Wilke masts: an unbeaten performance over the past two Finn decades

Wilke masts congratulates, Giles, Ben and all other Finn champions for their wins and successes at Miami, Palma, Hyères Weymouth, test event, Europeans and Finn Gold Cup during 2011.

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Dear Finn Sailors,
Dear Friends of the Finn Community,

Now that the ISAF Olympic qualification events are over and most national sailing federations have already named their Finn entry for the 2012 London Olympics, all eyes turn to the last phase of the four years leading up to the Games.

For those of you sailing at the Olympics the IFA Executive wish the very best, have a memorable Olympic experience both on and off the water and return to home with joy on your face.

The road to the Games is never easy and it was evidenced also in this Olympic cycle. However, the 2012 Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth proved to be a worthy venue for the battle for the last remaining Olympic quota and in many cases the national trials completed in Falmouth.

At the same time our Masters Fleet sailed their World Championship in Wales where unusually warm weather and warm hospitality paved the way of yet another successful event. Congratulations to not only the winners of the different age categories but to all participating masters Finn sailors.

2012 marks also the end of my second Olympic cycle as IFA president. Looking back I feel proud to having the opportunity to lead this traditional, fraternal but at the same time revolutionary and modern Olympic sailboat class. I shall thank my colleagues on the IFA Executive and also you sailors for the continuous support over the past years in realising general aims and specific projects of our class.

I seriously believe that our momentum is going to continue in the next four years and wish you fair winds.

Best regards

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
HUN-1
IFA President
Finn news

Finn Class invests in ten stern cameras

After the successful trialling of stern cameras in 2007, the Finn Class invested in ten sets of racks and cameras to record this year's Finn Gold Cup medal race. Unfortunately the wind didn’t play the game and apart from some footage of Finn sailors snacking and chatting, there wasn’t a lot of useful material.

So we took two of them to the Finn World Masters and put them on two boats each day. At the end of the week we had ten sailors on film and 132 Gb of material to go through. A compilation of this footage was put together and can be seen on www.youtube.com/thefinnchannel.

The new racks are very similar to the 2007 model, weigh less than 500g all up and are remarkably stable. Those who used them at the Masters commented than once they were racing it was easy to forget the camera was there at all. Sometimes too easy. You know who you are! The biggest difference is that the racks now have GoPro cameras instead of pencil type cameras with a lead into a video recorder box in the cockpit. It is much lighter, easier to use and much easier to assemble.

FINNFARE JULY 2012
Attention all USA Finn sailors

The officers are in the process of trying to establish a 2013 Winter Series Circuit that would start with Miami OCR and continue throughout the winter months with stops in Fort Lauderdale, Mobile, New Orleans and Houston. The plan is to have a regatta every other weekend so plans could be made to attend one or all of the regattas.

The plan is also to be able to transport your boat with a private contractor if you wish. The contractor will keep moving the boats from the east coast heading west leaving them at the next venue. Any input to this Winter 2013 USA Finn Cup Series would be welcome.

The class goal is to have a series of seven regattas over the winter with an overall winner. This would be similar to the COPPA Italia.

We would like to welcome all Finn sailors from around the world to join us if possible. If you are at all interested contact Stephen Fuccillo USA Finn Class Sec, at sgfuccillo@gmail.com

Invitation to Open Russian 2012

The Organising Committee is pleased to invite you to the international regatta Open Russian 2012, which also includes the Open Russian Finn Association Championship 2012 and Open Russian Finn Masters Championship, National Russian Junior Championship and Championship of Russian Students Sport Union.

Venue: The event will be held on Klyazma and Pirogovo Lakes in Moscow on August 28 – September 02, 2012, where the 49er World Championship, the Finn Gold Cup in 2005 and Junior Finn World Championship (Silver Cup) 2007 and 2011.

Programme:
August, 28 – Registration, Charter boats distribution, Opening Ceremony
August, 29-31 – Fleet Races
September, 01 – Fleet Races, Russian Finn Association dinner
September, 02 – Final race, Medal Race, Closing Ceremony

Entry fee: EUR 80 Euro for senior sailors, free of charge for Juniors.

Charter boats: Charter boats can be provided for participants. One fully equipped Finn boat (Devoti 2004, build for Gold Cup 2005) and one mast (Hit Mast, bend numbers are available) can be provided. Charter fee is 40 Euro per day with damage deposit of 300 Euro. Just bring sails and personal equipment. Special offer for Juniors: charter boat free of charge with a damage deposit only.

Accommodation: Sailors and accompanying persons can stay at Moscow Sailing School hotel close to the boatpark. The price is 30 Euro per night for one person (3 meals per day meal included in the price). The number of rooms at Moscow Sailing School hotel is limited, so you will need to reserve your room in advance.

Temperature and wind conditions: Please see online data from the automatic meteostation in the race area.

Entry date: Please send the room reservations and Entry Forms to Regatta Office on or before August, 11 2012. Further details from: Tel: +7 499 641-0055, +7-925-864-3620; Email: finn@moscow-finnclass.ru, www.finnclass.ru
The fourth edition of the ISAF Sailing World Cup featured events in Melbourne, Miami, Palma, Hyères, Medemblik, Weymouth and Kiel. Numbers were generally down on previous years, with some new names at the top. After two podium finishes, including a win in Medemblik, Caleb Paine of the USA won the series from Brendan Casey of Australia while Zach Railey, also of the USA, was third.

### 3. Trofeo SAR Princesa Sofia MAPFRE, Palma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>289</td>
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<td>Daniel Birgmark</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>SLO</td>
<td>Vasilij Zbogar</td>
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<td>POL</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>GER</td>
<td>Matthias Miller</td>
<td>339</td>
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</table>

The regatta ended with a blast, solid winds, sunshine and great sailing. With huge seas and 20 knots winds, it was a great event to see what had generally been a light wind regatta. Zach Railey initially led while Vasilij Zbogar took the lead downwind only to lose it to Andrew Mills on the second beat. Mills held onto the lead on the final epic downwind to the finish and as the finishing order stood, Railey had the silver and Mills the bronze.

However, at the start five boats had been OCS. Ainslie was out, so was Zbogar and so was fourth placed Jonas Høgh Christensen. This left Chris Cook, who crossed sixth, in third to take the bronze medal. The points gap that Mills thought he had produced vanished into Finn air.
Brendan Casey picked up his first ever ISAF Sailing World Cup win in the best possible way, by dominating and winning the medal race in the rough and windy waters off Hyeres to snatch the title at the last moment. Former leader Rafa Trujillo could only finish seventh to drop to second overall, while a late charge from Vasilij Zbogar gave him the bronze.

It was a hard week in Hyeres and the venue threw its toughest conditions at the relatively small fleet. Starting with strong winds, with day three abandoned when it got too extreme, day four was a complete contrast with light, shifty and tricky winds. The week ended with very strong winds again with only one race possible on Thursday, before Friday’s epic medal race. Several classes were abandoned on shore.

Deniss Karpak opened the week with three race wins and a second place in strong winds, to build a commanding lead.

The low numbers sailing here is evidence of the busy early season, with many sailors training elsewhere or in Weymouth. However this started to fall apart in the light wind races on Wednesday, when a first and a second let Trujillo into the lead. Trujillo held onto the lead on Thursday’s single very windy race, which was won by Casey, while a second for Karpak kept in him the silver medal position.

Going into the medal race Trujillo had a scant two point lead over Karpak with Casey and Vasilij Zbogar still in with a chance at the gold. The conditions were verging on the extreme, with winds touching 30 knots. Casey started well, headed to the left and after passing Gasper Vincec on the first downwind was never really threatened. He extended for a comfortable win, with Eduard Skornyakov crossing in second and Zbogar third.

Sitting no higher than third place all week, Casey stole the regatta by winning the last two races in the strongest winds of the week. His win also means he had met the Australian qualification criteria for the Olympics. He said, “I have been trying to be selected for the Olympic Games for many years and I have had many disappointments. I can’t say how excited I am!”

Zbogar has also won his Olympic selection trials over Gasper Vincec, who capsized and finally finished ninth.

Trujillo had almost done enough to win, but Alexey Selivanov screamed across the finish line just metres ahead of the Olympic silver medalist to deny Trujillo the title by just 0.4 points.

The low numbers sailing here is evidence of the busy early season, with many sailors training elsewhere or in Weymouth.
5. Delta Lloyd Regatta, Medemblik

Caleb Paine won the Delta Lloyd Regatta after putting together a great series including a win in the medal race. With a large number of sailors skipping the event because it fell between the Finn Gold Cup and Skandia Sail for Gold, the event was sailed over just three days.

Paine outsailed Björn Allansson and Selivanov to take his first ever major event win. The favourite, Pieter-Jan Postma, lost the lead on Friday because of two disqualifications, and ended up ended fourth.

Paine, already busy with his 2016 Olympic campaign, said, “I had a great event. I won the first race and after that I had some troubles with the light weather conditions. The last two days were splendid. The format at Medemblik with three days of racing was perfect. It’s a pity that not everybody was here, but I enjoyed my win. It was a good competition.”

Delta Lloyd Regatta - Final Results

| Place | USA 11 Caleb Paine | SWE 6 Björn Allansson | RUS 1 Aleksey Selivanov | NED 842 Pieter-Jan Postma | NZL 8 Matt Coutts | SLO 5 Gasper Vincic | NED 841 Hein van Egmond | RUS 111 Andrej Yanitskiy | CAN 110 Martin Robitaille | RUS 5 Viktor Filippov | RUS 6 Arkadiy Kistanov | USA 93 Gordon Lamphere | GBR 18 James Hadden | DEN 82 Kaspar Andreasen | EST 96 Martti Kinkar | SWE 109 Rob Hemming | CAN 113 Michel Mitenburg | NED 114 Fabian Lemmel | RUS 115 Peter Hubregtsen | NED 122 Bas Weijman |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | USA 11 Caleb Paine  | 2 SWE 6 Björn Allansson | 3 RUS 1 Aleksey Selivanov | 4 NED 842 Pieter-Jan Postma | 5 NZL 8 Matt Coutts | 6 SLO 5 Gasper Vincic | 7 NED 841 Hein van Egmond | 8 RUS 111 Andrej Yanitskiy | 9 CAN 110 Martin Robitaille | 10 RUS 5 Viktor Filippov | 11 RUS 6 Arkadiy Kistanov | 12 USA 93 Gordon Lamphere | 13 GBR 18 James Hadden | 14 DEN 82 Kaspar Andreasen | 15 EST 96 Martti Kinkar | 16 CAN 113 Rob Hemming | 17 NED 114 Michel Mitenburg | 18 GER 120 Fabian Lemmel | 19 NED 122 Peter Hubregtsen | 20 NED 148 Bas Weijman |

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Photos: Thom Touw
The weather was the main topic of conversion at the 2012 Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta. Starting with very light winds and a race lost, the second day brought wet and windy conditions and three tough races. On Wednesday the wind picked up again, and was stronger still on Thursday when storms moved in, causing racing on Friday to be abandoned. In contrast the medal races were held in near perfect conditions, hopefully a precursor to what will come this summer.

All through this arduous week, one man dominated. Apart from a slip up in the very patchy opening race, which was won by a long way by Caleb Paine, Giles Scott won six of the next seven races and finished second in the other to Ben Ainslie. Scott wrapped up his most dominant week ever with a medal race win to take the week by 30 points. Ainslie had been in silver position for most of the week and almost threw it away with a capsize rounding the gate in the medal race. Zach Railey also sailed an excellent week, but missed out on bronze by just three points after a poor finish in the medal race.

Pieter-Jan Postma had been lurking in the top ten all week and almost threw it away with a medal race win to take the week by 30 points. Ainslie had been in silver position for the first time. His bronze could easily have been as that I generally went the right way too. It helped me win all the races I did, as well as that I generally went the right way too. It was quite an interesting medal race and it’s nice to be able to pull through in the end and win. I’ve had consistent firsts and seconds all week so I couldn’t really hope for much more. Obviously being able to end the week winning the medal race is a nice feeling.”

