FOCUS ON BRAZIL - ROAD TO RIO

SAIL MELBOURNE

YOUTH WIN IN MIAMI

ANDRE NELIS TRIBUTE
Wilke masts congratulates, Giles, Ben and all other Finn champions for their wins and successes at Miami, Palma, Hyeres Weymouth, test event, Europaans and Finn Gold Cup during 2011.

Tel. +41 33 847 17 70
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info@wilke.ch
www.wilke.ch
Dear Finn Sailors,

Dear Friends of the Finn Community,

What a fantastic and intense year we had in the Finn in 2012. Just to name the London Olympics and the Falmouth Finn Festival, the Finn was again in the forefront of the Olympic sailing world.

With the first months of 2013 another Olympic cycle and a new sailing season for our junior, national, and masters fleets have just began. And this year brings around another bunch of great Finn sailing events. The Gold Cup in Tallinn, the Europeans in wavy Warnemünde, the Silver Cup and Junior Worlds at sunny and windy Lake Garda, the Masters Worlds in La Rochelle, the European Masters Cup in Balaton, and a new event, the International University Sailing Cup using Finns in Moscow just before the 2013 Universiade in Kazan, Russia.

Apart from the above major events it is great to see how full the national report section of Finnfare is. Reports, results and images are showcasing the Finn’s international presence and national depth as well as the class’ colourfulness.

The ISAF Mid-Year Meeting will be held early May in Copenhagen with the 2013-16 ISAF Council and major committees having their first full meetings. Let me take the opportunity to congratulate the new ISAF President and Executive Committee on their election, they will surely address new and revisit older issues on ISAF’s table and review ISAF’s strategy. Corinne and I will be representing IFA at the meeting and will give you first hand information on issues affecting our class and Olympic sailing in general.

On behalf of the IFA Executive I may wish you all the best for the year ahead, both on and off the water.

Best regards

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
HUN 1
IFA President
No. 143 • March 2013

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Articles, race results, photographs and reports from countries are always welcome. Please include FINNFARE in your mailing for newsletters, bulletins, press releases and race reports.

All advertisement enquiries should also be addressed to the Editor. A media pack is available on www.finnclass.org

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Cover photo: Jorge Rodrigues at the Brazilian Championship. Photo: Ale Socci

Inset: Brazilian Championship (Ale Socci); Miami podium (Walter Cooper/US Sailing); Andre Nels; Oliver Tweddell at Sail Melbourne (Sport the Library/Sail Melbourne)

Next issue: July 2013

Back issues: Back issues are available through the Finnshop on the IFA website from GBP 5 each including postage.

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www.finnwoldmaster.com
THE FINN CHANNEL
www.youtube.com/thefinnchannel

New Finn Club Holland Secretary
After 12 years service to Finn Club Holland, Robert Sledzewski (NED 23) has decided to step down. He has been replaced with Boudewijn Kortbeek and his email is fschsecretaris@hotmail.nl. Thank you Robert for the many years work and welcome Boudewijn.

New Brazilian Secretary
Jorge Rodrigues has taken over from Bruno Caruso as the Brazilian secretary as the class there faces perhaps the most important few years of its existence. One of the agreements made at the class general assembly was to hold the next three National Championships in Rio to allow sailors the chance to race regularly in the next Olympic waters.

You can follow the Brazilian class on their blog at http://finnbrasile.blogspot.com.br

New Norwegian Secretary
There has been a change in the leadership of the class in Norway again. After resurrecting the association, Stein Foerland is stepping aside while the new secretary will be Zelimir Saljic. They can be contacted on norsk.finnjolleklubb@gmail.com or through their new website at www.finnjolleklubb.no.

2013 Silver Cup
2013 Finn Junior World Championship, the Finn Silver Cup, will be sailed in Malcesine on Lake Garda, Italy, from July 5 to 12.

The organising Club is Fraglia Vela Malcesine, which annually hosts the International Finn Cup in October and where the Finns have a long tradition.

For online entry and informations on accommodation and logistic the Club website is www.fragliavela.org.

There are different training opportunities in Malcesine before the event, including the Eurosaf Garda event from May 8 to 12.

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FINNFARE MARCH 2013
**Champions Sailing Cup**

EUROSAF has launched the Champions Sailing Cup, a series of five regattas in 2013. Each of the regattas are based on well-established events, Garda Trentino Olympic Week, Delta Lloyd Regatta in Medemblik, Sail for Gold in Weymouth & Portland and Kieler Woche. It will end at the Semaine Olympique Française, which from 2013 takes place in La Rochelle.

The series website, which will link all five regattas in the series has been published at: [http://championscup.eurosaf.org/](http://championscup.eurosaf.org/)

Individual regattas will publish their Notice of Race on each of the event websites, along with information concerning entry, and more. EUROSAF is very excited at being able to offer sailors and sailing this new series starting this year, and is delighted to have brought together five major regattas to do so.

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**Boris Jacobson 1937-2013**

Boris Jacobson, one of Sweden’s most prominent Finn sailors passed away after a brief illness on Sunday 11 February. He was 75.

In the 1960s Boris was one of the best sailors in the Finn class. He was born in Uppsala where the Finn itself was born and was a product of Rickard Sarby's team in Uppsala. Boris was the European champion in 1962 and 1963, and was also the runner-up at the Finn Gold Cup in 1962 and 1963. “Boran” was the Swedish champion no less than five times.

He represented Sweden at the Olympics in 1964 - Enoshima, Japan, where he placed 14th.

Swedish sailing has lost one of its greatest Finn sailors and the Finn class has lost a former champion.

IFA sends its condolences and sympathies to Boris Jacobson’s family.

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**A Finn on your desktop**

For all Finn sailors, you can start a sailing regatta with the family or friends, thanks to a new game variation from “Tactical Sailing.”

The program module, “Coach’s Toolbox,” is not viewed as a playful variation for dealing with the wind. Rather, it has been developed with the goal of being a training program with many combinations for learning how to deal with the wind tactically. With the toolbox you receive over 20 prepared scenarios – ready to run – which you use can practice and expand your tactical and strategic capabilities at any time.

Just like on the water, false starts and contact with buoys are immediately penalized in the game; a protest account registers the penalties. Each sailor can register opponents’ contact with boats, as well as other breaches of the rules, with the “Protest” key.

The game is available as a CD (44 Euro) or direct download (39 Euro); it operates on almost every computer system. Learn more about the features at [www.TacticalSailing.com](http://www.TacticalSailing.com) under “Game & Tips.”

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**Website for Finn Gold Cup**

The official event website has been launched for the 2013 Finn Gold Cup to be held in Tallinn, Estonia from August 23-31.

The Finn class previously sailed its 1994 Gold Cup at Pärnu, and the event website includes a video of that event, together with an interview with the winner, a very young Fredrik Lööf.

Hosting the Finn Gold Cup is a remarkable event in Estonian sport. It is only the fourth occasion that this small nation has organised a world championship for an Olympic sport, following the 1988 Tornado world championships and the 1994 Finn Gold Cup. Estonia has strong traditions in Finn sailing. Aleksander Tsutsevol from Tallinn won the Olympic silver medal in Rome 1960.

The Finn Gold Cup is being organised by the Estonian Finn Class Association in cooperation with Estonian Yachting Union and ESS Kalev Yacht Club. The racing will be held at the Tallinn Olympic Yachting Centre at Pirita, originally built for the 1980 Olympics. All courses are within 15 minutes of the shore. The regatta headquarters provide excellent facilities to cater to the needs of sailors, coaches, support teams and media.

The Notice of Race will be published soon. Check out the website and the 1994 video at: [www.fingoldcup.org/2013](http://www.fingoldcup.org/2013)
I had to think quickly and came up with an idea that only about half the Chairman was, “what did I think the meeting should be discussing?” We asked Ralph to reflect on his time working with ISAF and this is what he said.

Firstly I feel very honoured that ISAF Executive has recognised the work that I put in since the first time I went to IYRU over 28 years ago. I have been very fortunate to have worked with so many wonderful people from all over the world at these ISAF meetings. Many of these friends mentored and moulded me in so many ways and for that I am so grateful. More importantly the women accompanying their husbands to the IYRU/ISAF conference always looked after my wife by inviting her to go sightseeing or visiting places while the meetings took place. They were so wonderful it made Penny want to continue to go to the meetings each year.

But let me go back to the beginning or the first time I went to the IYRU. About 28 years ago I had just become President of Yachting New Zealand and our IYRU Councillor John Faire was on legal duty with Team New Zealand at the America’s Cup in Perth. So I was sent to the IYRU, now ISAF, meetings, which were then held always in London. The first day I wandered around the various meeting rooms listening to the discussions and wondering what was I doing there. That changed quickly as the nicest part was meeting so many old Finn sailors. They seemed to be on every committee. That evening at the cocktail party I was sure it was a Finn reunion.

The second day Hal Wagstaff suggested I sit in on the Youth and Development Committee, as I was always interested in promoting the development of youth sailors, which I did and for the first hour it was boring because they talked about how many lifejackets were required at the next Youth Worlds.

I asked a question from the floor and the response from the Chairman was, “what did I think the meeting should be discussing?” I had to think quickly and came up with an idea that only about half of the young sailors who attend the World Youth Championships came with a coach. What was needed was to have a ‘coach at large’ who was permitted to be inside the course without restriction and able to film. In the evening he would be able to debrief all sailors whether they had a coach or not.

I sat down and then the Chairman Ulyn SWE came over and said he liked the idea and would personally pay 25% of the cost required. Then another, Julius Blankenstein ISR, and Paul Phelan CAN, came and promised the same. By late afternoon a fourth person, Vice President Ding Schoonmaker USA, also promised, and three of us followed with pledges. We were fully funded.

