



Mirror Worlds

The winners of the Mirror World Championship in Port Elizabeth, South Africa confirmed their place in the history books on January 12-18...

Below The sounds of Dr Alistair MacKenzie's bagpipes accompanied launching.



The Mirror World Championship is a biannual event that alternates between the southern and northern hemispheres, and sees Mirrors from all corners of the globe battle it out. Team GBR sent 30 boats, selected from around 100 boats who competed in the qualifiers in the early part of 2006. It has been 10 years since GBR has won the Championship...

Day 1

Launching started at 0900hrs to the strains of Dr Alistair MacKenzie's bagpipes. Principal race officer, Viv James elected to lay a triangle for the first race and started it at 1005hrs in a westerly of 11 knots. The sea dished up some light chop and the port biased two OCSs.

The first boat finished in one hour and three minutes and the gap between first and last finisher was 22 minutes. Top three places in Race 1 went to Nick Davis and John Collova (AUS), then

Anna MacKenzie and Holly Scott (GBR) followed by Craig Bond and Michael Conlon (GBR).

Race 2 started in 14 knots and a wind that had swung more to the south. Again the fleet set off on a triangle/sausage. South African America's Cup 'Shosholoz' team member and Isivunguvungu coach, Sieraj Jacobs sailing with the 2006 Optimist national champion Ashwin Daniels, got into the groove and banged the corners. This race took a quick 59 minutes for the first finisher with the last boat finishing 17 minutes later. Top three places in went to Craig Bond and Michael Conlon (GBR), then Sieraj Jacobs and Ashwin Daniels (RSA) followed by Emma Houlihan and Emma MacKenzie (GBR).

Race 3 and the last one for the day was a windward/leeward, in a wind that had shifted to the south-west. Once again Sieraj Jacobs with crew Ashwin Daniels banged the corners and came out with their first bullet of the worlds in an even faster time over the course of 56 minutes. They were followed by Juliet and Richard Long (GBR), and in third place Edward Fitzgerald and Chantal Crane.

Day 2

Launching on the second day was once again to the accompaniment of Alistair MacKenzie's bagpipes. The first race was started in what, for this regatta, was lightish conditions of 11 knots from the south-west and in a light chop. It took a general recall, an I Flag start with another general recall followed by a Z Flag start before the fleet finally got off at 1059hrs.

The course sailed was triangle/sausage and Race 1 heralded the start of the Anna and Holly express, as they sailed to a first place followed by Martin Egan and Tom Wilkerson (GBR), with Waldo Zevenster and James Potgieter (South Africa) in third. Race 2 was sailed over a windward/leeward course after a little bit of mark shifting to accommodate the now south-

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south-west wind of around 12 knots. The race was started with only one boat OCS and was relatively fast with the first boat finishing in 54 minutes. The racing was very tight as the final boat finished just under nine minutes later. Once again Anna and Holly were in first place, Doire Shiels and Graham Daly (IRE) were second and John and Jamie Clementson (GBR) a close third.

For the third race the wind shifted another 30 degrees back towards the west, the course was adjusted slightly and the No 2 flag went up for the triangle/sausage. With 15 knots wind strength and light chop most boats marched up the first beat right of middle. On the downwind leg the judges moved in to yellow flag the race leaders, Nick Davis and John Collova. Their 720-penalty meant Anna and Holly sailing on 'Simply Gorgeous' got their third first place of the day followed by John and Jamie Clementson in second while third place was taken by Emma and Martina Barry (GBR).

Day 3

Amidst concerns that the wind was really going to blow hard on day three the fleet launched and proceeded directly out of the harbour to the designated sailing area in the bay. Contrary to expectations the racing was fast and on a flat sea. Three races were completed to bring the race total up to nine for the series and also the first and only discard kicked in at Race 8.