It was a tough wet week that showcased the many possibilities of the British weather and though Ainslie was below form, he still was the best of the rest, while Scott has clearly set the marker down for 2016.

Scott summed up his week, “I seem to have had good speed all week, which really helped me win all the races I did, as well as that I generally went the right way too. It was quite an interesting medal race and it’s nice to be able to pull through in the end and win. I’ve had consistent firsts and seconds all week so I couldn’t really hope for much more. Obviously being able to end the week winning the medal race is a nice feeling.”
7. Kiel Week

Kiel Week got off to a perfect start in good wind conditions, a bit of sunshine and some heavy showers during the day. Deniss Karpak was the early leader and never really looked back notching up four race wins and never finishing below third place the whole week.

In the shortened series and never finishing below third in the 37 boat fleet, Brendan Casey kept it tight though and took three race wins to take the silver while the Delta Lloyd winner Caleb Paine just beat Bjorn Allansson to the bronze medal after the medal race clincher. The fourth race was won by the host nation’s Olympic hopeful Matthias Miller, though even this performance proved insufficient to convince the German Federation that he should go to Weymouth.

On the third day the organisers had to stop the racing at noon because of a small thunder cell with strong winds that was approaching the Kiel Fjord faster than predicted. After a break of four hours, the races continued in stormy gusts. The following day a touch of summer with a thermal sea breeze was supposed to dominate the sailing conditions, but there was no wind on the outside courses at all. In all three races were lost from the series. The breeze returned for the medal race which Karpak won from Alexiy Selivanov and Casey. After the disappointment of losing Hyères week, Karpak finally has his first Sailing World Cup win under his belt, which should give him a great confidence boost as the sailors make their final preparation for the summer’s Olympic regatta.

Casey won his second medal of the year after winning Hyères, while Paine is clearly improving regatta by regatta and has had a great season with some impressive results.

Kiel Woche 2012 – Final Results

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>EST 2</td>
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<td>USA 11</td>
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<td>3 4 5</td>
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<td>11 DEN 46</td>
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<td>14 EST 7</td>
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<td>15 RUS 5</td>
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<td>21 RUS 91</td>
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<td>24 GER 203</td>
<td>Hartmut Duisberg</td>
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The JP Morgan Asset Management Finn Gold Cup, Falmouth, UK

The JP Morgan Asset Management Finn Festival combined the UK National Championship and the Finn Gold Cup. The Gold Cup was sailed in the second week and attracted 94 entries from 30 nations. For many it was the last chance to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games with six more places available, as well as being used as national trials for many countries.

On the water the event was dominated by Ben Ainslie to take his sixth Finn world title. Ed Wright also sailed an impressive series to take the silver, while Jonas Hogh-Christensen won the fight for the bronze. The event was officially opened amid the wonderful exhibition of British Olympic heritage in the stunningly modern and stylish National Maritime Museum Cornwall. The regatta was hosted by the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, though the event was based out of the Falmouth Watersports Centre.

Day 1
The fleet was initially held ashore but there was a further delay on the water as the wind clocked round to the west before a line was set. The first race finally got going under black flag at around 14:00 with one boat disqualified; Egor Terpigorev led at each and every mark but unfortunately for him he crossed the finish line in silence as the winner’s gun went to Ainslie. Terpigorev led Dimitar Vanelov, Ainslie and Wright round the top mark and though Ainslie moved through to second on the first downwind he couldn’t pass the Russian. Wright moved up to third across the line to place second in the race behind Ainslie, while Rafal Szukiel climbed from fifth at the first mark to end up third. The second race was started promptly with Wright, along with Jorge Zarif and Timo Haggort, starting on port tack from the pin end while Jonathan Lobert started at the committee boat. At the top mark Wright just held the lead from Lobert with Oleksiy Borysov and Hogh-Christensen close behind. On the first downwind Wright and Lobert had a great battle, made more exciting with the Oscar flag up for free pumping. Wright rounded the gate ahead of Lobert and these two extended on the second beat to build a nice lead. On the final downwind Wright extended even further for a comfortable win with Ainslie moving into third and putting some pressure on Lobert in the closing stages. Zarif had a great race crossing in sixth.

Day 2
With dark clouds, moderate to strong winds and intermittent rain all day, race officer Peter Reggio was delighted that the fleet got away cleanly on both starts at the first attempt, perhaps an indication that they didn’t want to hang around any longer than necessary in the inclement conditions.

In race three the left side was favoured on the first beat with Wright leading round the top mark from Andrew Mills and Anders Pedersen. Lobert then found more pressure on the right on the first downwind to take the lead at the gate from Ainslie and Wright. On the second upwind, Ainslie and Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic favoured the right side and rounded the top mark in the lead. Mills moved from third into second on the final downwind with Ainslie extending for the win.

Race four started quickly with the left side again popular. Mark Andrews led Ainslie round the top mark, but they went the wrong way on the downwind, while Pieter-Jan Postma found more pressure on the right to round the gate ahead of Lobert and Chris Cook. The second upwind sealed the fate of many with a big right hand shift as the clouds cleared. Cook was just under the leading bunch and lifted up to the mark to lead down the final run. Lobert went high and Postma went low, but Ainslie found a way through. At the finish, they were separated by no more than 20 boat lengths, with Cook taking a well deserved win from Lobert and Ainslie.

Day 3
If any proof is needed that Ben Ainslie is at the top of his game, then day three was proof indeed. He dominated and won both races in the brutal environment of the cold...
and windy Falmouth Bay. Tuesday was always going to be the big wind day in Falmouth and it didn’t disappoint though it wasn’t the epic day many were forecasting. That was still to come. However, with temperatures plummeting in the northerly winds, the 16-20 knot wind felt like a lot more.

Most of the fleet favoured the left side on the first beat of race five, with the leaders crossing tacks several times before they rounded. Rafael Trujillo rounded first from Høgh-Christensen and Wright. Ainslie rounded in fifth but had moved up to second behind Høgh-Christensen at the gate. The two traded tacks on the second beat, before Ainslie sailed further to the right and found a way through. Ainslie rounded the top mark clear ahead while Piotr Kula had sailed a great second beat to move up to third. The race ended with two fast and thrilling reaches down to the finish. Ainslie and Høgh-Christensen extended on the fleet by several hundred metres, while Kula capsized and lost ground. Kljakovic Gaspic took advantage of that and crossed in third.

The race committee was keen to get things moving fast as by now everyone was extremely cold. Høgh-Christensen was again in good form, rounding the top mark ahead of Andrews and Ainslie. Ainslie was impressively fast down the run sailing past his rivals to round the gate with a 50 metre advantage. From there he played the shifts on the left on the second upwind to lead down the reaches for a substantial win. Høgh-Christensen had dropped back on the second upwind as it became a battle of perseverance in the tough conditions. Finally Tapio Nirkko emerged into second with Mills in third.

Day 4
There was no racing on day four after the wind spent most of the day spinning circles around the race committee. After a long wait the fleet was sent out in a building breeze, but then it started to drop and shift around before racing was abandoned for the day.

Day 5
Awesome is an overused word, but it doesn’t really come close to adequately describe the performance of Ben Ainslie on day five. In the toughest, roughest conditions that much of the fleet have sailed in for many years he took three more race wins to move within a whisker of a sixth Finn World title. The morning forecast was somewhat daunting as the fleet set out for three races under the threat of 30 knots winds and big seas by the afternoon.

Postma obviously liked the conditions and had his best day yet, rounding the first mark in race seven in the lead from Greg Douglas and Andrews. Nirkko rounded in fifth and moved up on the downwind to round level with Postma, but at the opposite gate. Postma still led at the second upwind mark, while Ainslie had moved up to second. Then on the final run to the finish, there were lots of position changes. Ainslie stormed through to the lead to win the race from Wright and Daniel Birgmark.

The conditions worsened for the next race with big rolling waves coming down the course. Matt Coutts was the clear leader at the top mark from Douglas and Andrews. Wright had moved to third at the gate and then took the lead up the beat to lead down the first reach. Ainslie had recovered from a poor first beat to third place, but was handed his second victory of the day on a plate when Wright capsized on the gybe and Douglas went wide. Ainslie slipped through the gap and screamed off to the finish. Douglas crossed in second with Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic in third. Wright rights his boat and crossed in 14th.

The final race of the day was an epic of big winds, big waves and downhill sleigh rides that needed nerves of steel. Ainslie now had the measure of the day and rounded the first mark with a nice lead which he extended on every leg to win by 200 metres at the finish. Wright was again in second for much of the race but slipped on the final reaches to fourth. Kljakovic Gaspic crossed in second with Zach Railey sailing his best race of the regatta into third.

Day 6
It had been a week of extremes and the final day was no different. Though a medal race was attempted, it was soon abandoned and an hour later racing was completely abandoned for the day as the wind disappeared. This left Ben Ainslie as Finn World Champion for the sixth time. Ed Wright took the silver while Jonas Høgh-Christensen took the bronze.

Ainslie was presented with the Finn Gold Cup after previously winning the Finn crown in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008. “Winning this year is the most special [of all six titles] for me personally because it’s where I grew up and learnt to sail and I have so much history here. And with the Olympics just around the corner it’s a great time to go out and win a world championship.”

Is it his last Finn Gold Cup? “That’s a good question. There’s a chance it could be. I have had 10 fantastic years in the Finn and I’m not sure how much longer I can keep going at this level, but I haven’t made any decisions yet on any future Finn racing. I will see how things go this summer and what else happens and make a decision then. But I would miss the Finn if I gave it up. It’s a fantastic boat. It’s a great fleet, great sailors, and great camaraderie. And I think it’s a real true test of sailing, ability and fitness.”
At the moment of writing this we have finished the Finn World Masters Championship 2012 in Pwllheli, North Wales, UK, a couple of weeks ago. The review of this event has been published on www.finnworldmaster.com. Everyone can read it there so I will not repeat too much here.

Here I want to write about some issues:

First: The discussion about a medal race. It was decided in the Annual Masters Meeting (AMM) 2011, in Punta Ala, that a medal race for the top ten (in the overall ranking at the end of the Thursday evening) was added on the Friday, right after the last fleet race(s) for the rest of the competitors. In the AMM 2012, in Pwllheli, it was decided that no medal race will be sailed when we race in one fleet. This change was not effective for 2012, but for future events. Due to a lack of stable winds on the Friday, in Pwllheli, the medal race and last fleet race 2012 were not sailed. So there was no medal race at all, in the end.

But it was decided that we would think about how to organise a medal race when we do sail in more than one group, including the four age groups and the ladies.

In my opinion there is no problem having only one medal race, based on the top ten overall, because Rule 20.8 of Addendum C of the RRS says that boats assigned to compete in a medal race will be ranked highest in the regatta except for a boat disqualified from the medal race under rule 5 or 69.

This means that a competitor, as an example, ranked 6th in the overall scoring and 1st in the GGM category, will always be 1st in the GGM category, whatever his scoring in the medal race will be.

There are Masters who say this is not honest for the rest of the GGM category and eventually other categories, as they can never catch up with the No. 1 in that category any more. And so is the case for any category of which a competitor is sailing in the medal race. But, in my opinion, this is how the rules work. When you wish to be ranked better than the competitors who scored better than you did in your category and who thus sail in the medal race, you should have sailed faster in the opening series.

But I am open for a better opinion than mine, so when you feel the need to react on this and have a good solution for a medal race, regarding all categories, please send me your proposal by mail through fonsvangent@finnworldmaster.com. Then I will discuss this within the Masters Committee.

Please send your reaction at the latest on September 15th of this year. I am looking forward to your proposals.