The following morning I gave President Tallberg a one page presentation of the idea with a list of the seven of us that made promises of funding £125,000 for 10 years and he presented it to Council (called CPOC in those days) and it was moved by Commander Barker and seconded by Harman Hawkins USA, of America’s Cup fame, who said the promised money had come from the ISAF family so we do not need to waste any more time in discussion. He moved that motion be put and it was passed. A Trust was formed and is still in existence today.

The ‘coach at large’ programme has been going for 25 years and so many of the world’s sailors credit the words of wisdom they learnt from the coach debriefs. Torben Grael said at the Youth Worlds Awards Ceremony in Brazil some years ago, that having a coach at large is the primary reason the World Youth Championship is so strong today. The young sailors listen to every word and more importantly go home and share their new knowledge with their friends.

My second experience has been working with the Youth Worlds Sub Committee. Everyone had a common goal to try to make this event better. In the early years we didn’t know where the championship would be next year, but now it is booked up three years ahead, which is wonderful.

My third vivid memory has been working with people from all the continents of the world and that has been such a lot of fun. Everyone brings a different angle to the debate, and fortunately they tolerated me not being multilingual, though they couldn’t resist the smile.

Ralph Roberts awarded ISAF Gold medal

Congratulations to Ralph Roberts, Finn Olympic, Finn judge, and friend of the class on being awarded a Gold Medal from ISAF in recognition of many year’s service to ISAF and sailing. Ralph had been a member of the ISAF Council, the Youth World Sailing Committee, the World Youth sailing Trust, and is currently an International Judge, a former Int. Umpire, has been a member of two Olympic Juries, and was Chair of the 2012 Paralympic Jury. He competed in the Finn in the 1960 Olympics and is a former President of Yachting NZ, and Life Member.

The German Finn Association, the Rostocker Regattaverein and the Akademischer Segler Verein zu Rostock invite sportsman from Europe and the World to the Finn Open European Championship & Open Junior European Championship from 19-27 July 2013 in Rostock-Warnemünde.

Warnemünde is one of the best sailing areas in Germany and was the venue for the Finn Europeans in 1961 and 1969 as well as – together with Leipzig – applicant for the Olympic Games in 2012.

www.finneuropeans.org/ec2013
New Finn class publications available

It’s been a busy few months over the winter in the Finn editorial office. The Finn class published FINNtastic Games in December and reissued FINNatics in January. Both became instant best-sellers in some regions on Amazon.

FINNtastic Games

FINNtastic Games is a new book all about the class at the 2012 Olympic Games. Over the course of the Olympics we released a series of press releases consisting of previews, interviews, race reports and wraps, all telling the sailors stories on and off the water. These press releases have been edited and compiled to provide a seamless story of the Finn class event at the Olympics, together with many great photos from before and during the event.

The book is only available through Amazon.com and the European Amazon sites (UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy).

RRP is £11.99, EUR 14.99 or US$17.99, though some regions offer discounts on these prices.

Technical details: 64 pages; Size: 8.5 x 8.5 inches; full colour throughout; US trade paper; soft cover; perfect bound; ISBN: 9780955900136; published: 3 Dec 2012.

In addition the book (with limited photos) is also available on Kindle stores worldwide. Current price is around EUR 1.

FINNatics

Due to the demand we still had for FINNatics, which was first published in 1999, the book has been reissued on Amazon. While the content is the same as the original edition, all photos in the new edition and black and white only, it is perfect bound and printed on US trade paper.

RRP is £14.95, EUR 18.95 or US$ 19.95, but again some regions are discounting.

Race Area Analyzer

Become an expert and beat the current Race Area Analyzer is a software-program that gives a detailed view of changes in tidal currents and helps tacticians take the right decisions during their race.

It has a high-resolution model of currents approved at the Olympic Games and World-Championships in Weymouth and La Rochelle. Special routing algorithms allow a precise calculation of best upwind and downwind courses, particularly for dinghies and small keelboats.

The software provides essential knowledge such as laylines in currents, attack angles, topmark approach courses, best downwind angles, windshifts caused by currents and strength of currents at any position of the race. Additionally Race Area Analyzer offers an interface for GRIB wind data.

Race Area Analyzer is very easy to use and addresses both sailors and coaches. It is an essential tool for training and racing in waters with currents.

Recently Race Area Analyzer is available for Weymouth and La Rochelle. New editions for the Olympics in Rio 2016 and all pre-Olympic test events will follow soon.

Please find more information and trial versions on www.buell-software.com and videos on YouTube.

Finn academy in Valencia

In February the Finn class concluded negotiations with Luca Devoti’s Dinghy Academy in Valencia to commence a co-operation agreement that will result in the Finn class directly funding up to four athletes each year for training and coaching at the academy.

Already two sailors are benefiting from the initiative. Alejandro Foglia from Uruguay and Agustin Zabalua from Argentina have been undergoing intensive training and will attend most major regattas this year.

In addition to providing coaching, equipment and logistics the agreement also includes five days free use of equipment and facilities for eligible sailors.

Further details and how to apply can be found soon on the Finn class website at www.finnclass.org, while information on the academy and blog updates can be found at www.dinghyacademy.com.
The fifth edition of the ISAF Sailing World Cup brings many changes to the format. There are four events only this time around, in Melbourne, Miami, Palma and Hyeres though more may be added to the programme at a later time.

### 1. ISAF Sailing World Cup Melbourne

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The wind proved very changeable for Sail Melbourne with a day lost with high winds followed by other days of very little wind.

On the first day in a shifty 7 to 12 knots Brendan Casey started as he meant to continue to two races wins. His overall victory was never really in doubt, while Jake Lilley, in his debut event, and Oliver Tweddell traded second and third places for the first half of the week.

Strong winds forced the abandonment of racing on day two before Casey continued with three more bullets on day three, but his winning run came to an end on day four with Tweddell taking the win in the only race completed. Casey continued to dominate, wrapping up the week with a series of first and second places, while Lilley slipped back from Tweddell as the stronger winds returned. Tweddell added a second race win to his score in race eight and was within striking distance of Casey going into the medal race.

It had been blowing from the south at various angles and strengths all week, so perhaps it was only appropriate that for the medal race, Melbourne should turn on the hot northerlies between 18 and 26 knots. The medal race followed form with Casey cleaning up from Tweddell and Lilley, which was the way the podium also ended up.

Above: Podium (l-r: Jake Lilley, Brendan Casey, Oliver Tweddell) • Below: Brendan Casey (left), Jake Lilley (top), Oliver Tweddell, Chris Caldecote)

Photos: Sport the Library/Sail Melbourne
2. ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami

ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami - Final Results

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Caleb Paine led a field of youth sailors to claim his second ISAF Sailing World Cup event. He led from the first day and it never really looked as if he was heading for any other result. Runner-up Greg Douglas picked up an OCS in race three that left him struggling to make the podium, but he turned it around in the second half of the week with a string of top threes, including two wins. Bronze medalist Jorge Zarif also sailed a great week after a conservative start and proved very fast downwind. For Lauri Väinsalu, fourth place overall was a triumph over adversity following a serious knee injury in last year’s medal race that took him out for most of the 2012 season.

One of the more intriguing storylines of the week was the return of Bruno Prada. After he won the opening race, Paine won the next three to take and maintain the overall lead. The youngsters continued to dominate with Paine, Douglas and Zarif sharing the race wins. Brendan Casey was also in the mix, but it all went wrong for the world No. 1 on day four. He picked up his second yellow flag and a DNE, though did win the final two opening races.

In the medal race, the first upwind was dominated by Douglas and Casey, but Paine came through on the downwind to round the gate ahead of Douglas, Väinsalu and Casey. Vainsalu picked up four places and was just behind the leaders at the gate. The top three extended on the second upwind, with Casey not far behind and the final downwind turned into a big battle between the top three, all finishing within seconds of each other. In the end Paine took the race win from Vainsalu and Douglas.

Runner up Douglas had this to say. “I’m happy with how the week went. I started the week a little bit off the pace but I was able to remain focused and improve during the week. Caleb Paine sailed very well and didn’t give me much of a chance to catch him at the end. We have a really good training group right now which is mostly youngsters. As a group we feel that we have the opportunity to make a big leap this year so we have been extremely focused. We are ready to show the world what we can do.”

André Nelis, one of Belgium’s greatest sailors, passed away on December 9th, age 77, after losing a long battle against cancer. The Finn class has lost one of its legends, a true icon of the class and a link back to the very beginning.

André was born in Antwerp and was one of the early superstars of the Finn class, with countless race and regatta wins through his career. He won the first ever Finn Gold Cup in 1956 from the great Paul Elvstrom and then won it again in 1961. He holds the joint record for the most consecutive Finn Gold Cup medals - seven in a row - as he took silver in 1958, 1959 and 1960 and bronze in 1957 and 1962.

He participated three times in the Olympics in the Finn class and won the silver medal in 1956 and the bronze medal in 1960. He also competed in 1964 where he finished 10th and was the reserve helmsmen in 1952 at the age of just 17. André Nelis belongs to the small circle of Belgian athletes that won more than one Olympic medal.

He bought one of the Borresen Finns used at the 1952 Olympics and used that up until 1959. He later built the first fibre glass Finn and used it to win the 1961 Finn Gold Cup. His design, the HVM Finn, was a successful and prolific Finn design in the 1960s with more than 300 built.

André lost his Olympic medals in a sail loft fire in the 1980s, but in 2009 he was presented with replicas by IOC President Jacques Rogge.

After his sailing career, André became a successful sail maker; he started in Sneek with Gaastra in the 1970s. In 1973 he started the first North Sails offshore site in Europe, together with Joep Straus. André participated frequently in yacht regattas and remained a fierce competitor until the very end.

