacios (ESP) took two bullets and pushed Kutoglu to second place. Omer Zachar (ISR), leader of the Under 16 standings, ended the day in third.

There was a change in the leaderboard at the end of day three. Kutoglu reclaimed the lead of the boys fleet ahead of Bartul Plenkovic (CRO) who advanced to 2nd with two wins. Niels Broekhuizen (NED) followed in third, but moved to first place in the Under 16s.

Toroi remained at the top of the girls leaderboard, followed by Marta Biernaczyk (POL) and Piasecka. In the Under 16s, Karachaliou was in the lead ahead of Maxime Jonker (NED) and Couvert.

The qualification races were completed in a fresher breeze on

day four. Plenkovic and Stein ended the day on the same score and were leading the Gold fleet before the final races. Jean-Baptiste Guillou (FRA) followed in third and moved up to lead the Under 16s.

In the girls fleet, Piasecka replaced Toroi at the top of the leader board, with Biernaczyk in third. The Under 16s were led by Jonker.

The positions on top of the boys fleet at the end of day five were very close. Stein, Plenkovic and Benjamin Vadnai (HUN) were separated by only six points and led the rest of the fleet by a 14 point gap. Sébastien Schneiter (SUI) advanced on his tenth place and looked to be fighting for a medal in the Under 16s, where he was in second.

Piascka held her top position in the girls fleet, with a nine point lead on Toroi. Ida Voutilainen (FIN) and Antonela Kacan (CRO) followed, tied in third place. In the Under 16s, Karachaliou took the top spot ahead of Jonker and Couvert.

The 2010 European Laser 4.7 Youth Championship concluded with Stein taking the title, over Vadnai and Plenkovic. Vadnai was crowned champion of the Under 16s, with Schneiter in second place.

In the girls fleet, the title went to Piasecka, with Toroi taking Silver and Kacan awarded Bronze. Winner of the Under 16s was Karachaliou followed by Jonker and Nancy Fakidi (GRE).

For full results please go to: www.laserinternational.org.



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