But: keep in mind what the goal is when we try to create a final of our Masters Championship different from sailing in fleets including the final race. This goal is to have potential winners in the overall ranking in the same fleet in this final race and not in different fleets. So they will be able to compete against each other directly.

Second: We’ve been discussing venues on other continents for the Finn World Masters. In the past we had different ideas about this, like: Every five or 10 years on another continent and also: never on another continent. The question will always be: will the amount of Finn Masters on that continent compensate more or less the amount of Masters from Europe who will decide not to travel there? Australian Masters I spoke say that this will, for sure, not be the case in Australia. So will it be a good plan to sail the Masters in Australia?

For 2014 we had the candidacy of Los Angeles, but it was not voted for. The discussions were about cost for transportation and missing your boat for, at least, two months during the European sailing season. Then the proposal came to organise a Finn World Masters in Los Angeles in November instead of the normal May/June period. We were informed that the winds in LA are not stable in November, so it has to be mid September at the latest. But that is still in the European sailing season. Now an idea is to have a look at Miami in January/February, right after the OCR.

The first good occasion, in my opinion, will be 2016, as, for 2015 we probably have Bracciano as a candidate. The club’s president wrote to me that this will be confirmed next November. Bracciano is a very popular venue for many Finn Masters and because of that Miami might have less chance in the voting. The Miami idea is being worked out now by the Masters Committee and people in Miami. So to be continued.

Third: For 2014 we voted for Sopot in Poland. I visited Sopot with my wife in September 2011 and we were happily surprised at what we saw there. Sopot is a beautiful town, close to Gdansk, with hospitable people and it offers a lot of places to visit, good restaurants and shops. The race course will be not far from the shore and it might even be possible to lay one of the marks of the course close to the pier in the city. But don’t worry! This shall not happen when it influences the quality of our races.

We told everyone, when we were back home, that our vision on Poland had to be adjusted in a very positive way. We found that our previous opinion was very outdated. Many people in Western Europe have a very wrong idea about the country. It is modernising itself on high speed. We do not have to be afraid of gangs stealing our boats, cars and other stuff we are bringing, like many people are thinking. Roads are being modernised, so I expect them to be in good shape in 2014. I can assure you that you will be positively surprised about Poland, like we were.

The Sopot city management is focusing on sailing and is very cooperative in hosting our Masters Championship in 2014. The presence of a representative of the Sopot Community during the presentation in Pwllheli is proving this. You can take a look on the presentation they gave us in Pwllheli, prior to the voting on www.finnworldmaster.com, under the tab “Masters 2014”.

I wish all of you a good time in the next couple of months with good sailing in good winds and nice holidays.

Fons van Gent
NED 748
(Vice) President Masters Fleet
The 24 Finn sailors who will take part in the London 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition have been named.

It is a deep field of talent with four Olympic medalists, six former World or European champions, and another seven championship medalists. In fact any of 14 sailors could arguably potentially win a medal of any colour. There is a healthy mix of youth and experience in the fleet with ages ranging from 18 to 48, while the average is 30.

Apart from GBR as host nation, the first 18 nations qualified for a place in Weymouth at the Perth 2011 ISAF Sailing World Championships. These were AUS, BRA, CAN, CRO, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GRE, ITA, NED, NZL, RUS, SLO, SWE, UKR and USA.

Six more places were up for grabs at the J.P. Morgan Asset Management Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth this year and five of these spaces finally went to: AUT, CHN, CZE, POL and TUR. Though Germany qualified, the German Federation decided not to make an entry into the Finn class, and despite the best efforts of the IFA to get Germany qualified, the German Federation decided not to make an entry into the Finn class, and despite the best efforts of the IFA to get the place offered to another Finn sailor it was lost. So the fleet will have 24 entries in 2012, rather than the 25 spots in the original quota.

Eleven sailors are sailing their first Olympics, six are sailing their second, two are sailing their third and fourth and two are sailing their fifth. Only one is sailing his fifth in the Finn and that’s Masters World Champion Michael Maier, who has probably sailed more miles in a Finn than anyone else in history.

While Maier is the oldest by nine years, the youngest is 18 year old Jorge Zarif from Brazil. Three years ago he won the Junior World Championship – the Jorg Bruder Silver Cup – and is hoping that the experience this year will stand him in good stead for the 2016 Olympics in his home town.

Without doubt the favourite once again has to be Ben Ainslie. Though he has shown everyone the occasional chink in his armour over the past year he is still the man everyone needs to beat, and beating him will not be easy. If he wins in Weymouth he will go down in history as the most successful sailor ever at the Olympic Games, taking that accolade from another Finn great, Paul Elvstrom.

But with such a talented pool of sailors victory is not a given and he will have to work incredible hard for it. More than half the fleet are quite capable of denying Ainslie a dream result and they want to be there just as much as he does.

The Finn programme begins on Sunday 29 July and ends with the medal race on Sunday 5 August. Reserve days are scheduled for Wednesday 1, Saturday 4 and Monday 6 August.

For daily reports and the latest news subscribe to the Finn Class press releases using the link on the home page of www.finnclass.org.

**Brendan Casey**

**Age:** 35  
**World Ranking (highest):** 7 (7)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best Results:** 2010 Finn Gold Cup (10)  
**2012 Results:** Europeans (34), Finn Gold Cup (13), Palma (19), Hyeres (1), Weymouth (14), Kiel (2)

Casey is a very experienced sailor who has tried and failed several times to qualify for the Olympics and has finally made it. He won the Laser Radial World Championships in 1995 and 1996 before switching to the Laser. After failing to qualify in 2000 and 2004 he switched to the Finn in 2006 and won the Australian Championship, but again missed out on a spot on the 2008 Olympic team. He took a few years out and returned in 2010 to place 10th at the Finn Gold Cup in San Francisco. Results came but he still had to prove himself to the selectors. His chance came in Hyeres, winning the last two races, including the very windy medal race to win the regatta and his place in London. He just couldn’t believe he had finally done it, 17 years after that first title.

**Florian Raudaschl**

**Age:** 34  
**World Ranking (highest):** 25 (19)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best Results:** 2006 Finn Gold Cup (16), 2009 Finn Gold Cup (18)  
**2012 Results:** Europeans (14), Finn Gold Cup (23), Palma (32), Hyeres (17), Weymouth (25)

After trying for many years, Raudaschl has finally made it to the Olympics to follow in the footsteps of his father’s illustrious career. (Hubert Raudaschl has competed in more Olympics than any other athlete, so far). Working in the family sailmaking business he has probably had less time in the boat than most of his competitors in recent years, but this year put some hard work in early in the year and the results started coming. Has been campaigning a Finn since 1999 and while he has performed well in the minor regattas, his two 10th places at Kiel Week in 2011 and 2010 are his only top 10 at Grade 1 regattas since 2008.

**Jorge Zarif**

**Age:** 18  
**World Ranking (highest):** 39 (35)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best Results:** 2009 Junior World Champion  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (34), Hyeres (19), Weymouth (20)

The youngest sailor in the Finn fleet at just 18 Zarif is the son of the late Jorge Zarif Zeto who competed in the Finn in both the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, where he finished 8th and 19th. Sure to be a contender in his home Olympics in four years time, he is looking to gain experience and insight into the Olympics this year. However he is a clever and hungry young sailor who has put in a few good results and has set his goal for 2012 as getting into the medal race, with the podium in his sights for 2016 in Rio. Zarif has been competing in the Finn internationally since 2009 and in Brazil since 2008 when he was just 15 years old.
Greg Douglas  
**Age:** 22  
**World Ranking (highest):** 27 (27)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2008 Laser - 43  
**Best Results:** 2012 Miami (3), 2011 Medemblik (8)  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (14), Palma (18), Weymouth (11)  
Sailed the 2008 Olympics in the Laser for Barbados and finished last. Then switched allegiance to Canada where he was trained by 2008 Olympian Chris Cook and started to bring in some encouraging results. Cook, who placed fifth in China, then returned to the Finn in 2011 and went up against his trainee in the Canadian Olympic trials. Douglas thought he had lost the trials in Falmouth after Cook surged ahead, but then in a twist of fate, Cook got sick, retired from the regatta and Douglas got the 2012 ticket. Proved he can handle big conditions in Falmouth and improving all the time so could be another surprise package. Big, strong and very focused.

Lei Gong  
**Age:** 29  
**World Ranking (highest):** 59 (59)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best Results:** 2011 Finn Gold Cup (35), Olympic Test Event (27), 2011 Medemblik (27)  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (30)  
Only sailed a handful of regattas in this cycle after failing to qualify as China’s representative in 2008. Finished one off the bottom at the 2011 Olympic Test Event but has clearly improved since then with a 30th at this year’s Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth where he qualified China for the Olympics. While China does have a core of Finn sailors, they rarely appear at International events. Gong is no exception having only sailed eight ranking events since 2004 and goes into the Olympics as the lowest ranked sailor. His first international event was the Europeans in 2004 where he picked up the bronze medal in the Junior European championship, behind Oleksiy Borisov from Ukraine and Tapio Nirkko from Finland, both also competing in Weymouth.

Ivan Kljaković Gašpić  
**Age:** 28  
**World Ranking (highest):** 3 (1)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2008 (8)  
**Best Results:** European Champion 2009, 2010; 2009 Finn Gold Cup (3)  
**2012 Results:** Europeans (3), Finn Gold Cup (4), Weymouth (9)  
A well rounded sailor with a good chance at a medal, Kljakovic Gaspic is one of the most consistent sailors on the circuit, and is regularly at the front of international fleets. In China he finished in 8th place despite showing promise by nearly winning the 2007 test event. Since then he has matured as a sailor and put numerous regatta wins under his belt including the European Championship in 2009 and 2010. Over the last year he has strengthened his armoury by improving his strong wind speed, as shown in his fourth place at the 2012 Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth. Earlier in the year he picked up the bronze at the light wind Europeans, though like most of the fleet this year he has only done a few regattas in what has been a very busy start of the season.

Michael Maier  
**Age:** 48  
**World Ranking (highest):** 19 (2)  
**Previous Olympics:** 1996 (14), 2000 (19), 2004 (15), 2008 (25)  
**Best Results:** 2000 Finn Gold Cup (5), 2009 Finn Gold Cup (15)  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (24), Hyeres (8), Weymouth (24)  
The grand master of the Finn fleet, having just won his fourth Finn World Masters title. Maier will be the oldest sailor in the Finn fleet at 48 and also the most experienced. This will be his fifth Olympics, all of them in the Finn. Maier has been campaigning Finns since the early 1980s and before many of the current international fleets. In China he finished fifth at the 2011 Finn Gold Cup after twice finishing losing the title, and picking up the bronze at the 2008 Olympics as one of the medal favourites. However things never really went his way. He did stage a late recovery to finish sixth, but that was a long way from where he wanted to be. He almost gave up, took a year off and came back, unprepared, but fresh, to win the 2009 Finn Gold Cup on home waters. An on-off campaign ended in November 2011 when he started full time again and the results gradually came. He is now right back at the top and will be a serious contender for a medal again. This will be his third Olympics in the Finn.

Jonas Hogh-Christensen  
**Age:** 31  
**World Ranking (highest):** 10 (1)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2004 (9), 2008 (6)  
**Best Results:** World Champion 2006, 2009  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (3), Palma (8), Weymouth (12)  
One of the most experienced sailors in the fleet, this will be his fourth Olympics and the third in the Finn. He picked up a silver medal in Athens in 2004, and then just made the medal race in China in 2008. He won the 2007 Finn Gold Cup after twice finishing losing the title on the final day and claimed another runner up place in 2010. Since then he has struggled with form, though finished fifth at the 2011 Finn Gold Cup. This year he placed 10th at the Europeans and 18th at the Finn Gold Cup. Big, strong sailor who prefers breezy conditions. He is certainly good enough to win another medal. Goes into the Olympics as the new world number one ranked sailor.