IFA send its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Photos supplied by Peter Danby, Bart Sarby, Gilles Nelis, Bernt Anderson, Ineke Schipstra, Jules Bänffer

I first met Andre at the 1958 Gold Cup in Zeebrugge, and I soon found that he was not only a formidable sailor, but also a friendly and amusing individual.

During the Gold Cup event I was invited to race a few days later on a lake in the south of Belgium, but I had left my car in England and pushed my boat on its road trailer on to the train ferry which sailed from Felixstowe to Zeebrugge. I was told that it would not be a problem because my Finn would be transported to Chimay and back (see photo above, André on right), so I was pleased to accept the invitation.

André was also competing, and I tried hard to beat him, which was not an easy thing to do. After racing on the first day, somebody arranged a special race in pedal boats, and as a keen cycle racer I thought it was my opportunity to defeat the big man. However, it was not to be – one of the pedal cranks on my boat was bent, and André beat me once again. However, when we got back to the hostel where we were staying, I spotted an interesting spider on the door, and André wanted to see what I was looking at. When he saw it he recoiled – he hated spiders, and at last I felt I had a small victory over him.

After the event André kindly drove me to Antwerp, where he had arranged for me to stay a night at his mother-in-law’s house, and I was allowed to sleep in the same room as his Olympic medal. I was re-united with my Finn the next day, and as I travelled home I reflected that the highlight of my time in Belgium was meeting André Nelis.

Peter Danby
Although I did not know him very well in his Finn years he was already a big hero for me in those years. I recently helped Jules Bänffer with some research for the production of his book about Sailing Heroes in Holland and Belgium. I then discovered that he was very successful in the first seven Finn Gold Cups. He was always on the podium with two firsts, three second and two thirds. Nobody matched that, not even Paul Elvstrøm.

He was the most dangerous competitor for Paul in those years. He won a silver medal in 1956 in Melbourne and a bronze in 1960 in Rome. In 1964 he came 10th and then left the Finn class to concentrate more on sailing in offshore boats. In 1952 he was still very young at 17 but was sent to the Olympics as a reserve for the Belgian team. He was at that time a long and slender boy with a lot of talent.

Before the Finn he sailed in the old 12 ft dinghy but only single handed, not with a crew like they do now. He met the Belgian rowing silver medallist in the 1952 Olympics, Bob Baetens who took him with him for power training with weights. That formed the basis for his exceptional fitness and strength. Races had a much longer duration than now and were often decided in the last 45 minutes when the men were separated from the boys. Wooden masts with cotton sails made it a much heavier boat compared to the boats of today.

In the sixties he became the sailmaker of Gaastra, together with Joep Straus. Gaastra was at that time a small traditional local sail loft in Sneek in the Northern Netherlands province of Friesland. After a few years Lowell North approached a group of Olympic champions to set up a worldwide chain of lofts and André opened the first in Europe in his home town Antwerp.

He became very successful and sailed numerous big boats all over the world. Another speciality he developed was sails for the traditional flat-bottomed yachts with leeboards in Holland. They had so called half winders, the forerunners of the present asymmetrical spinnakers. At that time North had developed the first computer technology for cutting sails and that meant a revolution in the still very traditional sailmaking practice for that fleet.

André had a very outgoing personality and he was often not difficult to be heard on the racecourse in his unbridled enthusiasm. His passion for sailing was famous and his numerous jokes came with great salvos of laughter.

He fought cancer for some years but that could not stop him enjoying life until the very last weeks of his life. He leaves behind his partner Danielle and his sons Yves, Gilles and Loïc.

Hans Zuiderbaan

My memories of André Nelis are related to Finn Gold Cup in Karlstad and the European Championships in Naples 1957, and to the Finn Gold Cup in Zeebrugge 1958.

I remember him as a good-humoured and very fair sailor and being popular among his competitors. My uncle Rickard Sarby met him for the first time at the European Championships in 1953 in Germany, which were sailed in the German O-jolle. I think that André was the winner of the championships, and that this was the international breakthrough for him, only 19-20 years old.

I remember that Rickard spoke very well about André and said that he was a very skilful sailor and commended his fast downwind technique. They met for the last time at the Olympics 1956 in Melbourne.

Here is a photograph taken by Rickard at an excursion to Capri on a sail-free day at the European Championships in Naples 1957. André is in the backseat (with sun glasses) besides Börge Schwartz. Jürgen Vogler is in the front seat near to the camera.

Bert Sarby
Standing two metres tall and weighing in at 96 kg Jake Lilley may be only 19 years old, but he is already turning heads after his first few regattas in the Finn, which included a bronze at Sail Melbourne and a gold at the Sydney International Regatta. Later this year he will embark on the European circuit with no small ambition driving him on.

Focus on Youth – Jake Lilley

Having gone through the Laser Radial and Laser Standard route, he quickly grew out of these boats and realised his long ambition to join the Finn class in late 2012.

He said, “I have always wanted to race Finns since I first stepped on a sailing boat. In addition, the Olympic Games has always been a massive part of my life. To now be sailing the true Olympic boat is a great privilege and there is nothing else I would rather do.”

Jake hails from Brisbane. “I started school sailing in early 2008 and quickly moved on, getting into the Laser Radial. I sailed the radial for two years and finished third in the ISAF Youth World Trials and immediately moved to the Laser Standard for 18 months.”

Jake says he realised his potential following his 12th place at the 2012 Kieler Woche, a pivotal regatta for him in many ways. “This was the last regatta of my 2012 European season and I really proved to myself that I could mix it up with the top sailors in the world.”

“After the 2012 European season, I came to the realisation that I was far too big for the Laser Class. I talked to my mentor, London 2012 Olympian, Brendan Casey about his thoughts on moving to the Finn, as he himself had been too big in the Laser for too long, and it became clear that the Finn was going to be the class for me.”

So after some fast-track training it was off to Sail Melbourne. “I had only been training for eight weeks before my first regatta, the ISAF Sailing World Cup Melbourne. I really had no expectations and was still on a very steep learning curve as to how to exactly sail the boat. I knew the boat was going to be technically challenging and physically demanding to race and that is exactly what it was. In terms of my own performance I far exceeded my expectations for a first regatta.

“Melbourne provided its usual random weather and we were graced with a bit of everything as far as sailing conditions were concerned. Perhaps the most exciting day was 25 knots of wind and two metre high waves. Overall I had a solid week with consistent scores. I competed in my first medal race, finishing third in the race and collecting a bronze medal. It was fantastic racing against my new training partner, world number 1 and London 2012 Olympian, Brendan Casey.”

“Since then I have sailed at all the domestic regattas where I have been able to practice and vastly improve.”

“I next travelled to Sydney where I consolidated with some hard training and good racing at both the Sydney International Regatta and the New South Wales Finn State Championships. I had an unbelievable start to the NSW States with a 1, 1, 2 in some fickle breeze as we raced up and down Sydney Harbour. I was very star-
struck racing against my child-hood idol and three-time Olympian, Anthony Nossiter, but I didn't let this hold me back."

"The next day I finished with a very hard-fought fourth and eight from the two races in some crazy breeze and a lot of harbour traffic. But with one drop for the series, this was enough to leave me tied for first. Unfortunately Brendan beat me on a countback so I had to settle for silver. However, during the course of the week I also managed to win the Sydney International Regatta in which the NSW States had been run in conjunction with."

"The Finn fleet then travelled to Cronulla for the Australian Finn Championship held in the ocean off Cronulla beach over five days and 10 races. I managed to finish the regatta second overall, behind Brendan and ahead of Anthony. The week provided some extreme heat and off shore breezes. At the end of the week I was also the Australian Junior Finn Class Champion for 2013.

"I am very fortunate to have John [Bertrand] as a coach, he has been invaluable in my campaign so far. To be honest, Yachting Australia has executed a vision and they targeted John to develop a National Finn programme in my home town of Brisbane. So far it has been an excellent choice and I am sure there are much greater rewards to be reaped from Yachting Australia’s vision and guidance. There’s a very exciting quadrennium to come for sure."

How much influence did Brendan have on his sailing path? “Brendan has been such a key role model and mentor throughout all of my sailing career. I have always looked up to Brendan and he has always steered me in the right direction and given me invaluable advice.”

He describes his introduction to the class as a massive learning experience. “For sure there are important things I must work on, but for now I am working on improving my entire game, not just some particulars. The learning curve in the class is so steep and with the knowledge that both Brendan and John keep giving to me, I don’t know if I will ever stop learning at this rate.”

His focus for 2013 will be a shot at the Junior world title (the Silver Cup) on Lake Garda in July. “Short-term I am focused on the Silver Cup. In saying this, each regatta I will compete in is just as important as any other and I want to give the very best performance in each of these events. I have some very high goals and aspirations, but I think the most important thing is having a good plan and focusing on the correct processes, one day at a time. Long-term goal of course is Olympic Gold."

However at the moment, he is just excited to be sailing. “To be honest I am really excited to see my boat. I am a big fan of the Finn and love all the details and minor differences in each boat. I am really looking forward to racing as well, that’s what we all train for.”

“I don’t have a sponsor at the moment. The campaign is more-or-less funded by myself and my family, which is always tough.”

Jake does benefit though from a strong and growing domestic Finn sailing scene that has really taken off in recent years and recovered to its strength in the 1970s and 1980s. “Rob McMillan has been instrumental in reviving the Finn Class in Australia and all I can say is I hope it continues to go from strength to strength. I see the class growing at all levels, and a new generation coming through.”

“The Finn Class here is a bunch of great people and love to help each other out. We are trying to structure more training and racing together to all push each other to better levels. I love it and the camaraderie is great. A strong domestic scene is important on so many levels, and hopefully as a country we can show the world up right through, from junior, open and masters levels.”

