



Ladies and gentlemen, the gold medal of the Groupama Garancia F18 Catamaran World Championship goes to...

Those who visited the Balaton or followed the GPS tracking on the internet could witness four very exciting races today, thanks to the perfect wind.

“It was worth to be early, because we could manage to start four races. All of them were full of serious battles,” Attila R. Nagy, the president of the BYC said. There were huge fights for the first place.

Here are the champions:

1. (AUS) Darren Bundock – Jeroen van Leeuwen
2. (NED) Mischa Heemskerk – Bastiaan Tentij
3. (ITA) Vittorio Bissaro – Lamberto Cesari
4. (BEL) Carolijn Brouwer – Wouter Samama
5. (NED) Pim Nieuwenhuis – Ferdinand von West
6. (NED) Coen de Koning – Thye Visser
7. (FRA) Pierre Le Clainche – Antoine Joubert
8. (FRA) Moana Vaireaux – Romain Petit
9. (FRA) Jean Christophe Mourniac – Arnaud Jarlegan
10. (FRA) Charles Hainneville – David Faonnuillère

The Lords of the Wind

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The F18 catamaran racing is usually called the F1 of sailing, and in Balatonfüred the prize giving ceremony was similar to the Formula One's because the champions got great goblets at the Kisfaludy stage. The winners thanked the organizers' work and shared their impressions about the beauty of the Lake Balaton.

"It was a very exciting championship, because the direction of the wind changed all the time," - Darren Bundock, the 13 times world champions said. "For that moment we crossed the finish line, we were not sure about our victory," Jeroen van Leeuwen added. "So many things happened; we counted our points because there was just 2 points difference between us and Mischa. We didn't start well, and Mischa defended his position, but it made the race so much fun."

"We did everything for the victory but in the end Darren was a bit faster," Bastiaan Tentij said. „We are so happy with the silver medal. It's always fun to race with Darren, we can fight great battles. The hard thing was the wind, what changed all the time unexpectedly, but today it was all right."

Among the Hungarian contestants Váradi Szabó János and Petheö Tamás finished on the 37th place and the Diószegi Zoltán – Jankovics Gábor duo finished 49th. Bianka Róka a fresh debut on the side of Frédérique Pfeiffer achieved the 23rd place of the silver fleet, which is very good among the women.

"There was a southwestern wind and the organizers situated a very good but challenging course. We had some technical difficulties that's why we couldn't sail as fast as earlier, and we tailed away 9 places but we are so happy with our result," János Váradi Szabó said.

"The weather was beautiful today, nice sunshine and stable wind, that's why it was not so tricky today. It's so different to race in the gold fleet, especially the tempo of the start what was amazing. It was good to race with world-class contestants; we have to evolve a lot, but now we can see the right direction," Zoltán Diószegi said.

The participants – came all over the world – could spend meaningful days in Hungary. They can preserve nice memories of the regatta, and come back again, maybe for another world championship.