Rafael Trujillo  
**Age:** 36  
**World Ranking (highest):** 1 (1)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2000 Star (8), 2004 (2), 2008 (9)  
**Best Result:** World Champion 2007  
**2012 Results:** Europeans (10), Finn Gold Cup (18), Palma (21), Hyeres (2), Weymouth (10)  
One of the most experienced sailors in the fleet who prefers stronger upwind but struggles downwind in the tree pumping conditions.

Deniss Karpak  
**Age:** 26  
**World Ranking (highest):** 2 (1)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2008 Laser (24)  
**Best Results:** 2011 Finn Gold Cup (8)  
**2012 Results:** Finn Gold Cup (11), Europeans (6), Hyeres (4), Weymouth (15)  
After sailing the 2008 Olympics in the Laser he moved straight into the Finn and has made steady progress ever since. He qualified for the 2012 Olympics after a great performance in Perth, and most recently won Kiel Week. A consistent year attending most of the major events also meant he briefly rose to the number one spot in the world rankings in June. A tall, athletic figure he struggled this year in the really windy conditions, losing Hyeres and finishing out of the medals after the medal race was sailed in 30 knots. Generally he is improving all the time and would definitely be considered as top 10 material and a possible for a surprise medal. Karpak won the Sailor of the Year in Estonia from 2005-11 and the Best Young Athlete of the Year in Estonia in 2007.
The only internationally competitive Finnish Finn sailor, this will be Nirkko’s second Olympics after a disappointing regatta in China, where he placed 18th. Since then he has had a few moments of brilliance, picking up the silver medal at the 2009 Europeans and winning races here and there, generally in windy conditions. A tall and strong sailor, he is finally starting to add some consistency.

**Jonathan Lobert**

A silver medal at the Olympic Test Event in 2011 was the culmination of steady progress over the previous few years. Lobert won his selection for the Olympics after the 2011 Finn Gold Cup against training partner Thomas Le Breton. He has a very athletic style in the boat, especially downwind and should do well at the Olympics. Hasn’t quite repeated his test event form since last August Event to win selection. The controversial 2011 Finn Gold Cup was followed by a back operation, but he bounced back to dominate Palma and the 2012 Finn Gold Cup. Ainslie is going for a record fourth Gold Medal, which together with a silver from 1996, would make him the most successful Olympic sailor of all time. He is the absolute favourite to win gold.

**Ben Ainslie**

After winning gold in 2008 there was much speculation whether Ainslie would return, but the demise of Team Origin made the decision easy and he returned to full time Finn sailing in 2010. After being unbeaten since 2004, his greatest threat came from Giles Scott and in the UK trials, the 2011 Skandia Sail for Gold was the decisive regatta for them both. Ainslie won and went on to dominate the Olympic Test but is always pushing the leaders. He first moved into the Finn in early 2007 after outgrowing the Laser. Should almost certainly be a favourite for a medal at the Olympics based on past performance, and he seems to produce his best in Weymouth.

**Ioannis Mitakis**

Mitakis won the 2012 European Championship out of nowhere in very light and shifty winds. He first appeared in a Finn in 2009 and took the Junior European title in Bulgaria with ease. The following year he won it again in Croatia, this time also finishing 12th overall in the senior fleet. Then in 2010 he finished as runner up in the Silver Cup in San Francisco. A clearly talented sailor, many thought he would be a serious challenger in 2016, but he didn’t want to wait that long. Probably still one of the lightest sailors in the fleet and struggles when it is windy, but produces his best when it is light. His biggest enemy may be lack of regatta practice this year.

**Filippo Baldassari**

The first sailor to qualify for the Olympics, Baldasaari won the Italian national trials back in April 2011. He has made steady progress since and has gradually moved up the ranks, including an impressive fourth overall at the light wind 2011 Europeans in Italy. One of a few sailors who skipped the Finn Gold Cup this year to take a break from the hectic early season. His 10th place last year in Hyeres was Baldasaari’s only top 10 placing at a Sailing World Cup or Grade 1 event since he switched to the Finn from the Laser in 2009.

**Pieter-Jan Postma**

Postma picked up the silver medal at the Finn Gold Cup and the Pre-Olympics in 2007 and then had a disastrous Olympics in 2008, failing to even make the medal race. After a few years taking it easy and studying he is now right back in contention with a bronze at the 2011 Olympic Test Event and a silver at the 2011 Finn Gold Cup. He placed seventh at the Europeans after being one of the favourites, and the spectre of national qualification perhaps played its part in a scrappy 2012 Finn Gold Cup where he salvaged a ninth. However he pulled a third out of the bag at the 2012 Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta. If he is on form, then he can sail fast and clever and will be a clear medal contender at the Games.

**Dan Slater**

Third Olympics for Dan Slater after sailing a 49er in 2000 and finishing a very disappointing 12th in 2008 in the Finn, after finishing as runner up in the 2008 Finn Gold Cup. Selected late by New Zealand Yachting, he is perhaps a bit short on training but his experience of the arena and the fleet should easily give him top 10 potential and he could well be in with a shot at the medals if things go his way. A very experienced sailor he also campaigned the Laser for the 1996 and 2004 Olympics but failed to get selected. Finally switched to the Finn in 2005 and immediately made his mark with a silver medal at the 2005 European Championships. Has won several Grade 1 regattas in recent years and surely has the ability and potential to medal.
Piotr Kula  
POL

Age: 25  
World Ranking (highest): 28 (13)  
Previous Olympics: None  
Best Results: 2011 Finn Gold Cup (23), 2011 Medemblik (7)  
2012 Results: Finn Gold Cup (6), Palma (11), Hyeres (12), Weymouth (17)  

Won a very close Polish trials against the 2008 Olympian Rafal Szuikiel and placed a very creditable sixth overall at the 2012 Finn Gold Cup, which clearly showed he has talent to burn. He has struggled with a knee injury over the past year, which kept him out of the 2011 Finn Gold Cup in Perth but proved this year he has the tenacity and the determination to race at the highest level. The Poles failed to qualify for the Olympics in Perth so it came down to Falmouth in addition to being the final selection trials. Kula was clearly on a mission all week and produced the best results of his career to date. He could well be the surprise package of the Games.

Eduard Skornyakov  
RUS

Age: 31  
World Ranking (highest): 14 (7)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 (17)  
Best Results: 2010 Hyeres (10), 2011 Finn Gold Cup (13)  
2012 Results: Europeans (2), Palma (7), Hyeres (6)  

First appeared on the Finn scene in 2007 when he was the surprise winner of the European Championships on Lake Balaton in Hungary, in similar conditions to his home waters on the lakes in Moscow. Since then he hasn\'t ever got close to repeating that performance but is starting to make headway into the top of the fleet. After a brief spell in the Laser and the 49er he moved into the Finn in a competitive regatta since Hyeres. After his first medal in 2009 Europeans Vincic. Zbogar is a seasoned Olimpian having competed in three Games in the Laser already and picked up a bronze and a silver in that class. He took the silver medal at this year's Europeans and then dominated the close of the Slovenian trials before taking some time out. Going into the Olympics he won't have raced in form so far this year, though he normally sails well in medal races and almost won the medal race at this year's Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta. A very consistent, steady and calm sailor who is always where he should be or thereabouts. Probably his last Olympics in the Finn so will be more determined than ever to make it count.

Vasiliy Zbogar  
SLO

Age: 36  
World Ranking (highest): 13 (4)  
Previous Olympics: Laser 2000 (19), 2004 (3), 2008 (4)  
Best Results: 2011 Europeans (6), 2011 Finn Gold Cup (13)  
2012 Results: Europeans (2), Palma (7), Hyeres (6)  

Sailed the 2009 Europeans and the switched full time to the Finn in 2010 after many years in the Laser. Won the Turkish trials after the Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth after sailing well to beat the long time Finn sailor Akif Muslubas. Kaynar has steadily improved over the past two years but has yet to break through very often. One highlight was this year's European Championship in Scarlino, Italy where he won a race and finished 12th overall. He is still relatively small compared to the rest of the fleet but is clearly quick in light winds.

Daniel Birgmark  
SWE

Age: 39  
World Ranking (highest): 9 (4)  
Previous Olympics: 2004 (14), 2008 (4)  
Best Results: 2011 Europeans (3), 2009 Finn Gold Cup (5)  
2012 Results: Europeans (2), Palma (7), Hyeres (6)  

After missing out in the Laser class in 2004, Birgmark switched to the Finn which was a much better fit for his size and weight and immediately qualified for Athens. After a 14th there, he lost the bronze medal at the Olympics in 2008 on the tie break after the medal race, so will be very keen to put that right in 2012. Best result since 2008 is a bronze medal at the 2010 Europeans. Struggled for Scarlino, Italy where he won a race and finished 12th overall. He is still relatively small compared to the rest of the fleet but is clearly quick in light winds.

Alican Kaynar  
TUR

Age: 23  
World Ranking (highest): 35 (35)  
Previous Olympics: None  
Best Results: 2011 Finn Gold Cup (52), 2011 Europeans (33)  
2012 Results: Europeans (12), Finn Gold Cup (29), Hyeres (21), Weymouth (28)  

After just missing out on qualifying for the 2008 Olympics by just one place, this time around Borysov qualified at the first attempt in Perth to secure a place in Weymouth. Has been sailing the Finn internationally since 2004 and has only won one major ranking event, the 2011 Sail Melbourne, in that time. He also placed second in Kiel Week in 2010. One of only two dinghy sailors representing Ukraine in Weymouth (the other is in the Laser), Borysov unfortunately was forced to miss the 2011 Skandia Sail for Gold and the 2011 Olympic Test Event due to lack of financial support. He can normally pull out a few good races in each regatta, including race wins, but now needs to put it all together at one event.

Oleksiy Borysov  
UKR

Age: 29  
World Ranking (highest): 24 (15)  
Previous Olympics: None  
Best Results: 2011 Finn Gold Cup (22) 2011 Europeans (20)  
2012 Results: Finn Gold Cup (21), Palma (24), Hyeres (16), Weymouth (34)  

After just missing out on qualifying for the 2008 Olympics by just one place, this time around Borysov qualified at the first attempt in Perth to secure a place in Weymouth. Has been sailing the Finn internationally since 2004 and has only won one major ranking event, the 2011 Sail Melbourne, in that time. He also placed second in Kiel Week in 2010. One of only two dinghy sailors representing Ukraine in Weymouth (the other is in the Laser), Borysov unfortunately was forced to miss the 2011 Skandia Sail for Gold and the 2011 Olympic Test Event due to lack of financial support. He can normally pull out a few good races in each regatta, including race wins, but now needs to put it all together at one event.

Zach Railey  
USA

Age: 27  
World Ranking (highest): 8 (1)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 (2)  
Best Results: 2009 Finn Gold Cup (2), 2011 Finn Gold Cup (9)  
2012 Results: Finn Gold Cup (10), Miami (1), Palma (2), Weymouth (4)  

Against all expectations Railey won the silver medal in China and has been trying to live up to his billing ever since. The closest he got was a silver at the 2009 Finn Gold Cup, losing the title on the medal race. He has picked up various medals at several Sailing World Cup Events, and posted a solid fourth place at the recent Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta. Though not the biggest sailor in the fleet he has historically produced some of his best results at windy regattas, as well as at light wind venues such as Qingdao. Railey is a very thoughtful, analytical sailor and it is well within his abilities to pick up another medal this summer.
At the 2012 Finn World Masters in Pwllheli, North Wales, Michael Maier took his fourth Masters without too much trouble, but everyone behind him had a great week’s sailing, held in some unusually tropical conditions. The sun shined bright and hot every day but one and for that everyone was happy. The wind was generally light apart from one day and too light on the final day to sail the much awaited medal race. It was first time the Finn World Masters has been sailed in UK waters for 12 years, and only the second time it has ever been held in the UK. In the end there were 132 entries and everyone sailed in one fleet, but with two adjacent start lines using three committee boats. To the surprise of many it did actually work quite well, though a mid line mistake was more costly than usual.

