



ISAF Sailing World Cup Mallorca

45 TROFEO S.A.R. PRINCESA SOFIA

Commentaires de Robert Deaves (IFA)

Days 4-5-...

DAY 4 Scott lays down the law on big Thursday in Palma

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Giles Scott (GBR) produced a superlative performance on the big weather fourth day at the ISAF Sailing World Cup Mallorca as he took two more race wins to extend his lead at the top to eight points. Thomas Le Breton (FRA) remains in second while a great day for Jonathan Lobert moves him up to third, with just one day of the finals series remaining.



The day's schedule was amended following the arrival of the US military air carrier 'Harry S Truman' in the bay of Palma. With a 1,000 meter exclusion zone and a 2,400 metre no-stopping zone, courses were moved and scheduled amended.

The huge intruder was matched by the huge weather. Forget the plain, today the rain in Spain fell mainly in Palma. It was a long wet day afloat in winds gusting 25 knots, with two epic races completed by the Finns to set the stage for the last day of the finals series on Friday. Huge waves transformed the bay into a bubbling cauldron that tested sailors' abilities to the limit.

In race 8 of the 11 race series Scott crossed the line ahead of overall leader Thomas Le Breton (FRA), with Jonathan Lobert (FRA) third. Scott was also leading race 9 until an impromptu swim downwind gave the lead briefly to Lobert, but Scott then managed to haul through for a fourth race win in a row, crossing the line ahead of Lobert and Tapio Nirkko (FIN).

The top three now have a useful gap on the fleet, with a 13 point margin from third to fourth. Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic (CRO), Nirkko and Andrew Mills (GBR) all put in low scores to move up to fourth, fifth and sixth, while Josh Junior (NZL), Vasilij Zbogar (SLO), Deniss Karpak (ES) and Ed Wright (GBR) slipped up to drop down the scoreboard. A lot of sailors put in some high scores in the testing conditions.

Scott was ebullient about the day. *"It was a great day, with massive waves and wind to match. It was a little touch and go downwind at times with the boat skating its way out from underneath you."*

"It shifted right just before our start and then there were some pretty big shifts, 30 degrees or so. The rain wasn't all that pleasant, but there are certainly some stories being told at the bar of some pretty epic moments."

Lobert was also happy after starting the day in seventh overall following a few problems earlier in the week. *"Today was a good day for me I scored a third and a second. The wind was around 20 knots but the waves were very messy and pretty big. It was a very fun day."*

"I was leading the second race after Giles capsized on the downwind but on the second upwind he managed to stay more right than me and manage to catch me. I am pretty happy with my day and I hope to keep on sailing that way until the end of the regatta."

World Number 1 Oliver Tweddell (AUS) has had to withdraw from the regatta for the second year in a row. *"I didn't race today due to my tendons flaring up, unfortunately for the second year in a row in Palma I have had to withdraw from the event. I heard it was pretty epic."*

"My week hasn't been great at all. I wasn't sailing good enough and that showed, but I have taken away some positives. Again my focus now will be recovering and rehab for this injury so I can compete for the rest of the season."

There are now just two more final series races to sail before Saturday's medal race for the top 10. Scott seems to be running away with the event, but with the often tricky conditions experienced so far this week, it is never over until it is over.

Results after 9 races

- 1 GBR 41 Giles SCOTT 20
- 2 FRA 29 Thomas le BRETON 28
- 3 FRA 112 Jonathan LOBERT 40
- 4 CRO 524 Ivan KLJAKOVIC GASPIC 53
- 5 FIN 218 Tapio NIRKKO 57
- 6 GBR 85 Andrew MILLS 60
- 7 EST 2 Deniss KARPAK 61
- 8 SLO 573 Vasilij ZBOGAR 62
- 9 POL 17 Piotr KULA 63
- 10 GBR 11 Edward WRIGHT 66

Full results:

<http://www.trofeoprincesasofia.org/en/default/laregata/vertodoslosresultados/id/1/idsc2r/29>

Photos in this release by Thom Touw (www.thomtouw.com)

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Day 5 Fruitless final finals day afloat for Finns on Friday

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Despite being on the water for six hours, the Finns failed to complete any more races on the last final series day of the ISAF Sailing World Cup Mallorca. Only the medal race remains to be sailed on Saturday, scheduled for 12.30, local time.

Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic (CRO) told the story of the day. *"It was tough day for race committee, with the wind fighting between the gradient from the NNW and sea breeze. We started one race with a gradient wind of 8 knots that slowly faded out and the race was abandoned. I was among top three all the time but I fully agree that conditions were not fair so hats off for RC cancelling the race."*

"After that we had long wait and by late afternoon a race was about to get going but the RC decided to send the fleet ashore. It was a bit of a strange day in all and in my opinion it was better not to compromise a great sailing week with one unfair race."

Alliterations aside, it was a disappointing end to an otherwise very competitive week of racing in a variety of conditions. The nine races sailed as of Thursday decided who sails the medal race.

Giles Scott (GBR) and Thomas Le Breton (FRA) are guaranteed a medal each, as long as they compete, and the gold will go to one of them. Jonathan Lobert (FRA) in third is 20 points adrift of Scott, so can only improve to silver, while only Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic (CRO) and Tapio Nirkko (FIN) can deprive him of at least a bronze.

In the silver fleet, some encouraging performances over the last two days from Tomas Vika (CZE), Jake Lilley (AUS) and newcomer Ben Cornish (GBR) will go be some small comfort for missing out on the gold fleet cut. Vika ended up winning the silver fleet from Egor Terpigorev (RUS) and five time Olympian Michael Maier (CZE).

The medal race, as all the races since Wednesday will be tracked live through the ISAF website in both 2D and 3D. You can find the tracking at: <http://www.sailing.org/worldcup/multimedia/tracking.php>



Results after 9 races going into the medal race

- 1 GBR 41 Giles SCOTT 20
- 2 FRA 29 Thomas le BRETON 28
- 3 FRA 112 Jonathan LOBERT 40
- 4 CRO 524 Ivan KLJAKOVIC GASPIC 53
- 5 FIN 218 Tapio NIRKKO 57
- 6 GBR 85 Andrew MILLS 60
- 7 EST 2 Deniss KARPAK 61
- 8 SLO 573 Vasilij ZBOGAR 62
- 9 POL 17 Piotr KULA 63
- 10 GBR 11 Edward WRIGHT 66

Full results:

<http://www.trofeoprincesasofia.org/en/default/laregata/vertodoslosresultados/id/1/idsc2r/29>

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DAY 6 Scott wraps up Palma victory after drama filled medal race

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2014 ISAF World Cup, Palma, Spain © thomtuuw.com



Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofia 2014 ©Martinez Studio/ SOFIA

Giles Scott (GBR) retained the ISAF Sailing World Cup Mallorca title he won last year after a drama filled medal race, but one that ultimately didn't change any of the podium positions. Thomas Le Breton (FRA) took the silver and Jonathan Lobert (FRA) the bronze.

With a forecast all day of an average wind speed of 4 knots, it was never going to be an easy day for sailors or organisers and with some early postponements, the amended schedule had to be amended again as everyone waited for the breeze. Eventually it arrived and racing commenced an just over an hour and a half later than originally scheduled in 8 knots of wind.. Race winner Andrew Mills (GBR) said, *"It was a classic Palma sea breeze day so the left was strong with pressure and potential left handers."*

Regatta leader Giles Scott (GBR) had one thing on his mind today, and that was second placed Thomas le Breton (FRA). Only these two could take gold. With the committee boat end favoured Scott forced Le Breton down to the pin while Scott made a conservative start in the middle.

