

International Sailing Federation

ISAF World Match Race Rankings

Rankings Released 25 October 2006

ISAF. Image, Claire LEROY leads the Rankings for her 15th consecutive release: © Daragh MAC SWEENEY/Provision, Wednesday, October 25, 2006

France continues its reign at the top of the ISAF World Match Race Rankings as Sébastien COL (FRA) and Claire LEROY (FRA) continue to hold comfortable leads in the world number one spots. Behind the leaders both Australia and Great Britain break into the top five.



How The Rankings Work

The ISAF World Match Race Rankings rate skippers based on their performances over the last two years. Skippers score points by competing in ISAF Graded events. Each skipper can count a maximum of four events in each of the two most recent years, which are calculated over a rolling 24 months. The most points are up for grabs at World Championship events, followed by ISAF Grade 1 events, Grade 2 etc. For more on how the Rankings work [CLICK HERE](#).

The tables on the right hand side show the new events included in this Ranking release.

The next Rankings release will be on 6 December following on from the [ISAF Grade WC Monsoon Cup](#) in Malaysia. This will be the final release of the ISAF World Match Race Rankings in 2006.

ISAF World Match Race Rankings - Open

Sébastien COL (FRA) holds the top spot for the third consecutive release of the ISAF World Match Race Rankings, although the 29 year old skipper for *Areva Challenge* did not make an appearance in the latest Ranking period. A string of wins over the European summer keeps him well clear of his rivals, with 338 points separating him from second place Paolo CIAN (ITA). Like COL, both CIAN and third place World Champion Peter GILMOUR (AUS) were also absent from the match racing circuit during this Ranking period.



In contrast, Ian WILLIAMS (GBR) and Mathieu RICHARD (FRA) were centre stage at the [ISAF Grade WC King Edward VII Gold Cup](#), the fourth stage of the 2006-2007 [World Match Racing Tour](#). After squeezing past Björn HANSEN (SWE) in the quarter-finals in Bermuda, WILLIAMS swept through the semis before beating RICHARD 3-1 to take his first Tour title and move top in the World Championship standings.

Season Best For WILLIAMS

Victory in Bermuda pushes WILLIAMS up to a year-best fourth on the Rankings, with Chris DICKSON (NZL) and RICHARD both consequently falling back one place to fifth and sixth respectively.

Despite a lead of over 300 points, COL is looking vulnerable in the top spot as he misses the next stage of the World Tour, the [ISAF Grade WC Allianz Cup](#) in San Francisco, USA. Whilst the Frenchman misses out, all five skippers directly below him in the Rankings are competing.

Staffan LINDBERG (FIN) is the one new entry into the top ten after claiming the title at the [ISAF Grade 2 European Championship](#) in Hamburg, Germany. Victory over Björn HANSEN (SWE) moves him up from eleven to nine, one place behind HANSEN, who got his revenge over the Finn by beating him in the final of the [ISAF Grade 2 Nordic Match Racing Championship](#).

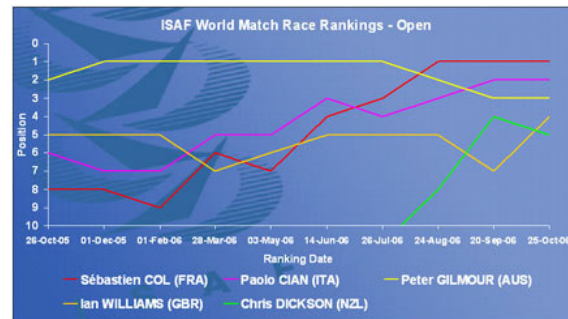
On The Rise

Of the new skippers in the world top 20, Eric MONNIN (SUI) climbs up 12 places to 13 on the Rankings after a terrific win over *Luna Rossa* helm James SPITHILL (AUS) to reach the semi-finals in Bermuda. Two places behind him in 15 is Damien IEHL (FRA), moving up from 23 after defeating Ian AINSLIE (RSA) 3-2 to win the [ISAF Grade 1 Trapani Cento Cup](#). AINSLIE himself just misses out on a top 20 spot, climbing up from 44 to 23.

Further down the Rankings it is a bumper month for some of Australia's rising match race stars, as Evan WALKER (AUS) goes from 67 to 55 after victory at the [ISAF Grade 3 Parkland Mazda Australian Youth Match Racing Regatta](#), Michael DUNSTAN (AUS) from 118 to 79 with a win at the [ISAF Grade 3 Wotif.com Australian Match Racing Championship](#) and Mark DORLING (AUS) from 135 to 85 after being crowned champion at the [ISAF Grade 3 World University Match Race](#).

Following on from the Allianz Cup, an all star cast is expected at the [ISAF Grade WC Monsoon Cup](#) in Malaysia for the final World Tour event of this year. With COL missing in San Francisco, opportunity knocks for the skippers lining up to topple him from the world number one spot.