Day 1
The fleet was held ashore until nearly 16.00 as the early fog gave way to high temperatures, sunny skies and very light winds. The Olympic Torch Relay visited the club that day and almost on cue as soon as it had departed the wind started to fill in. The skies and very light winds. The Olympic Torch Relay visited the club that day and almost on cue as soon as it had departed the wind started to fill in. The wind quickly built to 10-11 knots, but after a further postponement, a general recall and then a black flag start — from which 20 boats were sent home early — it had decreased to 8-10 knots and gradually faded into the early evening. By the time the boats finished it was down to 4-6 knots. The fleet came back toshore around 19.00. Maier was always in charge. Tacking off the line soon after the start he favoured the right hand corner and took an early lead that was never really challenged. Laurent Hay had a good battle with Alex Burrell for second, but on the final beat Burrell split tacks to try and find more pressure. Neil Robinson followed Hay to the right and nearly caught him, but when Burrell crossed back, he had lost third place to Robinson.

Day 2
Both starts got way under black flag again, with the first race of the day picking out ten early starters. Rob Coutts led the fleet round the top mark from Alexandr Kasatov and Peter Kilchenmann, while Maier was in

Finn World Masters 2012 - Final Results

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nation</th>
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<td>CZE 1 Michael Maier</td>
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<td>LTU 7 Tauras Rymonis</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NZL 9 Rob Coutts</td>
<td>GBM</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>GER 711 Andre Buddien</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>GBR 5 John Greenwood</td>
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<td>GER 700 Martin Hofmann</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>GBR 17 Paul Blowers</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>RUS 41 Felix Denikaev</td>
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<td>NED 50 Jan Zetzema</td>
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<td>NZL 15 Greg Wilcox</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>SWE 14 Stefan Nordstrom</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>GBR 679 Neil Robinson</td>
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<td>AUS 8 Dirk Seret</td>
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<td>DEN 249 Svend Vogt Andersen</td>
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<td>NED 2 Wouter Molenaar</td>
<td>GGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>GBR 65 David Potter</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>RUS 142 Yuri Polovinkin</td>
<td>GGM</td>
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<td>GER 208 Uwe Kirast</td>
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<tr>
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<td>GBR 1 Sander Koziel</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>GER 282 Michael Woiwode</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>RUS 25 Anatoly Voschenkov</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>GBR 68 John Mackie</td>
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However, it wasn’t long until Maier had taken the lead but Day 4 of place changes followed as the 131 Finns struggled too on the final shortened lap in 2-4 knots of wind. Maier the top mark had taken the lead, a lead that he held on to go left or right proved critical. Tauras Rymonis tacked on the right were hung out to dry. The breeze faded further followed by Maier and Stefan Nordstrom. Most of those and building. Most of the early leaders started near the boats had reached the starting area it was at 10 knots through for another second.

Day 3
A very light morning breeze prompted an early postponement but by the time this had come down and the boats had reached the starting area it was at 10 knots and building. Most of the early leaders started near the centre committee boat and after clearing the fleet tacked over to the right. Maier led this group and when he tacked on the layline it looked like a fourth win was in the bag. However the wind clocked round 20 degrees to the right, dropped in strength and the left side of the fleet almost reached into the top mark. First round was Simon Hoult followed by Maier and Stefan Nordstrom. Most of those on the right were hung out to dry. The breeze faded further and with more changes on the second beat, the decision to go left or right proved critical. Tauras Rymonis tacked over to the left early and by the time the fleet merged at the top mark had taken the lead, a lead that he held on to on the final shortened lap in 2-4 knots of wind. Maier crossed in second while Martin Hofmann was third. Lots of place changes followed as the 131 Finns struggled too find speed in the very light, shifty and sloppy conditions.

Day 4
Day four finally brought some real Welsh weather, with stronger winds and persistent rain. Race five got away with a number of boats pulled out for being over early including the leader at the top mark, Marc Allain des Beauvais. He rounded ahead of Breuer and Maier. However, it wasn’t long until Maier had taken the lead but with the shifting winds, there were lots of place changes.
possible. Burrell enjoyed the windier conditions and moved up to second at the finish while Breuer claimed third.

As the conditions deteriorated further, with the wind increasing to 11-14 knots and the top gust recorded at 18 knots, race six got under way at the first attempt. The leaders again emerged from the left and at the top mark Denis Khartitonov led round from Breuer and Burrell. Maier rounded in fifth and again moved into the lead fairly quickly while Burrell claimed another second place. Allain des Beauvais was clearly spurred on by his BFD in race five by crossing race six in third.

Day 5
The sailors spent the final day onshore watching the water and hoping for wind, but it didn’t happen and the prizegiving and farewells were brought forward. Michael Maier won his fourth Finn World Masters title, and was a worthy winner, while Allen Burrell won the silver medal for the second year running. Hay picked up his second bronze medal after previously finishing third in 2009.

Maier said, “We’ve had great weather this week, amazing weather in fact. In the light winds we had some races that were a bit tricky but I think everyone is happy with the week. We had a nice championship and everyone is going home with a good feeling.”

Burrell said, “I am really pleased to win the silver again, especially with the way the week started with the light winds when I wasn’t expecting to come second. Everyone at the club have done a great job organising everything.”

Hay said, “I am a little bit disappointed because I think I did two mistakes and lost five points and then finished just two points behind Allen. I expected to have a good medal race today because I like that kind of competition, with a short and aggressive race, but it was not to be. So maybe next year.”

There were new prizes this year for the Ladies and the Legend categories. Sabine Breuer was the only lady this year but said she would only take home the trophy if she finished every race and was not last. At just 52kg she is half the size of many sailors here, but she accomplished her goal for the second year running and got the biggest cheer. Despite opening with a black flag disqualification Rob Coutts took the Grand Masters title against some very tough competition, while Pascal Tetard dominated the Grand Grand Masters. The Legend category was won for the second year running by Howard Sellars, with British sailors taking all the medals.

Clwb Hwylio Pwllheli Sailing Club was the perfect host, going to great lengths to ensure that all the competitors had a great time on and off the water. It was a remarkable championship in many ways not least the uncharacteristic weather. Next year the championship returns to La Rochelle, France, which hosted the event in 1996. Already forecasts are for a 200-250 boat championship. If Maier wins there he will equal the record set by Larry Lemieux between 1995 and 2004 of five Finn World Masters titles.

Overall: 1 CZE 1 Michael Maier, 2 GBR 2 Allen Burrell, 3 FRA 75 Laurent Hay

Grand Masters: 1 NZL 9 Rob Coutts, 2 GER 711 André Budzien, 3 GBR 5 John Greenwood

Grand Grand Masters: 1 FRA 150 Pascal Tetard, 2 NED 8 Rodrick Cassander, 3 SWE 721 Michael Brandt

Legend: 1 GBR 77 Howard Sellars, GBR 531 Richard Hart, 3 GBR 611 Tony Lock

Ladies: 1 GER 706 Sabine Breuer
Finn sailing from across the world

**BELGIUM**

Finn Open Meuse, 14-15 April

Alain Denis wrote: The second edition of the “Open Meuse” regatta on Jollenhaven Woalenwiert, close to Maastricht and Liège, was blessed with a very nice northerly and 11 enthusiastic Finn-sailors. The first race was won by Paul, followed by Joël. Arnaud Baudin grabbed first place in the second race, followed by Philippe who always took the favoured sides (luck or genius?) and he was “shadowed” by Michel Baudin. The wind fell and further racing was abandoned.

We than went to enjoy the famous “boulets” dinner in the yacht club of Liège. The atmosphere was fantastic and reminded us that the Finn class not only excels in competitive sailing but also in openness and friendships. On Sunday we sailed three long races in a Force 4. In the absence of Paul, it became a beautiful head-to-head duel between Joël and Arnaud. Joël finally claimed victory by 1 point. Our youngest Finn-sailor, Matthias grew during the race and showed his talent by battling in front of the races.

**DENMARK**

Richard Berg-Larsen writes: The Finn fleet in Denmark has had a slow start this Summer, with low participation in two regattas and a third which was cancelled due to low sign up. The Polyester Cup in Kastrup was sailed in an ever increasing wind over April 28th and 29th, but the race officer managed to shorten the course, so we managed to get eight speedy short races in before it became too violent. This regatta has now been sailed for more than 15 years and is becoming the traditional Spring Regatta in Denmark.

| 1 | DEN 6 | Lars Hall | 12 |
| 2 | DEN 80 | Michael Staal | 13 |
| 3 | DEN 262 | Bo Teglers | 18 |
| 4 | DEN 249 | Svend V Andersen | 24 |
| 5 | DEN 1 | Frank Hansen | 32 |
| 6 | FIN 9 | Eki Heinonen | 43 |
| 7 | DEN 77 | Flemming Jensen | 54 |
| 8 | DEN 18 | Richard Berg-Larsen | 57 |
| 9 | DEN 192 | Ole B Madsen | 59 |
| 10 | DEN 14 | Jan Verner Nielsen | 63 |
| 11 | DEN 234 | Matti Lintunen | 64 |
| 12 | DEN 13 | Peter Mikkelsen | 90 |

After the Dragor Cup was cancelled, The Royal Danish Yacht Club was the host for a “Grown up regatta” in Rungsted that is hopefully going to be fixed item on the calendar in the second weekend in June. On the first day of the Zhik Cup we had very good racing conditions, and still not too wild, while many sailors could not handle the boats on the second day. The Royal Danish Yacht Club has realised that more and more experienced sailors are sailing dinghy classes because it is easier, less expensive and much more fun.

As a result of this Royal Danish Yacht Club invited to the Zhik Cup experienced sailors in the OK, Finn, 505 and Laser classes and younger sailors were invited as well in the 29’er, 29XX’er and 49’er classes. The Finn was the biggest class with 13 participants and we had two great days of sailing in fresh shifting wind conditions. The chairman of the Danish Finn Class Association – Kenneth Bøggild - was a clear winner scoring only first places except from one race where he finished second. All in all it was a great initiative from Royal Danish Yacht Club and the sponsor Zhik. We are all invited for next year’s event scheduled for second weekend in June.

| 1 | DEN 231 | Kenneth Bøggild | 6 |
| 2 | DEN 210 | Henrik Elmer | 17 |
| 3 | DEN 249 | Svend V Andersen | 23 |
| 4 | DEN 1 | Frank Hansen | 26 |
| 5 | DEN 10 | Christian Stormark | 28 |
| 6 | DEN 6 | Lars Hall | 32 |
| 7 | DEN 14 | Jan Verner Nielsen | 48 |
| 8 | DEN 258 | Christian Quist | 54 |
| 9 | DEN 192 | Ole B Madsen | 58 |
| 10 | DEN 234 | Matti Lintunen | 63 |
| 11 | DEN 18 | Richard Berg-Larsen | 67 |
| 12 | DEN 205 | Mogens Petersson | 70 |
| 13 | DEN 700 | Jan Voetmann | 72 |
| 14 | DEN 191 | Jørgen Jacobsen | 89 |
Two weeks of top quality Finn racing at the JP Morgan Asset Management Falmouth Finn Festival began with the UK National and Open Championships and it set the scene for the Finn Gold Cup the following week, with cold and changeable conditions and some tricky winds.

