



UK/Cowes/Multihull World Series / Red Bull Extreme Sailing

Sailing festival in Cowes - Hagara triumphs against Alinghi

Team Red Bull scored a race victory on Day 4 of Act 5 of the 2011 Extreme Sailing Series, beating two-time America's Cup winner Alinghi in a battle of speed. The team got a second place in the following fleet race. But a collision in the sixth race of the day - against Alinghi - destroyed the team's hopes of catching the leaders.

COWES (UK) - The world's 12 best multihull syndicates started off Day 4 on Tuesday with a speed race. In a head-to-head (ODER HEAT TO HEAT?) duel, double Olympic gold medal winner Hagara came up with a clear victory over the Alinghi syndicate from Switzerland in front of 13,000 spectators. After that Team Red Bull got second place in the 10-boat race - Artemis Sailing had to retire. The Austrian's 20-meter high and 13.8-meter carbon catamaran were consistently in midfield in the subsequent races. But a collision with Alinghi - which the racing organisers did not see - in the sixth race cost the team valuable places.

Tactician Steinacher said: "We just need a bit of good luck right now. We're sailing up there with the best of the best whenever we're ready to take some risks. But as soon as we start sailing cautiously again, we fall back. Tomorrow's another day. A victory against Alinghi obviously feels pretty special."

The international media interest - there are 132 journalists from 17 countries in Cowes covering the racing - has helped attract enormous crowds on the Island of Wight. The Austrian team's website temporarily crashed because of high demand.

The racing on Wednesday starts at 4 p.m. Central European time. The webcast will be available live at www.extremesailingseries.com

With 48 professional sailors taking part the field will be the largest ever in the five-year history of the racing series. Among the athletes are 30 Olympic participants and 82 world championship titles. Beyond that they set or broken 57 world



records. There are also two America's Cup-winning syndicates taking part as well - Alinghi and Emirates Team New Zealand. Artemis Team of Sweden will be taking part in the 2013 America's Cup and has taken over the role as the favorite in the Extreme Sailing Series.

The Cowes Week is one of the largest sailing events in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of spectators come to watch the competitions on the Island of Wight featuring dozens of different sailing categories. The island turns into a Mecca for sailing enthusiasts. The Extreme Sailing Series takes place directly in front of the village (Egypt Point) where the event takes place and has been considered the main attraction for the last five years.

Pictures available for editorial use free of charge.
Credit: OC Thirdpole

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Team Webpage: www.redbullextremesailing.com

Further pictures, information and video available at: www.redbullcontentpool.com

World Series 2011:

Act 1: 20-24 February, Muscat, Oman

Act 2: 13-17 April, China, Qingdao

Act 3: 25-29 May, Istanbul, Turkey

Act 4: 30 June - 4 July, Boston, USA

Act 5: 6-12 August, Cowes, GBR

Act 6: 14-18 September, Trapani, Italy

Act 7: 28 September - 2 October, Nice, France

Act 8: 12-16 October, Almeria, Spain