

SWEDEN HOSTS 2013 EUROPE & AFRICA CABLE WAKEBOARD & WAKESKATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FAGERSTA

MAJOR INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ATHLETES THIS YEAR

Following the success of the 2012 European Championships in Toulouse, France, last week's 2013 Championships in Fagersta saw a jump in the number of entrants to nearly 200 starters. This is fuelled by the continued push to see Cable Wakeboard become an Olympic sport and the fast development of the sport in many European countries. 18 countries competed this year including Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Fagersta's lake has already been the successful host of 4 European Championships in waterski and boat wakeboard. The 6-towers, clockwise cable was built in 2011 and is hosting for the first time a major international cable wakeboard event. The beautiful set-up, with many features and a very high cable, is perfect for a great show and spectacular moves. Both spectators and competitors enjoyed last week's great weather and the wonderful dedication of their hosts to make this European Championship to most successful ever.

The action packed timetable kicked off with Girls & Boys Qualifications on Wednesday, August 28th, with finals at 1pm each day from Thursday, August 29th and culminating with the Open Men & Women's wakeboard & wakeskate finals on Saturday, August 31st.

For many, the Team Gold Medal and the Open Categories Gold Medal are the most coveted of all. Sweden pulled out all the stops and with a total of 23 athletes on the water gained bronze, with Great Britain in silver and Germany, gold.

All 160 starters in wakeboard and 33 starters in wakeskate also rode for individual titles in their age categories. In the Open men wakeboard category, the competition level was very high with the three riders who also finished on the podium last year: Frederic Von Osten (GER) returned defending his title in Open Men with Dominik Guhrs (GER) silver and Lior Sofer (ISR) bronze.

Number one in the World Ranking in Open Ladies Wakeboard, Julia Rick (GER) won the Gold, Sanne Meijer (NED) silver and Sophia-Marie Reimers (GER) bronze.

The Officials Panel was directed by Chief Judge George Newell GBR and the team of 12 IWWF expert officials from Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain.

Ceremonies were also colorful and exciting; at the opening ceremony Sophia-Marie Reimers and Frederic Von Osten of Germany received awards for Riders of the year 2012, both proving their excellence once more by winning medals in the most prestigious, Wakeboard Open category. The curiosity of the week was surely the 100% Gold Team Finland – only two riders representing Finland not only won Gold in Veteran Men and Master Ladies Wakeboard, but Harry also surprised all by proposing to Aliina from the podium :) In case you wonder what she replied, check out the podium pics!

At the closing ceremony the flag went to Poland, where Euro 2014 will be held in July, followed by the Worlds in Norway in August. Congratulations to all the riders & see you next time around!

All podium results:

GIRLS WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Lottie Harbottle [46]* GBR
- 2 Vanessa Weinbauer [65]* GER
- 3 Antonia Süß [66]* GER

VETERAN MEN WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Harri Huikuri [28]* FIN
- 2 Wolfram Wagner [86]* GER
- 3 Raphael Menconi [40]* FRA

BOYS WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Liam Rundholz [63]* GER
- 2 Joey Battleday [45]* GBR
- 3 Scott Rosewell [44] GBR

JUNIOR MEN WAKESKATE:

- 1 Marcel Tilwitz [89]* GER
- 2 James Harrington [59]* GBR
- 3 Lukas Winkelmann [90]* GER

JUNIOR LADIES WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Chloe Goudie [47]* GBR
- 2 Katie Batchelor [48]* GBR
- 3 Judith Hoppe [164]* SWE

OPEN LADIES WAKESKATE:

- 1 Ori Boujo [103]* ISR
- 2 Sanne Meijer [115]* NED
- 3 Luisa Montalbetti [157]* SUI

JUNIOR MEN WAKEBOARD:

- 1 André Botta [69] GER
- 2 Sam de Haan [113]* NED
- 3 Guy Firer [94]* ISR

OPEN MEN WAKESKATE:

- 1 Ollie Moore [60]* GBR
- 2 Moritz Thiele [91]* GER
- 3 Oskar Gejler [181]* SWE

MASTER LADIES WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Aliina Pesula [27]* FIN
- 2 Malin Simlund [171]* SWE
- 3 Maja Cramer [15]* DEN

OPEN LADIES WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Julia Rick [77]* GER
- 2 Sanne Meijer [115]* NED
- 3 Sophia Marie Reimers [76]*GER

MASTER MEN WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Mirco Langholz [75]* GER
- 2 Andreas Böttcher [74]* GER
- 3 Alberto Della Beffa [106]* ITA

OPEN MEN WAKEBOARD:

- 1 Frédéric von Osten [81]*GER
- 2 Dominik Gührs [80]* GER
- 3 Lior Sofer [96]* ISR

Find all event related information and complete results at

<http://myzone.cablewakeboard.net/en/116/?sub=6&comp=572>

IWWF Facebook Page (all available pics can be sent in high resolution, please request)

www.facebook.com/IWWFED

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