Postma and Lobert won all the races on day two though Scott though hung onto the overall lead from Ainslie and Postma. The fleet was treated to three fantastic races in 12-14 knots, with nice waves and even some sunshine. Jonas Hogh-Christensen was the early leader in race three but it was the man of the day Postma who led across the wind all but disappeared for 20 minutes. Ainslie hung onto his lead to cross the finish line the wind went really running. Oscar was flying and this stayed up for the first downwind but then was removed by the time of the start of race one the wind was down to 10-12 knots with a large sea. It wasn’t long before Scott was in the lead to lead round the top mark, but nearly caught Postma in a very close finish. In race four Postma led at the top mark, but couldn’t hold onto the lead and Lobert eventually took the gun. Scott got his revenge on Postma, just pipping him for third on the line. With a number of boats calling it a day, numbers were down for the final race. Postma again led at the top mark and this time he held on for his second race win of the day from Scott and Ainslie. The

The current world champion Giles Scott got off to a good start with a small margin over his main rival Ben Ainslie, each winning one race each. It was windy early on but by the time of the start of race one the wind was down to 10-12 knots with a large sea running. Oscar was flying and this stayed up for the first downwind but then was removed and stayed down for the rest of the day. Eduard Skornyakov made the best of the first upwind to lead round the top mark, but it wasn’t long before Scott was in the lead to win. Race two was started in a very sloppy and patchy 4-6 knots with Jonathan Lobert leading Pieter-Jan Postma and Ainslie around the top mark. The wind really light on the downwind, and on the second upwind after half the fleet had rounded the gate the wind all but disappeared for 20 minutes. Ainslie hung onto his lead to cross ahead of Scott and Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic.
fleet returned to shore cold, tired and in need of sustenance, which was adequately supplied at the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club’s pasta evening.

Scott only needed one race to take his third UK title and that was all it took. He won the opening race of day three in much windier conditions to seal his third UK title with a race to spare. The race took over 45 minutes to get away following a series of general recalls and black flags. When it did Skornyakov led round the top mark with Scott close behind. Scott soon took the lead and rounded the gate to sail away to win the race and the championship. With the wind reaching 20 knots the final race was a hard test, with many deciding to call it a day. Kljakovic Gaspic battled against Lobert for the lead, but eventually the Croatian extended for a comfortable win.

The prizegiving was held in the Falmouth Watersports Centre, where the championship was based. Giles Scott was presented with the Sunday Times Gold Cup for the third time.

Coppa Italia 2012

Coppa Italia Finn 2012 is well under way with five out of seven events completed and 22 races sailed by mid June. More than 100 sailors participated in these events, which were held in Scarlino (windy warm-up to the light wind Europeans), Terracina, Caldaro, Campione del Garda and Forte dei Marmi.

The event in Terracina was plagued by bad weather and only two short races were sailed because it was not possible to safely launch the boats from the beach.

Luckily in Caldaro at the Dr. Schaer Trophy 56 Finns from Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany enjoyed a good wind and could sail five nice races. The event was won by Martin Mitterer on equal points with Marko Kolic. Third was Simone Mancini. As usual in Caldaro sailors were treated to abundant and tasty food, together with the local red wine. Caldaro was also the first event of the Finn Alpen Cup, a new series organised by the Finn associations of the central Alps countries with four events, one per country.

The following event took place in Campione del Garda, where a new Sailing University is under construction. The races were dominated by Michele Paolletti, coming back after one year and the disappointment of the nearly missed Olympic trials. Second was Marko Kolic and third Simone Mancini. These two sailors are fighting head to head for the leadership of the Coppa Italia, followed by just a few points by Federico Laici.

In June the fifth Coppa Italia event was in Forte dei Marmi in Northern Tuscany, at last with real summer weather. Light winds from five to 10 knots and plenty of sunshine favoured baths, suntans and the light wind specialists. It was Italo Bertacca who showed great speed and tactical skills to win this event with a small margin on Marco Buglielli. Third placed was Federico Laici. A great organisation was set up by Yachting Club Versilia for the Aldo Ferrari Trophy, in memory of their past President who was a passionate Finn sailor.

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.

Provisional standings after 22 races

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<td>Franco Dazzi</td>
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Italian Master Championship and Italian Open Championship 2012

September will be an intense month for Finn activity in Italy, with the Master Championship taking place in Anzio (60 km from Rome) from 7 to 9 and the Italian Championship for all Olympic classes in Scarlino from 22 to 25 of September. Both events are open. Two weeks later the final event of Coppa Italia 2012 will take place in Malcesine (October 5 to 7) with the traditional International Finn Cup - Andrea Menoni Trophy.
Ronald Ruiter writes: After a very busy first three months of 2012 with several training sessions in different areas, we started our real racing season in Loosdrecht with our traditional Easter Regatta. Loosdrecht is where our largest fleet is located and because of the well-known unexpected wind shifts and lots of small islands, the locals often take advantage of those circumstances.

**Easterregatta**

This year the committee choose to sail a upwind/downwind course instead of the famous “spaghetti courses”. This was well appreciated by the 45 sailors competing. On Saturday we sailed four great races, with three different winners, and close racing. On Sunday, we were afraid no more races were held, but in the end, we were very lucky. Yes: wind came and we sailed another three races. Thierry van Vierssen was the best Master.

1. **NED 841** Hein van Egmond 12
2. **NED 41** Karel van Hellemond 18
3. **NED 787** Nanno Schuttrups 18
4. **NED 881** Thierry van Viersen 24
5. **NED 60** Luuk Kuiper 28
6. **NED 29** Bas de Waal 36
7. **NED 49** Jan Mark Meeuwsise 53
8. **NED 43** Chris Frijdal 54
9. **NED 81** Gerko Visser 62
10. **NED 85** Rutger Rozemuller 66

**Tulip Regatta**

After the Easterregatta we could all stay in Loosdrecht for what we call the Tulip regatta; with 55 competitors. Four races were sailed and in the last race Karel van Hellemond and Hein van Egmond made life difficult for each other trying to win the regatta, but in the end, Sander Willems was on top.

1. **NED 80** Sander Willems 9
2. **NED 41** Karel van Hellemond 18
3. **NED 841** Hein van Egmond 13
4. **NED 787** Nanno Schuttrups 21
5. **NED 881** Thierry van Viersen 22
6. **NED 29** Bas de Waal 28
7. **NED 703** Eric Bakker 29
8. **NED 7** Cees Schuurwater 34
9. **NED 2** Wouter Molenaar 39
10. **NED 777** Albert Kroon 44

**Ascension Day Regatta**

The last spring regatta in Holland was sailed in Loosdrecht again. On Ascension Day 40 sailors sailed 6 races. With just a few weeks before The Masters, Wouter Molenaar proved he was in great shape.

1. **NED 64** Wietze Zetzema 8
2. **NED 787** Nanno Schuttrups 8
3. **NED 881** Thierry van Viersen 20
4. **NED 60** Luuk Kuiper 22
5. **NED 29** Bas de Waal 27
6. **NED 912** Peter Versveeldt 31
7. **NED 7** Cees Schuurwater 35
8. **NED 69** Jelle Baerends 36
9. **NED 27** Paul Kamphorst 40
10. **NED 81** Gerko Visser 42

**Pwllheli**

Besides our Dutch races a lot of our Masters went to Pwllheli. Paul Kamphorst was our best competitor, in 23rd. But we were also very proud of Rodrick Casander who was the second best Grand Grand Master in Pwllheli. Well done Rodrick.

Our season continues in Sneek from (August, 4-9) for the well known Sneekweek, partly held during the Olympics. On August 25 and 26 the Randmeerrace in Harderwijk will take place. The summer ends with our Open Dutch Championships in Medemblik (14, 15 and 16/9). You are all invited to join and compete. You can find more information on our website: www.finn-sailing.nl. We hope to race against all of you this season.
Finn Alpen Cup 2012 & 50 years of Finn sailing on Lake Thun
June 8-10 2012, Lake Thun, Switzerland

Franz Bürgi writes: In combination with the Swiss event of the newly created “Finn Alpen Cup”, a series of four regattas in Italy (Lago di Caldararo), Switzerland (Lake Thun), Austria (Mondsee) and Germany (Rottachsee), the Finn fleet of Lake Thun was celebrating 50 years of Finn sailing on this beautiful lake.

The combination of Finn anniversary and Finn Alpen Cup attracted 45 sailors from four nations to join the three day event. Day one brought one race attempt in fading westerly winds. The race had to be abandoned.

Day two showed the real potential of Lake Thun with moderate westerly winds all afternoon. With the help of the black flag the fleet got under way and four long races could be sailed. Many wind shifts made skilful tactics a must! Race winners were Martin Mitterer, Boris Kulpe, Franz Bürgi and Florian Demetz. Overall leader after this perfect day was Christoph Christen (above).

In the evening the “50 years of Finn sailing party” got under way with a Western touch and everybody had a lot of fun including good food, bull riding and excellent country music. There was no more racing on day three because the wind filled in too late.

The ranking after four races became the final one and Christoph Christen added another victory to his already long list.

USA

2012 Trinity Yachts Finn North American Masters Championship
Southern YC club hosted the North American Masters this year and did a fantastic job. About 15 sailors went out for a practice sail the day before the regatta started in perfect 12 knot and sunny conditions.

2012 US Sailing team member, Erik Lidecis won the masters for the second year in a row. He was followed by 2010 winner Rob Coutts, and 1974 World Champion Henry Sprague. The next six spots were incredibly close with Dr. David Bayers and Scott “the Landrocker” Griffiths completing the top five.

The regatta started light and shifty with a rain shower. Lidecis, Super Henry, and David Brockbank jumped out to an early lead. David went for a swim to allow the lead two to gap out on the fleet. On the second run, Super Henry caught a big puff around Erik to take the win. The wind pipped up for race 2. Again, Super Henry, Brockbank and Lidecis jumped out to an early lead. On the second lap, Henry played the shifts well. Erik passed Henry only to lay over before the finish allowing Henry to coast in for another win.

Day two of the regatta brought in the big part of the storm. The waves were very tall and steep. The RC, wisely abandoned for part of the storm. The waves were very tall and steep. The RC, wisely abandoned for part of the storm.

Erik passed Henry only to lay over before the finish allowing Henry to coast in for another win.

Erik played the first few shifts perfectly then extended his lead all the way to the finish line. The wind filled in to about 9 knots during race 4. Erik moved in to take the win, followed by Rob Coutts. In race 5 Jim Hunter played a perfect right-sided beat to round first with a nice lead. He was able to hold off Erik on the run and the two boats extended their lead but Erik used his upwind speed to take the win.

The Oscar flag was firmly in place for race 6 and the leaders seemed much more comfortable. Erik moved into first and didn’t look back. The wind became a little spotty for the last race. Erik played the upwinds conservatively, using his speed to extend on the fleet while Coutts finished in front of the pack.

1 USA 505 Erik Lidecis 8
2 NZL 9 Rob Coutts 14
3 USA 11 Henry Sprague 18
4 USA 1227 David Beyers 37
5 USA 1 Scott Griffiths 38
6 USA 47 Robert Kinney 38
7 USA 117 Michael Mark 40
8 USA 75 Ash Beatty 44
9 USA 150 Louie Nady 49
10 USA 113 Macho Slavich 63

West Coast Olympic Classes Regatta
The 51st ABYC OCR was sailed from March 24–25 in Long Beach, CA. Day one had 10 knots of breeze and very shifty with brilliant sunshine. Day two was sailed in strong winds with gusts up to 30 knots. Scott Mason won and was in control for most of the regatta.

1 USA Scott Mason
2 USA 11 Henry Sprague
3 USA 505 Eric Lidecis
4 USA 53 Ben Leibowitz
5 USA 47 Robert Kinney

2012 Finn Midwinters, Fort Lauderdale, Fl.
Stephen Fuccillo writes: The 2012 Finn Midwinters were sailed in February 3-5. Many of the sailors travelled after Rolex Miami OCR so it had an international flavour. The winds were strong and the conditions extremely challenging at times in big swells.

