

ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP JULY 2024 LUBECKER YACHT CLUB TRAVEMÜNDE GERMANY

The Canoe Sailing World championship is held every 3 years in the International Canoe class, a 5.2m long sailing canoe with 10 sq m sails and a sliding seat extending 2m over the side, to provide the helm with enormous righting moment.

The 21st World Championship was scheduled to take place in Australia in 2020, but was postponed due to the Covid pandemic, initially by lock downs and then by very high shipping costs that made the event not financially viable. So the decision was taken to hold the event at Travemünde on the Baltic shores of Germany, which proved a good decision with 34 entries from Europe, North America and Australia.

The championship kicked off in boisterous conditions on 22 July. After a postponement due to strong winds, race 1 took place later in the day with winds near the 10m/s limit for racing. A close battle developed with David Clark (USA) leading Chris Hampe (GBR) around the windward mark. By the penultimate downwind mark Clark and Michael Costello (USA) were leading, but the final windward leg to the finish saw places changing with Costello taking the win followed by Glen Truswell (GBR), Hampe (GBR), Clark (USA) and Ole Junge (GER).

The second day on 23 July saw two races sailed. With lighter winds and flatter sea conditions saw some new faces towards the front of the fleet with Mike Fenwick (GBR) scoring two third places and Ole Junge (GER) with two fourths and Alistair Warren (GBR) with two fifth place finishes. Both races were won by Glen Truswell (GBR) from Michael Costello (USA) who had a close tussle throughout the race.

The third day of racing on 24 July saw strong winds again near the limit for racing but with the sea state better than the first day. Three races were held to make up for the lost race on the first day.

The form book continued for the first two laps of the first race as Glen Truswell (GBR) led from Micheal Costello (USA) until Costello took some shifts up the final beat to charge away for the win. Truswell won the second race of the day as Costello had a poor first windward leg and had to fight through the fleet.

The final race of the day went down to the final short windward leg to the finish line. Costello had taken the lead at the final windward mark and the two boats were overlapped as they rounded the final mark of the race with Truswell sailing to leeward of Costello to just take the win and lead 8 points to 10 - at the half way stage of the championship

For the rest of the fleet the top ten tightened up with Peter Ullmann (GER), Alistair Warren (GBR) and Dan Skinner (GBR) all taking a jump up the overall standings.

Day 4 on 25 July saw a break from the World Championship series, with the New York Canoe Club Challenge Cup, first sailed for in 1886, being competed for. A match race between the Defenders (GBR) against the Challengers (GER) who had qualified as the top challenging nation after the initial races in the World Championship. Each country had three boats with the first country to record two wins in the three race series being the winner. The German team comprised Peter Ullman, Ole Junge and Simon Beers and the British team comprised Dan Skinner, Alistair Warren and Chris Hampe. The winds were very light and the Germans with a team of light wind specialists convincingly taking the first race. The 2nd race saw Ole Junge (GER) take the lead, which he held until the final windward leg which saw Alastair Warren (GBR) take advantage of a significant windshift to overtake Junge and take the win. With one race win each, it was down to the final race.

As the boats returned downwind back to the starting area the wind died away and the racing was abandoned for the day.

The final race was held over to the next day, 26 July, with a stronger breeze. Drama occurred before the start with pre-start manoeuvres leading to a German boat and a British boat both capsized, with Dan Skinner (GBR) slowing Ole Junge (GER) allowing Alastair Warren (GBR) to go into the lead, extending it on every leg and winning the final race and retaining the Challenge Cup for Britain.

After the conclusion of the Challenge Cup the fleet lined up for three races that would see the second discard of the event come in to play. Alistair Warren (GBR) continued his good form to move up to 4th overall with a 7, 5, 5 scoreline. David Clark (USA) would have a good day to move up to 6th. The leaders of the championship would see the same results for the podium positions all claimed, Mike Fenwick (GBR) with three 3rd place finishes, Micheal Costello (USA) with three 2nd place finishes and Glen Truswell (GBR) with three wins, thereby taking the championship win without needing to sail the two races on the final day.

In the event, high pressure led to a windless day on 27 July and after several postponements and no change in the conditions, the final races were cancelled.

The overall results for the World Championship are:

- 1st Gold - Glen Truswell GBR
- 2nd Silver - Michael Costello USA
- 3rd Bronze - Michael Fenwick GBR
- 4th Alastair Warren GBR
- 5th Ole Junge GER
- 6th David Clark USA

Older one design boats competed for the Peter Nethercot Trophy with the British making a clean sweep with Simon Hipkin 1st, Torsten Marquardt 2nd, Steve Fleming 3rd and Milena Lutzen from Denmark taking 4th.

The next World Championships is planned to take place in February 2027 at Jervis Bay Sailing Club in New South Wales, Australia.