



FRAGLIA  
VELA  
MALCESINE



**INTERNATIONAL MUSTO PERFORMANCE SKIFF CLASS  
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Fraglia della Vela di Malcesine asd**  
*Malcesine, Garda Lake, Verona, Italy*  
31<sup>st</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FINAL DAY**

The Garda Gods looked kindly on the fleet for their final day, and with continued sunshine and 18 knot southerly breeze the sailors were blessed with the best that the lake can offer!

#### **Race 11**

With Richard Stenhouse secure as the champion a battle ensued between his closest rivals for the remaining podium places. Andy Peake, Russ Clark, Marcus Hamilton and Graeme Oliver faught throughout the race with Stenhous for the victory, but the champion prevailed to take the win from Oliver and Hamilton. Peake taking 4th and Clark 6th. It is noteworthy that Marcus Hamilton and the other two Australian sailors showed tremendous speed at times, and will certainly be ones to watch in the 2011 World Championships in Melbourne.

#### **Race 12**

With an air of confidence, and just that little bit more speed, it was Stenhouse who again took the victory from Bruce Keen, Andy Peake and 1st day overall leader John Reekie.

The fleet were delighted to welcome Peter Harken earlier in the week to their regatta, and he shared the enthusiasm of the class, confirming sponsorship for the 2011 European Championships in Slovenia.

The sailors are now looking forward to a relaxing Saturday by the lake to watch the World famous Centomiglia Race.

### **DAY 3**

#### **Race 8**

Following a two hour postponment for the breeze to settle, racing got underway in a 15knot southerly breeze.

The fleet were exceptionally close together, with all the fleet rounding the 1st mark very close together. The leading group containing sailors representing Spain, Switzerland, Great Britain and Australia. A group including Russ Clark (GBR), Andy Peake (GBR) and Richard Stenhouse (GBR) slowly pulled clear to take the podium positions.

#### **Race 9**



The perfect conditions continued from race 1, with Stenhouse showing excellent speed and tactics to take the win quite comfortably from a very close group including Peake, Ian Renilson (GBR), Bruce Keen (GBR) and a great result for young Alastair Conn (GBR) taking 5th place.

#### **Race 10**

Tom Offer (GBR) led around windward mark, closely followed by a big group including Graeme Oliver (GBR), overall leader Richard Stenhouse and Marcus Hamilton (AUS).

Hamilton moved into 2nd place on the second beat, with Keen (GBR) and Daniel Henderson (GBR) also gaining places.

On the reach into the finish Offer dropped his spinnaker at the turning mark, but the following group headed up still flying their spinnakers. Hamilton pulled through to leeward of Offer to snatch the win followed by Offer and Stenhouse in 3rd.

This result gave Richard Stenhouse from Rutland Sailing Club the European Championship title.

## **DAY 2**

#### **Race 4**

In classic Lake Garda conditions with a stable southerly breeze of 12 - 14 knots, and 30 degrees air temperature, the fleet got away at the second attempt.

Richard Stenhouse (GBR) led at the windward mark and extended his lead for a comfortable win. Andy Peake (GBR), George Richard (FRA) and Bruce Keen (GBR) had a close battle, with Richard taking 2nd place followed by Peake.

#### **Race 5**

In an increasing breeze but similar conditions, the outcome of the race was almost a mirror of race 4.

Stenhouse leading at the windward mark and ensuring he stayed between the chasing bunch and the next mark to take the win. Ian Renilson (GBR) showed excellent speed to take 2nd place followed by Graeme Oliver (GBR) and overnight leader John Reekie (GBR) 4th.

#### **Race 6**

The continued glorious conditions prevailed on the lake, and Stenhouse continued his form to take the win. With Oliver in 2nd and overall contender Russ Clark in 3rd. Tim Hill (AUS) sailed consistently to take 4th. Unfortunately, countryman Marcus Hamilton was OCS after an excellent race.

#### **Race 7**

Starting in conditions similar to the first three races, the wind died and became unstable. However, Ian Renilson mastered the conditions to take the win. Jonathan Cameron (GBR) actually led the fleet around, but was unfortunate to be OCS. The other top places were taken by Pablo Arandia (ESP), George Richards (FRA) and Graeme Oliver.

## **DAY 1**

Perfect conditions on Lake Garda for day one of this years Musto Performance Skiff European Championship. An excellent entry of 74 boats, comprising of ten nationalities, including three Australians and



one Russian who had driven over 3200km to be at the event.

Race one started in 8-10 knots and after two last minute postponements, the fleet got away. The course held some big surprises in store, including 30 degree shifts and significant pressure changes. At the first mark, Russ Clark found himself in the unusual position of leading the fleet, closely followed by John Reekie and a group including Andy Peake, Richard Stenhouse, Griff Tanner and Jason Beebe from Australia. A close battle ensued downwind, with Graeme Oliver and Dan Henderson catching the leading pack. Positions frequently changed, but it was Reekie who took the gun, closely followed by Clark and World Champion Richard Stenhouse.

Race two and the pressure had increased slightly. The fleet spit up the first beat, with the majority going right which unusually appeared to be paying. At the first mark, Reekie again found himself at the front of the fleet, followed by Clark and Stenhouse and others including Peake, Roger Oswald (SUI) and Beebe. A significant shift and pressure change on the second beat saw Stenhouse and Clark pull through into first and second. Russ Clark held on to take the win, with Pablo Arandia (ESP) coming through to take 4th after a poor first race. Tanner and Stenhouse took 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Race three saw a definite right hand shift and big holes in the increased pressure. The regular contenders found themselves at the front again. Stenhouse led at the leeward mark and looked set to take the win, but fell into a hole on the left hand side of the beat, allowing Oliver, Arandia, Peake and Reekie to pull through. Oliver held on to the end after a nervous run which saw big pressure changes over the course.

Overall, a fantastic start to the event, with the top six separated by only 3 points.

Paul Manning