1 DEN 2 Jonas Hagh-Christensen 11
2 AUS 1 Brendan Casey 18
3 CAN 110 Martin Robitaille 19
4 CAN 5 Greg Douglas 21
5 USA 40 Luke Lawrence 36

2012 Elvstrom Zellerbach Regatta
The Elvstrom Zellerbach Regatta was sailed May 5–6 at the St Francis Yacht Club. The course was set off the city front and sailed in steady San Francisco Bay breezes Erik Lidecis in his new Devoti Finn finally got it all together and smoked the fleet.

1 USA 505 Erik Lidecis 6
2 USA 30 Forrest Gay 8
3 USA 11 Henry Sprague 14
4 USA 253 Andrew Nelson 23
5 USA 20 Hendrik Van Geel 24

2012 Gulf Coast Finn Championship
The Gulf Coast Championship was sailed May 12-13 at the Buccaneer Yacht Club in Mobile, AL. In light, shifty winds, John Dane put on a show and schooled the fleet with seven bullets. The Mobile Bay area continues to be a stronghold for Finn sailing in the USA.

1 USA 69 John Dane 6
2 USA 3 Karl Kleinschrod 18
3 USA 117 Michael Mark 19
4 USA 23 Perira 21
5 USA 33 Marhall 24

2012 Finn Midwinters, Fort Lauderdale, Fl.
MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 18.00

1. National Class Associations
There were 16 nations represented at the meeting, accounting for a total of 32 votes, plus seven Executive Committee members.

2. Minutes from the last meeting
The minutes from the 2012 IFA AGM were unanimously approved.

3. Accounts

3.a Treasurer’s report
Key Messages - Costs are under control. This is the third year in a row where expenses have reduced.

The budgeting process is improving year by year and expenses in 2011 were only €4225 more than expected which is a significant improvement over the previous two years and gives us confidence that the 4 year budget that we have set up to 2016 will prove accurate.

The Net Result in 2011 was a FOREX adjusted profit of €37707. As a result all bank accounts have increased balances at 31.12.2011. The overall Capital increase is €39774. This is very important as we lost money in each of the preceding 5 years. We now have a very solid financial base upon which to continue to develop and promote our Class and its Sailors.

Revenue - Revenue was significantly up in 2011 reflecting the usual high level of activity in the third year of the Olympic cycle. An increase in Income from Sails, Masts and Hulls was the main contributory factor to a €3502 increase in revenue overall.

A percentage of entry fees at the ISAF European and World Championships are also a new form of revenue. We usually get some of our Regatta expenses reimbursed by the organisers but at the ISAF events we get a percentage of the entry fee instead. This is also reflected in Expenses where Regatta expenses are greater than normal.

Advertising Revenue was down which is disappointing, albeit that it is still a good figure compared to years other than 2010. This is because North and Victory stopped advertising. If any of the sailors are in a position to influence the amount of advertising revenue that our suppliers contribute to class funds then please don’t hesitate to do so.

Expenses - Expenses are relatively stable compared with 2010. The reduction comes from the fact Stickers and PhotoFINNish books were printed in 2010 for several years. As a result there were minimal or no costs in 2011. Expenses in 2010 also included the cost of the Promotional Video (shown under Development).

Conference expenses were high, because it was a year when the decision for 2016 was taken. This resulted in an increased effort and presence from sailors at all of the ISAF conferences.

Office Expenses were higher than expected and this is mainly due to the Executive’s use of a 3G mobile phone connection while in Australia. Corinne is going to look at other solutions to make sure that this does not happen again. Unfortunately the costs only became apparent once she had returned to France, by which time it was too late to do anything about it.

FinnFare expenses are down in 2011 but unfortunately the Royal Mail in the UK is both increasing its prices and starting to add VAT so it looks like costs may increase again in the future. We could look at extending the digital distribution but I suspect most sailors appreciate the hard copy. I know I do.

FinnShop costs were high at €1038. The main costs were the Half Models which we have now sold into profit. We have also used 10 for Presentations. PhotoFINNish sales in 2012 are already around €2700 and we have sold more copies in the first 6 months of this year than we did in the whole of 2011. This is partly because Robert is offering Free Delivery at the Gold Cup and World Masters. We have also sold €450 of other merchandise and Robert is hoping to run a stall during the Falmouth Finn Festival.

Overall, our commercial activities around the FinnShop are predicted to make a small profit for the year. As long as it runs at least close to break-even it is worth it as the goods are both assets and also excellent gifts to delegates.

Assets - Accounts of €2676 is PhotoFINNish Royalties. The Committee have agreed to clear these now and PhotoFINNish Royalties have been added to the budget.

Budget - Corinne, Balazs and I have extended the budget out to 2016. The budget for payroll has been significantly increased to better reflect the experience, time and workload of Corinne. The IFA finances didn’t allow an increase since 2007 but is now able to support an adjustment based on hourly fee and time increase due to more work within ISAF. The payroll costs still compare very favourably with those of other equivalent organisations.

Tim Carver, 4th May 2012

3.b The 2011 accounts were unanimously approved (available on IFA Website)

3.c The budget for 2012/13 was unanimously approved.

4. Executive Committee Reports

4.a President
On the occasion of the 2012 IFA AGM let me reflect on some recent achievements of and forthcoming challenges for the Finn class.

As you know the 2011 May ISAF mid-year meeting in St. Petersbug secured the status of the Finn as an Olympic class (e.g. Multihull, Women’s Skiff) and event structure for the Sailing World Cup and ISAF Worlds.

At the end of April 2012 on behalf of IFA I signed the 2016 Olympic Class Agreement with ISAF detailing the cooperation between IFA and ISAF for the coming years leading up to the Rio Olympics. The current ISAF management has been pushing for more and more centralisation but we managed to retain the importance of our class major events and control on event PR and event administration.

The flow of young sailors to the class has continued over the last year which results in healthy entry numbers at the Junior Worlds and Europeans. These events have grown rapidly in the recent past with separate junior championships already fixed for the next years.

As I have stressed on many occasions within ISAF and the class in the past, the Finn allows the widest range of weight, age and physical sizes to compete on a truly equal level and is the only single handed dinghy to allow sailors from 85kg to 110kg to competitively sail at Olympic level. At the same time the Finn has a real depth in terms of club and national fleets, as well as junior, senior and master age groups, which is partially the result of the fact that the class has been for a long time able to manage the different needs and interests of Finn sailors in every age category, on every level and in every segment of the Finn sailing world.

Although we are doing very well at Olympic level and in terms of youth/masters as well as national fleets in the classic Finn countries, the main challenge for the future years will be the strengthening of the Finn’s global presence including Asia, Oceania, Africa and South America.

2012 IFA AGM MINUTES

INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Falmouth, Great Britain
11 May 2012

FINNFARE JULY 2012
Through the IFA-assisted boat-production in South Africa and Brazil, we already have strongholds in Africa and South America. Oceania could also be reached from Australia. So, for the coming years we will have to reach out to these continents by way of special IFA projects and be ready for the time when Olympic qualification will be decided on a continental basis and Olympic classes will be judged also on their continental presence.

One of the reasons for our strength compared to other Olympic classes has been equipment control and evolution. The Finn has managed to move smoothly on a battle field many other classes fell casualty of. As a new item on our list is the hull control programme on which the Technical Committee and the Chief Measure will report on at the AGM.

All in all, naturally there are further challenges ahead. We need to continue working on gear evolution and equipment control, further adapt the class rules current technology and IT, review issues as racing format, media presence, class sponsorship, attractive major Finn events and build on our traditions, strengths and experience.

Thank you all for the support in the last years and look forward to working with you in the future.

Dr Balazs Hajdu
4.b Vice President Sailing
The London Olympic Games are naturally this year’s highlight. The Games are less than 3 months ahead and final preparations are on. There will be 25 great sailors competing in the Finn on the waters of Weymouth Bay. The Games started last December in Perth where in Finn 18 nations qualified their country for the Olympics 2012.

ISAF Worlds in Perth were quite a success. The Finn boat park, with no dressing room and showers, was may be the only bigger disappointment in event organising. The sailing conditions were excellent for the classes sailing on the first week, Finn included. The final two gold group races and the medal race were sailed just in front of the big audience sitting on the breakwater.

That was a great experience not only for the spectators but also for the sailors. For Finn as a class it was positive appearance when everybody could see how active and dynamic Finn (boat) and Finn sailors were in 20 knots.

It was nice to see young rising guys qualifying their nations in Finn. Stakes for the Falmouth Gold Cup were in 20 knots.

The FWM in Punta Ala showed that the numbers will hopefully lead to more participation:

1. Clinics in new World Cup Venues (prior to events)
2. Focusing on building the participation in South America
3. Focus on pushing class through more media exposure and marketing
4. Minimising cost of entry into the class by helping new younger sailors and developing nations by giving equipment to International/National Class

We have a great ability to get more people involved in the class. The random system appeared not to work very well in both Split and Punta Ala.

Overall, concentrating on building the class through these 4 areas below over the next 4 years will hopefully lead to more participation:

4.c Vice President Development
This year with the qualifications upcoming for the Olympic Games it has been great to see more and more sailors on the circuit.

The largest focus this year has been on continuing to push for younger sailors to get involved with the class and it is great to see that even more new sailors are getting involved.

There are a few items to look at with the new format of the World Cup that will allow us to expand the outreach of the class. There are many more details to come on the format but I believe that we can focus getting more people involved in the class. Overall, concentrating on building the class through these 4 areas below over the next 4 years will hopefully lead to more participation:

1. Clinics in new World Cup Venues (prior to events)
2. Focusing on building the participation in South America
3. Focus on pushing class through more media exposure and marketing
4. Minimising cost of entry into the class by helping new younger sailors and developing nations by giving equipment to International/National Class

We have a great ability to get more people involved in the class. The random system utilized the increased exposure the World Cup will offer. This gives the class a huge opportunity to get new Nations involved in the class which can only be good for all involved.

Zach Railey
4.d Vice President Masters
In July 2011 we had a very good Finn World Masters Championship in Punta Ala, Italy, with 283 competitors. I already reported about this in my Report 2010-2011.

Decisions made after Punta Ala for future Finn World Masters Championships are:
- Group allocation will be done by daily results.
- The random system appeared not to work very well in both Split and Punta Ala.
- The aim for the group sizing will be 125 for each group.
- Many competitors found the groups in Punta Ala (70 boats per group) too small.
- On the last racing day a medal race will be sailed by the top ten sailors in the results on the last day of opening series. Prior to this medal race the final group races for the rest of the competitors will be sailed.

The FWM in Punta Ala showed that the numbers of competitors is reaching a maximum. There were thoughts about setting a maximum, but in my opinion this is difficult, as it is depending of the venue how many competitors can be handled.

This brings me to the Finn World Masters 2012 in Pwllheli, North Wales, UK, where we will certainly not reach very high numbers of competitors. As I said before: it is not a goal to set new entry records every year. A good Masters for all sailors and their families is the real goal. Of course with good and competitive racing. The preparations for the FWM in Pwllheli started already in 2009, when I visited the venue with Mike Till. Pwllheli Sailing Club is situated in the Snowdonian region, close to mount Snowden, the highest mountain of the UK. The club is very experienced in organizing sailing events with large numbers of competitors up to over 300. So we can expect a smooth organization there.

Entry numbers have reached 132 now and I expect they will reach 150. The first candidate for 2014 is THE in Tihany, Lake Balaton, Hungary. I visited this venue in September 2010. It is situated on the Tihany peninsula.

During 2011 the Polish Finn Masters announced a Polish candidacy for 2014 and they had 4 venues in mind.

I visited them in September, we discussed pluses and minuses of each venue and in the end the present Polish Masters announced Sopot Sailing Club in Sopot as the official candidate for 2014.

In January 2012 Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club in Los Angeles, California announced its candidacy for 2014. The Masters Committee decided to give it a chance and accepted the candidacy.