Final thoughts looking all the way ahead to Rio? “It’s a long way to go and it’s important to take it one step at a time in the hope of achieving the ultimate goal. But I’m really looking forward to the journey.”

Follow Jake at his website: www.jakelilleysailing.com

Left: Jake chases another rising Australian Finn sailor Oliver Tweddell during Sail Melbourne. All photos by Sport the Library/Sail Melbourne
Finn World Masters 2013
EUROSAF 2013

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tracks

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→ print your tidal currents
and routing charts for
the whole day

EVENTS
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Skandia Sail for Gold 2011
Skandia Sail for Gold 2012
505 Worlds 2012
Olympics 2012
Paralympics 2012
Finn World Masters 2013
Dragon Nationals 2013
470 Worlds 2013
EUROSAF 2013
Dragon Worlds 2013

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Best upwind routing
Best downwind routing
Best downwind angles
Performance results
Gains and losses
Laylines in currents
Windshifts by currents
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Print output for a day
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After sailing was not included in the programme for the 2013 World University Summer Games, the Russian Finn Association seized the opportunity to create a new sailing event for students – the International University Sailing Cup (Finn). This will be held in Moscow in May and will be sailed in the Moscow Sailing School’s fleet of Finns.

In 2013 Russia will hold the World University Summer Games – Universiade in Kazan from July 7-17. The sport of sailing is not included in that event, so the Russian Finn Association, together with International Finn Association (IFA), offered to hold the International Students Sailing event using Finns in Moscow just before the Universiade. This initiative was supported by the IFA, Russian Students Sport Union and has received the endorsement of the International University Sport Federation (FISU). Moreover, the President of FISU Mr. Claude-Louis Gallien is supporting the initiative. He was also Finn sailor and participant at the Olympic Games.

The driving force behind this new event has been the Russian Finn class secretary Vasily Kravchenko. “We have good potential to promote the Finn class. Many junior or post-junior Finn sailors are students and while all universities have their own sports competitions and sports programmes, and sailing is still an option for university sports programme, the Finn class is not represented there unfortunately. The university sports programme is a big additional force for class popularisation, which has so far not been used by the Finn class.”

All National Finn Associations are invited to support the first International University Sailing (Finn) Cup in Moscow (May 28-June 2) and to send sailors and invite friends from the Laser class to participate in the event. The charter boats will be provided free of charge, and sailors will have chance to have a look at Moscow and Kazan (upon request).

Oleg Matytsin, the President of the Russian Student Sports Union and 1st Vice-President of International University Sports Federation said, “Today Russian sailing, including students, is experiencing a revival. They won five medals at the World University Games in 2011, and the success of the last 2 years at Junior Finn World and Continental Championships, who, incidentally, are also students, include gold and bronze at the World Championship and silver and bronze at the European Championships. It is no coincidence that Russia was given the right to host the International University Cup in sailing for the World Universiade Kazan 2013 in the Finn.”

“The joint organisation of the International University Cup is important in terms of strengthening the ties between the student section and sports schools and countries. I think that active cooperation between the Russian Sports Student Union and the Russian Finn Association will help revive the student sailing and bring it to a new level.”

The official invitation reads,

The International University Sport Federation (FISU), Russian Finn Association and Russian Students Sport Union are pleased to invite you to the International University Sailing Cup (Finn) 2013, which will be held in Moscow prior to the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan.

The event will be held on Klyazma and Pirogovo Lakes in Moscow on May 28 to June 2, 2013. The Championship will take place at Moscow Sailing School, which hosted the 49er World Championship and the Finn Gold Cup in 2011. Eligible competitors shall be a national of the country he/she represents, be at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on January 1, 2013 and be a student or postgraduate student of a university. The entry fee is 130 Euro.

Charter boats can be provided for participants. One fully equipped Finn (a 2004 Devoti that was built for the 2005 Finn Gold Cup) and one mast (Hit Mast, bend numbers are available) can be provided by Moscow Sailing School to each participant for charter free of charge on demand with a damage deposit of 300 Euro. Sailors are invited to bring their sails and personal equipment only.

Sailors and accompanying persons can stay at Moscow Sailing School hotel just near the dinghy park. The approximate price is 30 Euro per night per person, and this includes three meals per day. The reservation of the rooms and charter boats should be done by April 30.

For more details please go to the official event web-site www.iusc.ru or contact Vasily at the Russian Finn Association at finn@moscow-finnclass.ru

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in La Rochelle in May and I hope we will, again, have a good Finn World Masters Championship with true winners after a sportive battle. Preferably in sunny and warm circumstances, so our spouses will be satisfied, too.

I wish you happy sailing in good winds,

Fons van Gent,
(Vice) President Finn Masters Fleet

FINNFARE MARCH 2013
The approach of an Olympic Games normally has a positive influence on activities in the host country and this is proving to be especially true of the Finn class in Brazil.

Just over four years ago we reported on the joint initiative between Brazil, Pata Boats of Hungary and the International Finn Association to import a mould into Brazil to start building boats there for the first time in more than three decades.

The success story of that initiative continues and the class recently held its most successful National Championship in many decades. While numbers are still small compared to some European countries, it attracted 26 boats, out of a total of 36 Finns actively racing in the country, to three days of competition on the Guarapiranga Lake, in Sao Paulo.

The strength of the class was underlined by fact that most of the boats being raced were new boats built in Brazil on the back of the 2008 initiative. While there are still some imports from Europe, the sheer cost – in terms of duties and transport charges – and complexity of this has meant the unmitigated success of the home build project. Before 2008 the class had very little growth because the cost of importing a boat was almost the same as the cost of the boat itself.

The fleet at Guarapiranga included boats from the three centres of Finn sailing in Brazil. There were boats from Rio, São Paulo, and from the fledging fleet growing in the capital Brasilia.

There was a complete mix of conditions over the three days, but favourite, the 2012 Olympian Jorge Zarif, took the title from the returning Bruno Prada. Andre Mirsky ended up third after Prada sailed a great last day to snatch second place. Zarif took six race wins out of the seven races (Prada took the other race win) to dominate the competitive and expanding fleet. Further growth is expected over the next three years as the country and the fleet prepare for the Olympics.

**New boats**

The man behind the 2008 project was Jorge Rodrigues, though most of the new boats were built by the local boatbuilder Holos under his guidance. Jorge is now the new National secretary of the class as well as being involved in ‘Apoio Rio 2016’, a training support organisation for sailors and federations wishing to locate in Rio.

After the first dozen of so boats were built Jorge felt that the boat could be improved, so set about designing and building a new boat. Because the cost of Holos doing the work was so high, he started work himself and the first boat has recently been launched.

“I started to work by myself to develop this new boat last year. It took me 10 months of hard work to complete the job, but right now I have a new set of moulds for this new model.”

All photos by Ale Socci, www.greenpixel.com.br
“I built a single hull to test it as a prototype. The new boat was sent to sail in the windiest region in Rio for a good structural test, and the boat went without any problem and without a single drop of water inside the hull. I am right now working with the class to see how will we measure and approve the new boat to allow me to sell it to our market.”

“We also built a few masts here and we are still working to have a competitive mast for sailors in all weight ranges. We produced good masts for light or heavy sailors, but we still need to produce a mast with good numbers for the average sailors, from 90 to 100 kg.”

“The first mast built here was very soft and only performs well for light sailors and in light winds. The second mast, after some fine tuning, sanding some areas and reinforcing in others was very good, and this mast won a local regatta in Rio with four races and nine boats competing.”

“After this we went to Brasilia to race there and a local sailor, Juliando Camargo, liked the mast performance and decided to buy it. Some time ago Juliando also bought the first boat that we built and is the first helmsman to compete with both a boat and mast nationally built for a long time. He went to compete at our nationals and he got the best race position of all the boats we have built.”

“Unfortunately, on the last leg of the first race of our Nationals, a very strong wind caused many sailors to capsize or rip their sails, and Juliando lost his precious sail that was perfectly matched to his mast. He finished fifth in the race but the sail was not usable, though he had proved the mast was fast.”

Jorge says the mast project is a bit behind schedule, but a new mould is being planned, maybe built by Holos, and masts should be readily available in Brazil soon.

As for sails, one local sail builder tried to develop a sail but most sailors prefer to buy their sails from North Sails Argentina.

History
Brazil has a long history and tradition in the Finn class. Its most famous Finn sailor was Jorg Bruder who was tragically killed in an airplane crash in 1973 while travelling to Brest to defend his world title for the third time. The country has twice hosted the Finn Gold Cup, the last time in 2004 when Ben Ansle famously equaled Bruder’s record of three consecutive wins that had stood for 30 years.

The current big name in the class is Jorge Zarif, and for anyone with aspirations to represent Brazil in the Finn class in 2016, Zarif is currently the one to beat.

The recent return of former Finn sailor and double Olympic Star medalist Bruna Prada has added a new ingredient to the mix, and though he won the opening race in January at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Miami, has yet to make a final decision on a full campaign. Though the numbers were low, it was a competitive week that gave Zarif the bronze, while Prada finished in seventh. On their return to Brazil, Zarif was again dominant at the Brazilian Sailing Week in Rio, winning nine of the ten race series.

Zarif said on his performance in Miami, “It was good in general, and I was happy with the bronze. It was hard because I was always coming from behind, so you have to work harder in the free pumping to win positions. We always had the same guys in the front, one point was super important.”

“The downwind was nice, so I gained a few positions in critical moments, but the upwind was not so good. We are working to improve that for Palma.”

He has not been full time since the Olympics saying, “I had some surgery in my knee after the Olympics, so I have been training for just two months. The downwinds are much better than before.

