



September 4, 2016

Hugo Rocha and New Territories take Cascais 2016 World Championship crown

The last day of the **Cascais SB20 World Championships 2016** on Saturday, September 3 saw Hugo Rocha with his **New Territories** team crowned **World Champions**, defeating a **76-boat fleet** with entries from **13 countries**.

After a demanding **12-race series** during which the renowned **high winds venue of Cascais, Portugal** delivered storming **20-knot runs, shifty beats, mirror calm mornings, and everything in between**, conditions for the final day single race proved challenging once again.



With winds again **very light early in the morning**, it initially looked doubtful as to whether any racing would take place and the fleet was towed to the course area. However, the **breeze gradually filled in**, and after **two General Recalls** and a postponement the wind eventually settled enough for the race team to get start away just one minute before the cut-off time. A couple of boats fell victim to the Black Flag as racing began in a light 6-8 knots, which quickly ramped up to 15 knots.

The fleet was evenly **split across the racecourse** and arrived **compacted at the windward mark**, which saw **many boats forced to duck out and circle around** – unusually, those boats that gybe-set towards the left-hand side shot up through the fleet as the right side suffered, with some of the leaders seeing heavy losses of distance. The race committee reset the top mark, but as the boats rounded the windward mark for the second time Cascais had one final trick up its sleeve and the **fog rolled in** – visibility reducing dramatically as the boats worked towards the finish. The sunshine reappeared for a final flourish in 8-12 knots of wind, before fading completely and requiring a final tow home for the fleet.

The race win went to **Rodion Luka on *TREM Engineering* (UKR3042)**, giving the Ukrainian Olympic silver medallist another podium finish at an SB20 World Championships in third overall. Second went to **Vladim Pushev's *Vis Sailing Team* (RUS3707)**, their best result of the series by a considerable way, while third went to **Volvo Ocean Race skipper Charles Caudrelier and his *DongFeng Racing Team*1**.



However, **Rocha's team on *New Territories* (RUS3711) finished 10th**, enough to **secure the 2016 World Championship title** with a healthy 17-point margin. Rocha, together with **Alex Semenov, Fran Palacios and Gonalo Barreto**, scored **two race wins**, but significantly counted all top 10 placings in a high scoring series which saw many competitive teams hampered by mid-fleet finishes or disqualifications. Rocha is an Olympic medallist who scored **bronze for Portugal in the 470 at the Savannah Games**, while the ***New Territories* team were second at the 2014 World Championships in St Petersburg**.



Second went to **Gabriel Skoczek, Michel Emeric, Lucas Chatonnier and Marine Boudot with *France Jeune SB20* (FRA653)**, who were also **top Youth team**, four points ahead of **Luka's *TREM Engineering***. The **France Jeune** team commented after racing: "We had a real battle and that battle was fierce. But Hugo Rocha was too strong. We're happy to get on the second step of the podium all the same."

Just outside the podium there was a monumental duel for fourth between two Australian visiting teams, **Chris Cooper's *Export Roo* (AUS 3731)**, with

Dare's *Flirtatious* (AUS3735) and Michael Cooper's *Export Roo* (AUS 3731), with the ***Flirtatious*** coming out on top by three points.

Meanwhile the **French crew of Mathilde Geron, Sophie de Turckheim, Julie Bossard and Alice Ponsar on Team Xavier Bourhis Generali** were the **first ladies' crew in 12th place**.

The **top Master's prize** went to the **Sportsboatworld.com team of Jerry Hill, Alan Hill and Craig Watson** who finished 13th, with prizes awarded by **Clarins and Hyde Sails** as well as event sponsors **Vista Alegre, Sagres, Simoes and Gaspar, and LG**.

The **hotly contested Nations Cup** was awarded to **France**, from Russia, with Portugal just pipping Britain for third on tie-break.