Meanwhile third placed Jonathan Lobert (FRA) had to defend his medal from Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic (FRA) and Tapio Nirkko (FIN), though Nirkko had only an outside chance. Lobert's life was made easier when Kljakovic Gaspic was OCS out of the start, along with Deniss Karpak (EST) so as long as Nirkko didn't win with Lobert last, the bronze was his.

As with the previous medal races everyone headed left, most going all the way to the layline before coming back. At the first mark it was Mills, Piotr Kula (POL), Kljakovic Gaspic and Ed Wright (GBR). The top three overall were back in sixth, eighth and ninth. It didn't look there were going to any major upsets.

With Kljakovic Gaspic out, and the main threat to Lobert gone, the main interest for the rest of the race was whether le Breton could get four boats between himself and Scott to take the gold. Mills led down the right side on the first downwind and led round the gate from Kula while further back, Scott stuck close to le Breton. Mills pulled clear on the second and final beat while Scott slipped into last after picking up the first of two yellow flags.

At the final top mark it was still Mills, Kljakovic Gaspic, Kula and Karpak. Le Breton was up to seventh and Scott was at the back. As he tried to break away and gain two more boats on the final downwind the French sailor tried the left while most were on the right. Scott and Lobert followed at the back, and for a while Le Breton got tantalisingly close to getting enough boats between them, but as the fleet converged on the finish line, boats from the right passed ahead. Kula maintained second while Vasilij Žbogar (SLO) came in from the right in third and Wright came in from the left for fourth.



Trofeo S.A.R. Princesa Sofia 2014 ©Martinez Studio/ SOFIA



2014 ISAF World Cup, Palma, Spain © thomtouw.com

At one point Le Breton was just 10 metres and one boat away from the gold but got passed by two boats coming into the finish and ran out of track. In the end he finished just one boat ahead of Scott.

So Giles Scott takes the gold, Thomas Le Breton the silver and Jonathan Lobert the bronze.

Scott describe the race, *"It was a starboard bias line with a left track. I did a good job on the start and up the first beat forcing him to the wrong end of the line. I covered him into the last upwind. I then got flagged which put him one place in front, I rounded the last upwind in ninth and Thomas in about seventh. I then received a second yellow, which was annoying to say the least. The OCSs didn't matter in the end as they were both in front of Thomas and I."*

"I was pleased with the way the race started but annoyed with the yellow."

Mills said, *"I got a great start near the committee boat and led to the left and tackled almost on layline. From here I led throughout and always protected the left, both up and downwind."*

"To sum up my week, a few things didn't go my way and I didn't really perform as I should in the breeze but to keep plugging away and get the fourth is pleasing for a regatta that didn't go that smoothly for me. Also it was good to get that result in a fleet that has all the major players in it."

The fleet now has a few weeks off before gathering again in Hyeres, France for the final leg of this year's ISAF sailing World Cup. Today's medal race, as all the races since Wednesday was tracked live through the ISAF website in both 2D and 3D. You can find the tracking at: <http://www.sailing.org/worldcup/multimedia/tracking.php>

Results after medal race (medal race in brackets)

- 1 GBR 41 Giles SCOTT 36 (8)
- 2 FRA 29 Thomas le BRETON 42 (7)
- 3 FRA 112 Jonathan LOBERT 50 (5)
- 4 GBR 85 Andrew MILLS 62 (1)
- 5 POL 17 Piotr KULA 67 (2)
- 6 SLO 573 Vasilij ZBOGAR 68 (3)
- 7 FIN 218 Tapio NIRKKO 69 (6)
- 8 GBR 11 Edward WRIGHT 74 (4)
- 9 CRO 524 Ivan KLJAKOVIC GASPIC 75 (OCS)
- 10 EST 2 Deniss KARPAK 83 (OCS)

Full results:

<http://www.trofeoprincesasofia.org/en/default/laregata/vertodoslosresultados/id/1/idsc2r/29>

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