“I am training with Bruno Prada and coach Rafa Trujillo in Rio. It’s been great for us. Neither of us likes to lose so the training has been very hard. He has experience and he knows very well what you need to do to have good results, so I am trying to learn from him. We are having good times training and we are good friends. It helps a lot.”

Prada commented, “I am happy to be sailing the Finn again. After just starting to sail the Finn two months ago I am happy with my upwind, and very impressed with the free pumping downwind, but I need to train a lot.”

Since he last sailed a Finn at the 2004 Finn Gold Cup in Rio, he has only sailed Stars and big boats. Was it hard to come back? “I felt old...most of the sailors are at least 15 years younger. The biggest change has been the downwind free pumping downwind, but I need to improve that for Palma.”

While his Star helm Robert Scheidt has already been making his mark back in Lasers, was there an agreement between the two to try different classes for 2016? “Robert needs to eat a little bit more to become a Finn sailor...he is 80kg. He told me that he will try the Laser again. As I was nine years without sailing dinghies, my plan is to do one year of hard sailing, and then evaluate if I am able to go ahead.” However, of course, both are still hoping for another chance in the Star.

“Jorge and I are training together. He is a big, young, talented sailor and with a lot of
The 2013 Brazilian Nationals was held from 18-20 January at the Yacht Club Paulista on the Guarapiranga Lake, São Paulo. There was a record participation of 26 boats, out of the 36 boats in the country. This event demonstrated the class growth here, especially after Rio de Janeiro was chosen to host the 2016 Olympic Games.

During these three days of competitions, we had seven races in various weather and wind conditions, providing the sailors with many opportunities to compete in the excellent atmosphere of camaraderie among the participants.

Two sailors from Brasilia, the capital of the country where a new fleet is being formed, came to participate in the event. The race area represented a challenge since most of the sailors from Rio and Brasilia had never raced before on this site.

More good news for the class is that, after a long time away, Bruno Prada returned to compete in the Finn class and is looking to compete with Jorge Zarif for the Olympic berth for Brazil in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Racing

On the first day of competition the only race of the day was held after a couple hours on the lake just waiting for the wind to come. Eventually a light to moderate wind finally appeared and the race started well and everything was fine. But at the end of the last leg dark clouds came from the west, bringing strong winds that brought wonderful planing conditions and some capsizes shortly after the finish line, as well as a few ripped sails.

The there was heavy rain with fog for some time, but all sailors were waiting for the race committee to hold one more race that day. After the rain stopped, the wind dropped too much so no more races could be completed. After the first day, Jorge Zarif led from Andre Mirsky.

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This helped the sailors who had torn their sails to compete again on the next day without losing any races.

The second day of the competition was also marked by light to moderate winds with very shifty conditions, forcing the sailors to react...
quickly. We also had three races this day and one of the major requirements was to sail fast and to keep the rudder clean from the leaves of the local gigogas, that were spread over the racing area.

The last race of the day was won by Bruno Prada, who broke the unbeaten streak of Jorge Zarif and showed that he has returned to compete seriously in the class.

At the end of the second day Jorge Zarif, Andre Mirsky and Bruno Prada were the best positioned sailors.

The Guarapiranga Lake reserved the best wind and weather conditions for the last day of competition. On a beautiful sunny day, with winds from 12-18 knots, we had more three races in these nice conditions, where pumping was allowed by the race committee, and naturally the sailors with better physical shape and pumping techniques took advantage of the planing potential of the boats under these conditions.

Ricardo Santos ended up joining the class and was surprised by his own performance for a beginner in the class.

Meeting
During this Championship, two more events were carried out. The first was a National Meeting to discuss the direction of the class in Brazil, in order to consolidate the current growth phase of our class in Brazil.

The class decided that we will have the next three Brazilian Nationals in Rio de Janeiro, as a way to encourage all Finn sailors to get to know the racing area for the Olympic Games of 2016, in Guanabara Bay.

We are also interested in hosting the 2015 Finn Gold Cup here in Brazil, in order to provide the Finn sailors some regattas and training for those who will compete in 2016.

The idea would be to hold State Championships, Brazilian Nationals, South Americans and the Gold Cup in sequence, to provide various opportunities for sailing here.

We will have class elections every couple of years to define who will be the National Class Secretary, and for the next period I have been elected. I’m happy to have my work recognised by the local sailors here and I will do my best to continue the work developed by Bruno Caruso.

The second event was a dinner organised by Bruno, that almost all the sailors of the Nationals attended, and where the atmosphere of fun and camaraderie found on the water were always present, as Andre Mirsky commented at the end of our dinner.

That’s what I have for now, but I know that as time moves forward to the Olympic Games, we will have more sailors interested in sailing here and learning about the conditions in our bay. I welcome everyone that needs any help or assistance to contact me at my mail jrsilva@gmail.com. It will be my pleasure to help you here in our wonderful city, Rio de Janeiro.

See you soon.

Jorge Rodrigues

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Brazilian Nationals 2013

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<th>Rank</th>
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Jorge Zarif won the three races of the day, proving that he is, at the moment, the best sailor of the class in the country, winning the Championship.

Bruno Prada also sailed very well, and with two seconds and a fourth-place finish, which secured second place overall, overtaking Andre Mirsky. Mirsky had returned to class a little time ago, and this third place overall is a great result, especially considering the level of competition.

In the Master class, Bruno Prada, now 41, was the champion, followed by Rolf Bremer and Ricardo Santos, who finished tied in points with Tiago Moraes, but took the third position on result of the last race.
The 2013 Rules make one change to the boat. AGM 2012 instructed that we make a Submission to remove the measurement restrictions on the strengthening reinforcements at the corners of our sails. For our shape of sail, it makes no sense to limit something that’s intended to make our sails last longer. The restrictions are gone.

For some years, our leading builders have asked the Chief Measurer (Jüri Saraskin) to check the measurements over when a new mould is bought into service. This has been a very successful policy for everybody: on several occasions problems have been discovered and resolved before production commences, and the visit enables Jüri and the local measurer to update each other and discuss possible issues. This arrangement has now been incorporated into our Rules. We also submitted a proposal to require similar visits to manufacturers on a periodic basis, but this was rejected on the grounds that we have the right as a Class Association to do this.

AGM instructed us to continue seeking authority for the new Measurement database. This year ISAF agreed to this, and we were able to include a number of changes to allow development in the way we certify our Boats and record our Class Association Membership. We are working towards having the boat certification and measurement forms on the Class Measurement Database. We are also hoping to develop a Membership Database.

In a few years’ time we hope that Regatta Organisers will be able to check our Certification and Membership when we enter, rather than at registration. However, for the present we need to continue with the paper versions as well. The main change so far is that when the new boat has been measured, scans of the documentation go on the Measurement Database and are sent electronically to our Certifying Authority for completion, instead of using snail mail.

The database is working well, but we have had some delays in finding a suitable host.

Sailors chartering boats have had difficulties because the commercial charter boats have not always been issued with sail numbers. Nowadays the best identifier for the boat is the ISAF Sticker number, so we have made a change allowing charter boats to be certified without being issued sail numbers in a national series. The boat can sail under the Helmsman’s National Letters and can use the Helmsman’s Personal Sail Number.

AGM 2012 gave no instructions about the introduction of a specification for Flags on Sails for major regattas (the delegates were worried about the expense). However our Olympic Classes Contract allows ISAF Regatta Organisers to require Flags, and a Submission was passed at the November Meeting of ISAF, requiring Flags. If we didn’t have a Rule about Flag Sizes, then the organisers could specify what they liked. We considered that it was urgent to have a Class Rule on the matter, and made a Rule Change Submission based on work already done by Jüri and myself. We worked with ISAF and the 470 Class to standardise the wording and flag sizes.

The result is that we have a reasonable size of flag, positioned in what is generally agreed to be the most suitable place – just below the second lowest batten and near the leech. For the 470 and Finn, ISAF required that the flags be made by approved manufacturers. Initially they have approved one manufacturer, whose details are on the ISAF website. We hope that other manufacturers will apply for approval.

At present the Flag requirement only applies to the ISAF Sailing World Championships (FGC 2014), and to ISAF Sailing World Cup regattas. For other regattas, any requirement needs approval from the IFA under our Rule A.6 (but if you have your national flag on your sail, you don’t have to take it off again!).

Richard Hart

Photo: Jonas Høgh-Christensen training in Palma in 2012

**RULE CHANGE**

The following amendments to the Class Rules have been approved to be effective 1st March 2013 by the Class Rules Sub-committee.

**C.10.3 IDENTIFICATION**

(a) The national letters and sail numbers shall comply with the RRS. See also G.1.4 (b).

(b) As an exception to G.1.4 (a), for winners of the Finn Gold Cup and for Olympic Gold Medallists in the Finn Class, the sail insignia waves may be coloured Gold.

(c) At the ISAF Sailing World Cup and the ISAF Sailing World Championship, or when required by the Notice of Race, a skipper national flag, nominal size 740 x 443 mm, shall be applied to each side of the sail, positioned such that the aft edge of each flag is between 50 and 100 mm of the leech and the upper edge between 50 and 100 mm below the second lower batten pocket. The flags shall be made by an ISAF approved manufacturer as listed at http://www.sailing.org/classesandequipment/FINN.php.

Further details and files are available on www.finnclass.org
Fantastica Sailing Team together with Russian and Italian Finn Associations have organised a joint training project for Finn sailors – Fantastica Finn Academy.

The cooperation was organised in the form of an exchange of Russian and Italian sailors in participation in national regattas and in the form of a training camp at Malcesine on Lake Garda.

Russian sailors are taking part in regattas of Coppa Italia and Italian masters competitions while Fantastica Sailing team will support several of the best Italian sailors to take part in the Open Russian international regatta and in the International University Sailing Cup.