ISAF World Match Race Rankings - Open



ISAF World Match Race Rankings - Women

ISAF Grade Nation Event

ISAF Grade	Nation	Event
Grade WC	BER	King Edward VII Gold Cup
Grade 1	ITA	Centio Cup
Grade 2	GER	European Match Race
	SWE	Nordic Match Race
Grade 3	ESP	World University Match Race
	ITA	Italian Match Race
	GER	German Championships
	DEN	TMC Dong Cup
	FRA	Americast Cup St Cast
	SWE	Autumn Cup
	NOR	Norwegian Championship
	AUS	Australian Match Race
	USA	US Match Race
	AUS	Australian Youth Match Race
	GER	Meisterschaft der Jugendmeister
	DEN	DIF Danmarks mesterskap
	GER	Berlin H-Boat Match Race
Grade 4	GER	Potsdamer Match Race
	FRA	Selective Espoirs Bassin Manche
	ITA	Yachting in Sardinia Cup Act 2
	ITA	Match Race Coppa Tivano
	FIN	Wasa Match 3
	ITA	Elbano Match Race
	USA	YRUGL Richardson Trophy
	DEN	TMC U21 Mesterklub
	FIN	NJK Autumn Race
	FIN	NJK Match Race Season Closing
	FRA	October in Sete
	FRA	Selective Espoir Match Racing
	ITA	Match Race Memorial Giorgio Falck





Claire LEROY (FRA) makes it 15 consecutive releases at the top of the Women's Rankings and looks almost certain of making it an unbroken calendar year in the top spot, as she currently holds a massive 1,222 point lead over her nearest challenger. That is now Lotte MELDGAARD PEDERSEN (DEN), who moves from fourth up to second on the back of a terrific European summer for the Dane.

With MELDGAARD PEDERSEN moving up, Klaartje ZUIDERBAAN (NED) falls back one place to third, whilst Marie BJÖRLING (SWE) drops to fifth despite victory at the recent ISAF Grade 2 Punta Lagoa Women's Match Race. The major change at the top though is Katie SPITHILL (AUS), sister of *Luna Rossa* star James SPITHILL (AUS), hitting a career-best number four, breaking into the world top five for the first time. SPITHILL's success comes largely on the back of her victory earlier in the year at the ISAF Grade 1 BoatU.S. Santa Maria Cup, although she was also recently in action at the ISAF Grade 3 Australian Women's Match Racing Championship. There she lost out in an incredibly close and exciting final to Nicky SOUTER (AUS), who was crowned Australian National Champion for the fourth year running. However SOUTER is only counting seven of a possible eight events in her Ranking total and consequently lies further down in 14th.

New Faces In The Top 20

Katie SPITHILL enters the world top five

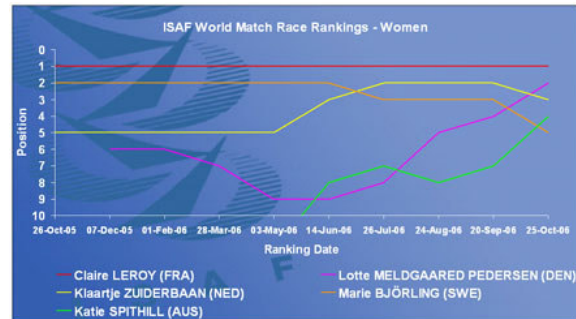
© Aline VAN HAREN

There are two new entries into the top 20 following on from the ISAF Grade 1 Ladies Match. Delphine CASAS (FRA) was a surprise winner in Germany and jumps from 30 to 17, whilst runner up Gemma FARREL (GBR) is one place ahead of her after gaining nine places from 25.

Hovering just outside the top 20 is American legend Betsy ALISON (USA), who won her fourth ISAF Grade 1 Rolex Osprey Cup in style last weekend. ALISON and her team won all 21 of their matches in St Petersburg, however, counting only six events she lies 25th in the Rankings. Another American who impressed was Anna TUNNICLIFFE (USA), the number one in the Laser Radial ISAF World Sailing Rankings. TUNNICLIFFE's switch to the Sonar keelboats appeared seamless, as she beat LEROY in the semis before finally coming unstuck against ALISON in the final. Consequently she moves up from 56 to 35 in the Rankings.

The other major winner in this release is Sabrina GURIOLI (ITA), who followed up victory in the Italian nations by taking the European title at the ISAF Grade 2 Women's European Match Racing Championship in Palermo, Italy. LEROY again lost out at the semi-final stage, with GURIOLI going on to beat Christelle PHILIPPE (FRA) in the final. The Italian moves up four places to 22 in the Rankings and looks well placed to hit the top ten next year, as she is still only counting four events.

ISAF World Match Race Rankings - Women



The next Rankings release will be on 6 December following on from the ISAF Grade WC Monsoon Cup in Malaysia.

To take a look at the all of Rankings' releases of the past twelve months [CLICK HERE](#).

Website Links

- [ISAF World Match Race Rankings microsite](#)
- [ISAF Match Racing microsite](#)



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