The voting for 2014 will take place in the Annual Masters Meeting 2012 in Pwllheli, on Tuesday May 30th, 2012. A pre-presentation of all candidates can be watched on www.finnworldmaster.com

In the Annual Masters Meeting 2012 we will take leave of Michael Till (GBR 55) as a Masters Committee member. We will, for sure, miss his sharp and realistic approach. His succession will be on the agenda of the AMM.

We are all looking forward to the Finn World Masters Championship in Pwllheli. Almost everything has been arranged and set and of course we are looking forward to a good Championship in a sportive spirit and to the voting for the 2014 venue.

In 2013 we will sail the FWM in La Rochelle, France, from May 17th till 24th, 2013.

For now I wish all Finn sailors worldwide good sailing in good winds and I hope to meet many of them in coming events and I thank everyone who gave me support and assistance during the past year.

Fons van Gent
4.e Treasurer
(see item 3a)
4.f Chairman of the Technical Committee
(see item 8)
5. Elections of Members to IFA Committees 
The current members of the Executive Committee were re-elected. The members of the Technical Committee were re-elected. The members of the Marketing Committee were re-elected.

6. IFA Championships
6.a. The meeting received a progress report for the 2013 Finn Gold Cup in Tallinn. Dates are confirmed as August 23-31. The Estonian championship will
run immediately before the FGC. Web page will be published in August. Address will be www.finngoldcup.org/2013.

6.b. The 2014 Europeans will be held at La Rochelle, France in early May between Hyeres and Delta Lloyd, subject to approved budget.

6.c. A proposal has been received to hold a combined Olympic classes European championship in 2015. The meeting agreed to this in principle and that the decision on the venue would be taken by the Olympic Classes Committee. Possible venues include Arhus and Gdynia.

6.d. For the 2015 Finn Gold Cup bids have been received from Takapuna, New Zealand and Quiberon, France. The Executive are also pursuing a bid from Rio as a major event in Brazil prior to the Olympics was thought a good idea, especially economically. Also possible to have South American championships in Brazil near the test event in 2015.

7. FIDeS
7.a. A clinic is proposed before the Silver Cup in Maubuisson in July. This has been a big success in the past. There should be a focus on more clinics around the world to build participation, especially in Asia and Africa. Distribution of used gear to new countries. It is intended there will be two collection points every year – one in Europe, and one in the Americas. This will mirror the changes to the Sailing World Cup – which will be used to develop sailing regionally rather than as a series.

7.b. Interest has been shown in the Finn by the Kosovan and Sudanese sailing federations.

7.c. The meeting was informed of the changes to ISAF Sailing World Cup and the need for further continental Finn fleet development to further strengthen the class worldwide.

8. Technical Committee
8.a. Chairman’s report
During the year before the Olympics we try to leave the rules well alone. During 2011 – 2012, a problem showed up with the wording for the Pumping Rule, and it was amended. There were also some editorial corrections, incorporated into a 2012 Edition of our Rules. In total: tidying but no change.

I was asked to present a paper about Class issues including the supply of Official Measurers and our development of the Measurement Database, to the Equipment Committee at ISAF in November 2011. This was apparently well received, but there has been no specific feedback.

Agenda Item 8 (b): The Measurement Database is up and running, with many boats already on it thanks to Devoti Sailing and Marcin Owczarkiewicz, the Official Measurer who services Devoti. We now need to get as many as possible recent boats on it, so that we can present it to ISAF as a valid tool for use at Equipment Inspections. Subject to AGM approval, I hope that we can move forward with our wishes regarding Prototype Inspection and Periodic Inspection of builders.

At the Sailing World Championship in Perth, Corinne and the Equipment Inspector André Blasse had a great run around, and we had bad publicity, because a number of Boats had been measured but the Certification process had not been completed. The process is set out in the Rules. You need to keep any old Certificate Documents, and there is provision for reweighing without recertification – but it must be clear that any extra reweighing is an “attachment”.

TC and the Executive have been discussing ways to make the processes simpler.

Agenda Item 9: One item which can cause problems is the Annual IFA Sticker. We all agreed that the present system requiring a sailor’s membership sticker to be glued to his boat is awkward when you change boats or charter! We have worked out two possibilities which we think would be an improvement. Corinne thinks we should get right up to date by having a membership database, which could take update information from the National Secretaries. The other possibility is to issue through National Secretaries as at present, numbered cards which would also have the member’s name written on them.

Agenda Item 8: We have had a hard look at the Certification Process, starting with the question “Should we allow the whole Certification process to be completed by the Official Measurer?” This is what we do with Rudders, Spars and Sails, but on balance several members of the Technical Committee believed that the present system of Certification of Hulls by the National Finn Association or National Authority should be retained.

Our discussions led to the conclusion that we should concentrate on simplifying the system and making it more workable, by making the fundamental identifier the ISAF Sticker Number, making it possible to complete the certification process by Email, allowing charter boats etc to certify without being given a national sail number. (Most Charter boats go to people who bring sails with Personal Sail Numbers or their own boat’s numbers, but we might need a “what if?” provision for an option to use the sailor’s national letters plus the ISAF Sticker number).

After all that – how about the boat?

Agenda Item 8 (d): TC have discussed and propose that we ask to remove the rules about sail corner reinforcement dimensions. We don’t think they do anything useful.

We have been having a more difficult discussion about “Load Path” or “3DL” sails. We have a rule stating that the sail must be made from panels not exceeding more than 1 metre wide. This prohibits the one-piece sails made over a mould. The technology is now in use by more than one manufacturer. “Work arounds” for our rule have been devised such as panels with a varying thread pattern, and simply cutting a moulded sail into 1 metre strips and then gluing it together again. Maybe it’s time to remove the restriction and allow the development. Will we look out-of-date in 2016 if we don’t allow it?

The problem is that the moulded sail is likely to cost more, although it may have a longer life as “new.”

One manufacturer of Solo sails quotes:

Panelled Kevlar Laminates £655 + VAT
Panelled Dacron £655 + VAT
Thermo moulded 3DL £1135 + VAT
Looking at the number of small shaped panels in some current sails, maybe the price difference will be less for our class, but don’t hold your breath! I plan to ask AGM for direction about this; please talk to your National Secretary or representative, so that AGM can reflect the views of all the class.

I wish to record my gratitude to Our Chief Measurer Jüri Saraskin for his wise guidance and service. In addition to Jüri, we have a corps of International Measurers (who act as Equipment Inspectors at major regattas) including August Atz (ITA), André Blasie (AUS), Vladimir Burkalov (RUS), Dimitris Dimou (GRE), Kevin Farrar (USA), Peter Hinrichsen (CAN) and most recently Vasily Kravchenko (RUS). These people serve and know the Finn very well – please help them concentrate on the real world by making sure your paperwork is right!

Agenda Item 4 (b).

As ever, various members of the Technical Committee have been very helpful during the year, and I will propose them for re-election next year. They are André Blasie (AUS), Robert Carlen (USA), Rodney Cobb (GBR), Robert Deaves (GBR), John Driscoll (IRL), Guillaume Florent (FRA), Jan van der Horst (NED), David Howlett (GBR), Gilbert Lamboléy (FRA), Larry Lemieux (CAN), Walter Mai (GER), Gus Miller (USA), Mikel Németh (HUN), Tim Tavonor (GBR), Clifton Webb (NZL).

Richard Hart

8.b Online certificate database

The online certificate database is up and running and just awaits the physical move to the IFA server. Boats are being added on an ongoing basis.

8.c Measurement certificate certifying system

(see report above)

8.d Rule matters arising (refer to above)

The proposal to have inspection of prototype hull moulds before construction commences was passed.

The proposal to remove the sail corner reinforcement rule was passed.

A discussion was held about 3DL sails. A show of hands was taken to follow up with further investigations. 15 for, 7 against, 2 abstentions. The Technical Committee was directed to report back with further findings. The Technical Committee was re-elected. The proposal on sail numbers was passed.

9. Administration

9.a Membership

It was decided to investigate a membership online database so regatta organisers and others can verify NFA membership of sailors. This would negate the need for IFA membership stickers but it was felt that these could continue on a non-numbered basis for those that wanted to display them.

9.b Constitution change

The following amendment was passed: 3.5 There shall be the following Executive Officers: • President • Vice-President (Sailing) • Vice-President (Development) • Vice-President (Masters) • Treasurer • Chairman of the Technical Committee • Up to 4 other non-voting Executive Committee members (as elected by the IFA AGM) working on special IFA projects • Executive Director

10. International update

10.a The meeting heard about the current ISAF plans on future ISAF Sailing World Cup. It is being changed completely and will no longer represent a series, but a collection of continental events that can be used as continental qualifiers to world championships, and as second Olympic qualifier etc...

10.b There will also be a EUROSAF regatta circuit using many of the old Sailing World Cup events.

10.c It is proposed that the Finn be submitted as an Olympic core event

10.d A small group of sailors had an informal meeting during the Finn Gold Cup to discuss the 2016 Olympic format and Olympic reselection for 2020. Pieter-Jan Postma and Tapio Nirkko to report further, in FINNFARE or on the website

10.e Finn fleet size for 2016 is being reviewed by ISAF.

10.f Countries that wish to use country quota allocations places not taken for 2012 need to formally request the place.

Any other business

Dan Slater is retiring from the ISAF Athlete’s Commission and a new person will need to be found from November. Dan has represented the Finn Class since the committee started in 2007.

The meeting was closed at 20.40

To be circulated to: National Finn Association Secretaries. IFA Executive Committee IFA Website, Email list Finn sailors

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

SWC = ISAF Sailing World Cup event

Future Championships

2013

17-25/5 World Masters Europeans Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

19-27/7 Silver Cup Melbourne, Australia

July

23-31/8 Finn Gold Cup Sydney, Australia

2014

1-15/9 (tbc) Finn Gold Cup World Masters Santander, Spain

tbc

Europeans

6-13/6

Riva del Garda, Italy

Warnemünde, Germany

La Rochelle, France

Tallinn, Estonia

La Rochelle, France

Sopot, Poland

Major Finn regattas 2012-2014

28-31/7/2012 Open Swedish Nationals Open Russian (www.moscow-finnclass.ru)

29-6/7/2012 Silver Cup (Junior Worlds) Master Euro Cup

10-11/8/2012 Toilet Bowl KSSS OCR

18-22/8/2012 North American Championships/CORK International Finn Cup - Tr. Andrea Menoni

28/7-11/8/2012 World Masters

London 2012 Olympic Games Weymouth and Portland, UK

28/8-2/9/2012 Open Russian (www.moscow-finnclass.ru) Open Swedish Nationals

5-9/9/2012 Master Euro Cup

7-9/9/2012 Italian Master Championship

12-16/9/2012 Hungarian Nationals

14-16/9/2012 Dutch Open/Masters

22-25/9/2012 Italian Open Nationals

6-7/10/2012 KSSS OCR

7-9/10/2012 International Finn Cup - Tr. Andrea Menoni

12-14/10/2012 US National Championship

2-8/12/2012 Sail Melbourne (SWC)

13-16/12/2012 Sail Sydney

17-22/12/2012 Palamos Christmas Race

7-11/1/2013 Australian National Championship

Nynäshamn, Sweden

Maubuisson, France

Cazenovia, NY, USA

Kingston, Canada

Tallinn, Estonia

Moscow, Russia

Tahini, Hungary

Anzio, Italy

Lake Velencei, Hungary

Medemblik, Netherlands

Scarino, Italy

Saltosjöbaden, Sweden

Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA

Melbourne, Australia

Sydney, Australia

Cronulla SC, Sydney

FINNFARE JULY 2012 31
MAXX Your Performance

The WB-Sails MAXX (for MultiAXial) is a new concept in sail design. Two base models to choose from: “Classic” for pointing and power in light to moderate conditions and flat water, and “Tiger” for breeze and waves. Proven performance at top level, combined with exceptional durability.

Photo: Richard Langdon/Oceanimages.co.uk

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