The international camps on Lake Garda have attracted international coach and teams from Italy, Russia and Croatia. Russian and Italian junior sailors prepare for Silver Cup there together with senior sailors, which work as reference and competitive environment while preparing for their own regatta plans. The training process on the water was accompanied by analysis on a shore.

In addition to the training process the experienced Finn sailor and One Design sailmaker Karlo Kuret shared his knowledge of mast characteristics, dynamics, philosophy of sails making process and some other important points for Finn sailors. This work was accompanied by practical investigations with experimental sails and cameras, which could track sail shape in different conditions.

In spite of very cold weather at Garda in winter time the struggle on the water and training temperature were very hot while the communication atmosphere was very warm.

The Fantastica Finn Academy is a good example and a chance to extend international connections as well as to grow new young sailors. The Russian and Italian Finn Associations would like to thank Fantastica Sailing team for this project.
BELGIUM

Belgian Championship 2012
Christophe Benoit writes: Our nationals started under perfect circumstances; the weather forecast could not have been better and 19 Finn sailors showed up in Ostend to battle fiercely for the title. Most sailors seemed to be very well prepared for heavy sailing conditions, judging on the size of the bellies. It was fairly obvious who the man to beat was: Sebbe Godefroid had returned.

The stage was set in the first race with Sebbe winning convincingly. But also others were feeling lucky: Michiel (first year in the Finn) ended second and started day-dreaming about a medal, Boudewijn ended on a good sixth place and smiled as if he just left a Dutch coffee shop. Also the second race was won by Sebbe.

After lunch Sebbe won again and we started to wonder whether he would win them all. The other favourites, Filip and Joel, were very busy collecting second and third places. Our Finnzilla (Gold 2010), Jan-Tjeerd, sailed a 12th and 14th place before he realised that it was a good idea to regularly remove weed from the rudder.

The fourth race was full of surprises: Michiel collected his first OCS and Filip could finally beat Sebbe with Joel just behind him. All in all a great championship. We are looking forward to the next one on September 7/8 2013 on the Plate-Taille lake.

BRAZIL

Brazilian Masters Championship 2012
Racing was scheduled in Rio over two days with two races each day. Saturday heralded perfect conditions with a win apiece between Colin Reed and Jorge Rodrigues. Sunday was marred by a massive cold front that arrived on the course just before the start, bringing heavy winds and blinding rain. The first race of the day was cancelled, and then the second race was held in very changeable conditions from light shifty airs to strong winds with frequent wind shifts. Guilherme Pereira was the only finisher and took the Masters title.

Brazil Sailing Week 2013
Rio de Janeiro, 14-24 February

Photo: Fred Hoffmann (more on page 22)
The Yacht Club de Cannes had put in a big effort and President Jean-Claude Montesinos was happy to welcome to a venue devoted to Finns for many years. He reminded us that the concept of this event, chosen by IFA France, was to be a possible European Masters venue where Olympians are very welcome. Indeed this is the idea the Yacht Club de Cannes and the French IFA worked year after year and it fits.

Although it was sunny on the first day, the wind was too weak to compete and everybody was sent back ashore.

The second day had the same weather forecasts but the sun was hotter, making the mountains glitter under their white summits. Three races were sailed; each time there was a temptation to go to the left which seemed better with the two îles de Lerins channels; but each time, step by step, the breeze shifted to the right and veered. The first race was the most significant with a 25° vee half way up the wind. Raudaschl was so happy with his victory that he then won the sixth race.

Nobody complained when back at the Yacht Club de Cannes terrace, the committee, perfectly lead by Jérôme Nutte, took the risk of sending the fleet out to Cannes East harbour where they met a 5-7 knot veering breeze. Taking a very risky start, Laurent Hay won the pin, sailed 300 meters into some pressure, tacked right back and crossed in front of the whole fleet. Nobody could catch him and he perfectly negotiated the two down-winds jibes and wasn’t trapped by a big black wind. Hay was the first to understand the trick. He perfectly lead by Jérôme Nutte, took the risk of sending the fleet out to Cannes East harbour where they met a 5-7 knot veering breeze. Taking a very risky start, Laurent Hay won the pin, sailed 300 meters into some pressure, tacked right back and crossed in front of the whole fleet. Nobody could catch him and he perfectly negotiated the two down-winds jibes and wasn’t trapped by a big black wind. Hay was the first to understand the trick.
Coppa Italia 2012
Coppa Italia Finn 2012 concluded at the Malcesine International Finn Cup in October. At the start of the event Simone Mancini was leading by a small three points margin on Marko Kolic and by another 15 points on Federico Laici.

Simone had a fantastic event, winning the Finn Cup and consolidating his leadership, and in doing so he conquered his second consecutive Coppa Italia.

The other podium places didn't change, with Marko Kolic in second and Federico Laici in third. Fourth was Marco Buglielli and fifth Paolo Visoni, who passed the new Secretary Francesco Faggiani with his third place in Malcesine. 29 races were eventually sailed in Coppa Italia 2012 over seven weekends and 130 sailors participated in the event.

Coppa Italia is supported by a pool of sponsors which 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.

Malcesine Finn Cup
The 2012 edition of the International Finn Cup in Malcesine saw the participation of 43 helmsmen from seven nations. Wind conditions were unusually variable for the Garda lake, and only four races were sailed in light winds. Simone Mancini managed to be consistent in the difficult conditions and scored 7 points (1-7-1-5) with two bullets, while Timo Hagoort from the Netherlands was equally consistent (4-1-3-3) and scored equal points with Sione but with only one race win had to settle for second place.

Third was the local Master Paolo Visoni (2-25-2-7), followed by Marton Beliczay from Hungary and Marko Kolic.

1  ITA 19  Simone Mancini  777
2  ITA 40  Marko Kolic  749
3  ITA 985  Federico Laici  723
4  ITA 2  Marco Buglielli  684
5  ITA 37  Paolo Visoni  612
6  ITA 9  Marton Beliczay  585
7  ITA 872  Nicola Menoni  539
8  ITA 917  Ettore Thermes  408
9  ITA 23  Umberto Grumelli  397
10 ITA 23  Enrico Passoni  366
1  ITA 19  Simone Mancini  7
2  RUS 8  Timo Hagoort  7
3  ITA 37  Paolo Visoni  11
4  HUN 5  Marton Beliczay  13
5  ITA 40  Marko Kolic  14
6  CZE 6  Rudolf Lidarik  16
7  ITA 2  Marco Buglielli  22
8  ITA 985  Federico Laici  25
9  ITA 90  Emanuele Vaccari  25
10 SUI 7  Christoph Burger  28

Trofeo Bertacca
The 2012 season in Italy ended as usual with the 10th edition of Trofeo Bertacca Sail Equipment, which took place at the beginning of November in Livorno, leaving its usual location of Torre del Lago where the Club is currently not active.

In the first day three races were sailed in a good but shifty 10-15 south-easterly and big waves. Unfortunately on Sunday torrential rain and strong wind gusts forced the race committee to abandon racing.

Enrico Passoni had a wonderful and consistent series with a 2-1-2 and comfortably won the event. Second was Vasily Kravchenko from Russia and third the young Italian Laser sailor Francesco Marrai.

Vasily came from Moscow with Mikhail Petriga, marking the first step of the cooperation between the Russian and Italian associations to conduct joint training in Malcesine (see article page 22). Everybody was very happy to see these sailors coming to Italy from so far away. With the Silver Cup on Garda this year, events will be organised at Fragila Vela Malcesine to promote the Finn to young sailors.

Francesco Marrai is a very promising sailor who already has under his belt World and European titles in the Laser. He is currently campaigning in the Laser but has a very well structured build and very much enjoyed trying the Finn.

1  ITA 6  Enrico Passoni  5
2  RUS 17  Vasily Kravchenko  7
3  ITA 43  Francesco Marrai  9
4  ITA 985  Federico Laici  14
5  ITA 872  Nicola Menoni  15
6  ITA 4  Francesco Faggiani  21
7  ITA 19  Simone Mancini  23
8  ITA 2  Marco Buglielli  29
9  ITA 23  Umberto Grumelli  30
10 RUS 51  Mikhail Petriga  32

The organisation was very good, with a nice Saturday night dinner in Livorno, where the Coppa Italia 2012 prizegiving was celebrated, with lots of prizes including one Finn sail offered by 3FL Sails.

The Trofeo Bertacca prizegiving was also very rich, as usual for this regatta, with prizes offered by sponsors and regatta organiser Italo Bertacca, owner of the Bertacca Sail Equipment in Viareggio.
Andreas Bollongino writes: Normally the German Finn class secretary has a relaxing time during the winter season (as he usually has the whole year to be honest). Not so this year: in July we have the European Championships in Warnemünde. Our President is busy pushing and supporting the local organisation committee. Tough work, if you promised to have a first class event.

The German Finn-Class and the German youth program ‘Finn Team Germany’ is offering training focused on the European Championships for members. The training will be held by Robert Stanjek (Olympic Star Sailor) and his team.

Boerenkool Cup 2012

After our last report in 2012, we had two more great regattas to go. The first was the traditional Boerenkool Cup which is named after a famous Dutch vegetable, which our grandfathers always say tastes best after the first night of temperatures below zero.

Luckily, that was not the case, but cold it was. And with great winds, we sailed five great races, with up to 70 boats. Our brand new Dutch Champion Timo proved his quality and he again won this weekend.

