



Press Release Nr 4 – August 17 2010

Successful takeoff for the Moths on the first day of the European Championship

Almost perfect weather conditions for the first day of the SYZ & CO MOTH EUROPEANS on Silvaplana Lake: the maloja wind made the 87 competitors fly over the waters of the alpine lake. The Australians Nathan Outteridge and Scott Babbage made an outstanding performance, closely followed by Arnaud Psarofaghis, by Simon Payne, the current World Champion, and by the American Bora Gulari. Three spectacular races, full of suspense, brought together more than 80 boats on the starting line.

The first race of the championship started shortly after 1 PM, once the Maloja, the local thermal wind, started blowing. The Maloja was rather irregular. Indeed, after several days of intense rain, the ground could hardly warm up and the difference in temperature between the lake and the ground was not big enough to generate a strong and regular thermal wind. The conditions were however sufficient to offer a fantastic spectacle, but it made competitors' life very difficult. The ranking kept changing, in a spectacular way, but nevertheless the favourite sailors made it to the first places.

“It was very impressive to sail in such a large fleet of boats on such a small lake!” explains Nathan Outteridge, the hero of the day, with two victories and an abandonment due to breakage. “It was a great race, with many big shifts. In Australia where I come from, I also sail on a lake, which is two hours north of Sydney. I am thus used to variable and shifty wind conditions due to the surrounding landscape... But there is no snow on the heights!”

“The secret with such a large fleet of boats is to take a good start, but this is also the most difficult thing to do.” adds the Australian sailor. “I took two excellent starts today. My goal for tomorrow is to repair my centreboard and to aim for the first 3 places. To achieve that, I will have to be very attentive, because with more than 80 boats on the starting line, sailing can prove to be dangerous!”

The Swiss sailors were also very successful today. The performance of the current European champion, Arnaud Psarofaghis, was awaited and his results did not disappoint with a 7th, a 4th and a 3rd place. The other Swiss who also finished within the 10 first places are Matthias Renker (Lake Thun) and Jean-Pierre Ziegert (Geneva).

Race 1 :

1. Nathan Outteridge (AUS)
2. Scott Babbage (AUS)
3. Simon Payne (GBR)
4. Bora Gulari (USA)
5. Jason Belben (GBR)
6. Rob Gough (AUS)
7. Arnaud Psarofaghis (SUI)
8. Jean-Pierre Ziegert (SUI)
9. Anthony Kotoun (ISV)
10. Mike Cooke (GBR)

Race 2 :

1. Scott Babbage
2. Simon Payne (GBR)
3. Matthias Renker (SUI)
4. Arnaud Psarofaghis (SUI)
5. Jason Belben (GBR)
6. Bora Gulari (USA)

7. Jean-Pierre Ziegert (SUI)
8. Rob Gough (AUS)
9. Christophe Rast (USA)
10. Mike Cooke (GBR)

Race 3 :

1. Nathan Outteridge (AUS)
2. Bora Gulari (USA)
3. Arnaud Psarofaghis (SUI)
4. Simon Payne (GBR)
5. Scott Babbage (AUS)
6. Jason Belben (GBR)
7. Jean-Pierre Ziegert (SUI)
8. Mike Cooke (GBR)
9. Matthias Renker (SUI)
10. Rob Gough (AUS)

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Image 1 :



Image 2 :



Image 3 :



Image 4 :



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High-definition photos and images available on request

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