The first race was started at 1008hrs in a light chop and the wind from south-south-west at 16 knots. For most of the boats the left side of the course paid and the first boat across the line was 'Vigilante 9' sailed by Nick Davis and John Collova, second place went to Mirrajuana with Ricky and Ryan Robinson (RSA) and in third Sieraj Jacobs and Ashwin Daniels.

Race 2, again over the triangle/sausage course, dished up the second first place for South Africa's Sieraj Jacobs and Ashwin Daniels. Sieraj was followed by John and Jamie Clementson sailing 'Whatever' and in third place Juliet and Richard Long sailing on 'Mesmeriser'.

Race 3 of the day and number nine of the series started after the marks were adjusted 10 degrees and on a windward/leeward course in a 13-knot wind. One OCS at the start made it only one infringement for the day. Nick Davis and John Collova got their second first place for the day, followed by Anna and Holly in second with Juliet and Richard Long third.

Day 4

It looked like the host club, Algoa Bay YC, had a hot line direct to the weather gods as day four dished up another incredible day's racing with a

wind speed that never rose above 18 knots, despite the long term predictions of 20-22 knots of hard easterlies.

The first race was started at 1015hrs in a light chop and the wind from east-south-east at 13 knots. The fleet started the triangle/sausage course under threat of an I Flag and only one boat failed to round the ends and be scored OCS. The first finisher completed the course in 72 minutes and the last boat finished 13 minutes later. Anna and Holly finished in first, Doire Shiels and Graham Daly were second and Nick Davis and John Collova third.

The wind shifted 15 degrees in Race 2, to the south-east. This race was much faster with the first boat finishing in 53 minutes. First over the line was Nick Davis and John Collova with their fourth first of the series, second were Juliet and Richard Long and third Anna and Holly to seal their place in history as the first female Mirror world champions.

Day 5

One race was sailed on the final day, bringing the regatta series total to 12. The windward/leeward course was laid just north of the harbour entrance, the offshore wind abated slightly to 20 knots and the final race started under the I Flag at 1010hrs in a light chop.

Anna and Holly, the Mirror world champions, were still aggressive as ever at the start, but, this time, too aggressive as they scored their first OCS. Sieraj Jacobs and Ashwin Daniels sailed a faultless race to gain first position, followed by Nick Davis and John Collova and in third Ross Kearney and Adam McCullough.

The prizegiving ceremony was held the following morning at the Algoa Bay YC. Commodore Derek Bower thanked all the sailors for their participation, while Mirror Class President Patrick Blaney commended the sailors and regatta personnel on an excellent regatta with excellent sailing. ■



Overall Results:

1st 'Simply Gorgeous' GBR 70457 Anna MacKenzie & Holly Scott (Royal Windmere YC) 44 2nd 'Vigilante 9' AUS 70459 Nick Davis & John Collova (RFBYC) 48pts; 3rd RSA 69975 Sieraj Jacobs & Ashwin Daniels (Isivungu) 60pts; 4th 'Mesmeriser' GBR 70455 Juliet Long & Richard Long (RPCYC) 74pts; 5th 'Whatever!' GBR 70222 John Clementson & Jamie Clementson (Chipstead) 76pts; 6th 'Still Thinking' IRL 70225 Doire Shiels & Graham Daly (Skerries SC) 89pts; 7th 'Mirrajuana' RSA 70410 Ricky Robinson & Ryan Robinson (RNYC & Wits) 105pts; 8th 'P&B Musto' IRL 70347 Ross Kearney & Adam McCullough (RNIYC) 116pts; 9th 'Molly' GBR 70281 Craig Bond & Michael Conlon (Brightlingsea) 136pts; 10th 'Out of Control' GBR 70373 Rebecca Calderon & Hannah Mitchell (Itchenor SC) 136pts.

Below left Big smiles from the victorious British champions, Anna MacKenzie and Holly Scott.

Below Top youth team under 16, British girls Rebecca Calderon and Hannah Mitchell.



PHOTOS: A. MACKENZIE