Boerenkool Cup 2012

1 NED 83 Timo Hagoort 5
2 NED 41 Karel van Hellemond 8
3 NED 80 Sander Willems 13
4 NED 787 Nanno Schuittrups 13
5 NED 29 Bas de Waal 21
6 NED 60 Luuk Kuijper 28
7 NED 703 Eric Bakker 35
8 NED 981 Thierry van Vierssen 37
9 NED 777 Albert Kroon 44
10 NED 962 Jan Bart 44
11 NED 69 Jelte Baerends 47
12 NED 965 Robert Thole 51
13 NED 7 Cees Scheurwater 56
14 NED 780 Jan-Willem Kok 56
15 NED 2 Wouter Molenaar 56
16 NED 66 Ewout Meijer 60
17 NED 49 Jan Mark Meeuwisse 60
18 NED 101 Chris Frijdal 63
19 NED 67 Ronald Ruiter 65
20 NED 54 Joos Bos 68
21 NED 76 Kraas Boog 87
22 NED 888 Bas de Regt 89
23 NED 770 Hein Bloemers 90
24 NED 91 Bob Heineke 91
25 NED 891 Ronald van Klooster 97
26 NED 94 Tijmen van Rooselaar 97
27 NED 27 Paul Kamphorst 98
28 NED 47 Auke Woerdeman 100
29 NED 10 Nanne Boot 105
30 NED 100 Arend van der Sluis 105
31 NED 963 Paul Douze 108
32 NED 902 Pieter Risseeuw 117
33 NED 88 Chiel Barends 128
34 NED 11 Henk de Jager 130
35 NED 8 Rodrick Casander 131
36 NED 701 Fred Richter 142
37 NED 72 Lacus-Jan Groenhout 144
38 NED 833 Michel Miltenburg 146
39 BEL 76 Paul Goossens 146
40 NED 1X Pascal Meijer 152
41 NED 6 Rob de Coq 155

The Europeans will be a highlight in terms of sports and social events, do not miss it. The best way is to combine it with the Warnemünde Woche one of our famous Baltic Sea weeks one week before.

One month later the German Championships will be held in Steinhude, a well known location for European Finn sailors, hosting the biggest Finn events each year. We are looking forward seeing you in Germany this year.

European Trophy

We had some discussions regarding the idea for a European Finn Trophy. To make it in 2013 would be too confusing and probably spoil a good idea. We should all use the big regattas in 2013 to discuss the events and get a well thought through format for 2014. So we can go live with this series with the first regattas next year.

Alpen-Cup 2013

The legendary Alpen-Cup will of course continue in 2013. The dates are:

1 Italy, Lago di Caldaro, Trofeo Dr. Schaer, 27-28 April
2 Austria, Finn Duell Wolfgangsee, 29-30 June
3 Switzerland, Niederhornkanne, Thunersee Yachtclub, 12-14 July
4 Germany, Finn Cup, Rottachsee (Allgäu), 10-11 August

Please see details at our webpage: http://finnalpencup.wordpress.com/

But in Hellevoetsluis they are also sailing during the winter months. With almost weekly races with between 7 and 10 boats this is the place to be in the South of Holland. Especially in this cold and windy season. Daan Bart made this great picture.

Our traditional (2012 for the very first time) Winterweekend in Nijkerk was cancelled due to solid water. It was one of the best weekends in Holland to go skating on the lakes and canals. But unless the fact that the committee made the wise decision not to start an official race, five very poor skaters, thought that sailing was still possible. With frozen sheets and travellers, very slippery decks and a joystick made of ice, they sailed one race. On the other side of the bridge nearby, they were skating. A local journalist made a great picture.

Now we are preparing us for the first training sessions of the year. On February 24 we start in Nijkerk. After that the fleet trains in Harderwijk (3/3) Hellevoetsluis (93), in Loosdrecht (17 and 24/3). Our first real regatta will be held during Easter in Loosdrecht (30/3 – 1/4). We all invite you to join us there.
Oceanbridge Sail Auckland

Royal Akarana YC, 1-5 February

The popularity of this Grade 1 event continues to grow with 10 quality sailors lining up to contest this four day regatta.

The first days were sailed in 15 knot easterlies in a confused seaway, the older Finn sailors often dominating the first beat only to be run down by the highly athletic young guns of Josh Junior, Matt Coutts and Andrew Murdoch (twice Laser Olympic rep sailing his first Finn Regatta) in the free pumping conditions. Josh Junior dominated this area of racing running up a series of guns to take a clear lead into day three.

On day three the weather turned sour with 25-30 knots and big seas. The older heads mindful of body and gear failure four days out of the nationals stayed ashore. The young guns slogged out three races with honours shared between Matt Coutts and front runner Josh Junior. The final day promised 15 knots and delivered 25-30 knots with the Finn Fleet forced to navigate around broken Lasers. The regatta was deservedly won by Josh showing great technique and stamina.

It was generally a fight between Coutts, Murdoch and Junior, though Timo Hagoort took two race wins. Light winds dominated the championship with Oscar only being flown in one race. Matt Coutts won day two sailing flawlessly and he sailed solidly on day three to secure his first national title and the sail number NZL 1 for the next 12 months. Andrew Murdoch sailed consistently well and with good speed to pip Josh for second.

North Island Finn Championships

Thames Sailing Club, 3 - 4 November 2012

The North Island Finn Champs weekend had everything, good turnout, good wind, great racing, hard luck stories, fireworks displays, great hospitality, plenty of adult beverages and a little bit of controversy. This is the 17th year this event has been run at Thames Sailing Club.

Josh Junior revelled in the windy conditions with 20 knots blowing for most of the weekend. Karl Purdie was consistently second, but took a win from Junior in the second race. After the first tough day, all the fleet, apart from Josh, sailed back to the clubhouse. Josh was seen sailing over the horizon towards Kaitaia on a training sail. When he returned he described it as the best sail he’d ever had in the Finn and included a screaming reach that had his boat airborne off the waves.

There was controversy on Sunday after the first race was thrown out after no boats returned on a general recall, but Josh proceeded to show a clean transom for the two remaining races of the day.

Many elite and Masters Finnsters are campaigning in Europe this coming season so expect to see many NZLs at La Rochelle, Garda and Tallinn.

Auckland Finn Championships

Manukau YMBC, Auckland, 1 - 2 December

Nine Finns contested a keenly fought Auckland Finn Championship on the Manukau harbour. While the numbers were lower than expected the quality was high as was demonstrated by the tightness of the racing. With the wind generally 10-15 knots, Ray Hall dominated with five race wins in the seven race series to take the title from the current National Champion Karl Purdie. Mark Perrow is clearly getting to know his Finn as showed solid speed as he collected a series of top three places to take third overall.

Many elite and Masters Finnsters are campaigning in Europe this coming season so expect to see many NZLs at La Rochelle, Garda and Tallinn.
Polish National Championship
27-30 September 2012, Gdańsk
Over 21 entries at the most important regatta of the season is a symptom of growing interest of Finn sailing in Poland. This year the competition was held in Gdańsk, on the Baltic Sea. Most of nine races were held in strong wind conditions. The gold medal went to the defending champion and representative at the last Olympic Games – Piotr Kula. His domination was total, as he won almost all races. Tomasz Kosmicki finished second overall after winning the medal race. Rafal Szukiel, our representative in 2008, finished third.

1  POL 1111  Piotr Kula  11
2  POL 9  Tomasz Kośmicki  24
3  POL 7  Rafal Szukiel  26
4  POL 1 Miłosz Wojewski  32
5  POL 8 Łukasz Lesinski  45
6  POL 11 Maciej Małag  54
7  POL 13 Michał Jodłowski  56
8  POL 22 Jeremi Zimny  80
9  POL 19 Tomasz Mikulski  90
10 POL 866 Tomasz Wieteska 92

Warsaw Championship
20-21 October 2012, Warsaw
The last event of the 2012 season, held on the Zegrze Lake next to the city of Warsaw, turned out to be one of the most important. More than ten competitors had an opportunity to finish on the podium in the Polish Cup 2012. Eventually 17 Finns took part in the last event. There were four races held on Saturday, in rather tricky conditions, but exceptionally nice weather. In the evening there was the Polish Finn Association meeting. We discussed about technical aspects of Finn with Andy Zawieja, Zbigniew Malicki and Tytus Konarzewski. There was also held official presentation of Apolinary Pastuszko book: (see below) “Finn – extremely important dinghy in the history of Polish regatta sailing”. On Sunday there was no wind at all. The regatta was won by Miłosz Wojewski. Łukasz Lesinski finished second, and Piotr Mazur third.

1  POL 1111  Piotr Kula  11
2  POL 9  Tomasz Kośmicki  24
3  POL 7  Rafal Szukiel  26
4  POL 1 Miłosz Wojewski  32
5  POL 8 Łukasz Lesinski  45
6  POL 11 Maciej Małag  54
7  POL 13 Michał Jodłowski  56
8  POL 22 Jeremi Zimny  80
9  POL 19 Tomasz Mikulski  90
10 POL 866 Tomasz Wieteska 92

National Match Race Championship
5-7 October 2012, Puck
One of the most interesting events held annually by the Polish Yachting Association, took place at the beginning of October in Puck. Only invited competitors are allowed to participate. This year eight sailors, all of them juniors, were given opportunity to fight for a match racing champion. The gold medal went to our Junior European Champion.

1  POL 13 Michał Jodłowski
2  POL 1 Miłosz Wojewski
3  POL 11 Maciej Małag
4  POL 22 Jeremi Zimny
5  POL 45 Paweł Karłowski
6  POL 411 Bartosz Ptak
7  POL 41 Jakub Reszka
8  POL 91 Kacper Jarocki

Polish Cup 2012
One of the main changes that was supposed to encourage people to race more often in Poland was the introduction of the long forgotten Polish Cup. Eight events were taken into account, six with traditions like National Championship or PYA Cup and two completely new events for Finns: Nordic Cup and Warsaw Cup. The Polish Finn Association decided that all regattas should be taken into account. It turned out to be a great success, as altogether 41 participants were ranked. This year the Polish Cup went to Miłosz Wojewski, who won two events, and was one of the top ranked in the others. Second was Olympic Games participant Piotr Kula, and third Jeremi Zimny, who took part in almost all events. Miłosz received a brand new golden cup, on which every year winner is obliged to engrave his name. The overall standings:

1 Miłosz Wojewski 86.6
2 Piotr Kula 72.6
3 Jeremi Zimny 69.5
4 Łukasz Lesinski 69.2
5 Bogusław Nowakowski 65.2
6 Jacek Binkowski 61.4
7 Rafal Szukiel 52.2
8 Piotr Pajor 51.8
9 Tomasz Kosmicki 51.6
10 Michał Jodłowski 49

Upcoming season
Further growth of the class is predicted, as people are joining the Polish Finn Association all the time. Remember, that the Masters World Championship is in Poland in 2014. At this venue a very important event is held also in 2013 – Sopot Finn Cup. We encourage everybody interested in the Masters Championship to come to Poland this year and participate. Apart from that the Polish National Championship is included in the German Ranking list this year, so we expect some sailors from abroad on at least two regattas during the upcoming season.
The Norwegian Finn Association has been formally re-established.

Although the national activity level was moderate during 2012 several members participated in events throughout and outside Scandinavia. Most noticeably is the performance of our youngest member Anders Pedersen NOR 1 who participated in many international races and was a hot candidate to represent Norway in the London Olympics, but unfortunately missed this by a narrow margin.

The young club has 11 active members with boats on the water, but several sailors from other classes have expressed an interest in the Finn so we expect growth in both memberships and activities during 2013.

The main event for 2013 will be the official Open Norwegian Finn Championships which will take place in the beautiful area of Hankoe (Hankø) August 17-18. The race will be arranged by Fredrikstad Sailing Club (Fredrikstad Seilforening) and the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club (KNS) and the venue will be located on the outside of the island of Hankoe.

We hope to see entries also from in particular our neighbouring Scandinavian cousins, but our invitation also goes out to anyone who wants to experience sailing in the beautiful Norwegian surroundings. The facilities are frequently used for larger regattas and there is plenty of accommodation on site or nearby. Please feel free to contact us if you want more information about this event.

The 2012 Finn National Championships was sailed at Aeolian Club on the Vaal Dam from the 26-29 September. It will go down as the “dawning of a new generation in the Finn class” as it was a case of move over older generation for here comes the new and younger generation Finn sailor. This fleet must certainly be one of the most experienced fleets in the country as it consists of sailors with years of sailing under their belts. Many of them are multi national champs not only in Finns but in many other classes as well.

But now it was the turn of the new generation as Gareth Blanckenberg, who has twice represented South Africa at the Olympics in the Laser Class, became the new Finn National Champion. Although he won almost every race he had to work hard as it was always hotly contested by a group of five young sailors, but it was Gareth who managed to pull off the victory by winning no fewer than four out of the seven races.

Paul Wilcox was second. It has been at least two years since Paul last sailed a dinghy as he has just returned from competing in the Volvo Ocean Race as a member of the Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing Team. Prior to this he has been sailing keelboats overseas. He tied on points with third placed and defending Champion, David Leigh. The tie was split on a count back as Paul had won two races against David’s one. David has spent the past season in Europe sailing various Finn regattas amongst which was the ISAF World Championships.

South African National Championship 2012

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The Swedish Championship in the Finn class was part of a big event hosted by Nynäshamn, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Games in Stockholm. Back then the arena for the sailing was in Nynäshamn, and the sailors that participated in this year’s Swedish Championship enjoyed the same splendid sailing conditions as 100 years ago.

1 Björn Allansson
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65 David Berg
66 Svante Collvin

The vision of the International Finn Association, the South African Finn Association, Pata Finns and Pata Finns Africa in supporting financially and in kind the building of boats in the country is paying tremendous dividends. No fewer than 17 of the 25 entries were modern era boats. Not only has this boosted the numbers in the class but has created a new enthusiasm amongst the sailors. It is exciting and enjoyable sailing one of these new generation boats and this is what attracts the youngsters to the fleet.

Six of the seven races were sailed in wind speeds ranging from 8 to 18 knots providing a full test of sailing skills. Friday just happened to be an enforced lay day. This was certainly not planned but because the wind was howling with gusts reaching 38 to 40 knots it was impossible to race. The competitors spent the day comparing set ups of rigs and swapping notes on how to sail faster.

Next year the Nationals will be sailed at Mossel Bay from the 21-24 September.

SWEDEN

Swedish Championship
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Sverigecupen
Throughout the season four regattas are hosted in Sweden that constitutes Sverigecupen. In 2012 the selected regattas were GKSS OCR, Uppsala, Swedish Championship and Sola Cup.

1 Stefan Nordström
2 Henrik Rydell
3 Martin Pluto
4 Fredrik Tegnhed
5 Stefan Fagerlund
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7 Mikael Brandt
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14 Jan-Erik Floren
15 Johan For sman
16 Johan Wijk

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17 Hans Wiberg
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24 Thomas Dansk
25 Håkan Stööd
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29 Kristian Åderman
30 Mikael Nilsen
31 Mås Enblom
32 Lars Edwall
33 Bengt Strömberg
34 Veine Jutmar
35 Patrik Jarnstam
36 Kenneth Höglund

Winter sailing in Sweden
In Sweden the winter is often long and cold, so for some of the sailors that do not head south for sailing ice sailing is a popular activity. Among the most frequent enthusiasts we have Mikael Brandt from Uppsala.

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Saturday Race
Lake Thun, September 15, 2012
This year’s Saturday Race on Lake Thun brought 10 Finns to the starting line. Three races were sailed in light and shifty conditions. Peter Kilchenmann was the clear winner scoring three bullets.

Memorial Marc Lambelet
Lake Neuchâtel, October 20-21, 2012
As it is unfortunately often the case in late October, high pressure didn’t promise much light conditions. However the traditional ‘Fondue’ on Saturday evening made up for the missing action on the water. The winner on the lake was Christoph Christen (above) followed by light wind rocket Hans Fatzer and Peter Kilchenmann.

Gingerbread Regatta
Lake Thun, November 3-4, 2012
The Gingerbread Regatta attracted 40 sailors. With sunshine and warm temperatures on Saturday it didn’t look like the last regatta of the year. A nice breeze allowed two interesting races. In race one Beat Aebischer and Christoph Wilke led at the first mark. Christoph Burger and Christoph Christen stayed close and managed to pass Wilke just before the finish. In race two Burger and Christen stayed in front all the way to the finish. With the Finn fleet of Lake Thun celebrating its 50th birthday, all the Finn pirates of the lake met for a roaring party on Saturday evening. On Sunday the wind was as tired as the pirates and no more races could be sailed.

Wilke Cup 2012
The Wilke Cup is already a tradition in Switzerland. The ranking is based on all national regattas of the year including the Swiss Championship and excluding local regattas. Its goal is to encourage sailors to participate in as many national regattas as possible. The first prize is a 50% discount on a brand new Wilke mast. The same sailor is only eligible every three years. The 2012 ranking was won by Boris Kulpe, the winner of the previous year. The prize was therefore rewarded to Christoph Christen in second place. Many thanks to Christoph Wilke for his great support.

New Year’s Race (see main photo)
Oberhofen, Lake Thun, January 1, 2013
Snow on the mountains, no wind on the lake! Five sailors started the new year with a regatta on Lake Thun. The wind was not yet awake but everyone had a lot of fun. 1 Peter Rösti; 2 Urs Wenger; 3 Ruedi Baumann; 4 Peter Kurz; 5 Franz Bürgi

Major Finn regattas 2013-2014
8-10/3  North American Masters
   Ft. Lauderdale, USA
13-17/3  Split Olympic Sailing Week
   Split, Croatia
29-31/3  North American Championships
   Mobile, USA
30/3-6/4  ISAF Sailing World Cup Palma
   Palma de Majorca, Spain
19-26/4  ISAF Sailing World Cup Hyeres
   Hyeres, France
28/4-2/5  International University Sailing Cup
   Moscow, Russia
8-12/5  Fragila Vela Riva (ECC)
   Garda, Italy
17-25/5  FINN WORLD MASTERS
   La Rochelle, France
21-25/5  Delta Lloyd Regatta (ECC)
   Medemblik, Netherlands
8-12/6  Sail for Gold (ECC)
   Weymouth & Portland, UK
22-26/6  Kiel Week (ECC)
   Kiel, Germany
5-7/7  UK Championship
   Torbay, UK
5-12/7  SILVER CUP
   Lake Garda, Italy
8-14/7  US Nationals
   San Pedro, USA
12-14/7  Warnemünde Week
   Warnemünde, Germany
19-27/7  EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
   Warnemünde, Germany
23-31/8  FINN GOLD CUP
   Tallinn, Estonia
4-8/9  Masters Europa Cup
   Lake Balaton, Tihany,Hungary
7-8/9  Belgian Championship
   Plate-Taille Lake, Belgium
18-22/9  Swiss Championship
   Zug, Switzerland
9-13/10  Semaine Olympique Francaise (ECC)
   La Rochelle France
1-7/12  ISAF Sailing World Cup Melbourne
   Melbourne, Australia
12-15/12  Sail Sydney
   Sydney, Australia
18-23/12  Christmas Race
   Palamos, Spain

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.

ECC = EUROSAF Champions Sailing Cup

Future Championships
2014
1-15/9  Finn Gold Cup
   Santander, Spain
May tbc  Europeans
   La Rochelle, France
6-13/6  World Masters
   Sopot, Poland

2015
Europeans – possible combined Olympic classes championship.
Finn Gold Cup – bids received from New Zealand and France.
MAXX Your Performance

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