

'I don't know what to say; it's an amazing day for me. I tried to push so hard on the course and I did it. I won my first gold medal in a World Cup,' Mintalova said.

'I have been feeling very good on the water in training but didn't have the best run in qualification but my final race was much better. La Seu is very challenging, very hard, and was tricky today.'

Fox posted the fastest raw time on the course but a small touch pushed her down to the silver medal. Italy's Stefanie Horn took the bronze.

Switzerland continued its dominance of men's kayak cross while Elena Lilik broke through for her first gold medal as the World Cup came to a close on Sunday.

The Swiss have revolutionized the kayak cross competition with speed and tactics which have left the rest of the world playing catch up. At a previous World Cup in Prague Dimitri Marx and Jan Rohrer finished first and second and on Sunday both Swiss paddlers once again lined up in the final.

On this occasion it was Rohrer who got the gold with Marx being targeted by the other two finalists, reigning world champion Joe Clarke and Frenchman Anatole Delassus, the current world silver medallist.

'It was a tough race. It was good to be in the final again, especially with Dimitri again, but unfortunately we couldn't make it on the podium together but hopefully in the future again,' Rohrer said.

'I tried to slow down and push everyone else to the left to try and make sure they wouldn't come to the right with me and it paid off. Now everyone is on the same level technically so the next thing to discover is the tactics.'

'With Dimitri in the training group we have the perfect conditions to work out. A big part of our success is our dynamic together.'

Clarke took the silver and Delassus the bronze with Marx finishing outside the medals.

Two Olympic K1 gold medallists found themselves lining up against each other in the women's final with Germany's Tokyo champion Ricarda Funk and Spain's 2016 title holder, Maialen Chourraut, doing battle but it was fellow German Elena Lilik and Kimberley Woods who fought out the finish with Lilik putting together a tactically perfect event to take the gold after a difficult week on the water.

'I was ready. I wasn't as exhausted as I thought I would be after all



Marc Ekmaniz photographs

Men's cross winner Jan Rohrer.

the slalom competitions so I felt pretty good in the morning and I was ready to fight and it was a fight to the final so it was perfect,' Lilik said.

'I had some problems with my health in the preparations for this World Cup so I was pretty tired this week but I managed to be on point for this competition and I'm pretty proud of it.'

'People are being a bit smarter and a bit more aggressive than a few years ago so you have to be tough. My arms were shaking on the ramp. I'm always nervous in kayak cross.'

Woods took the silver while K1 Olympic champion Ricarda Funk picked up a bronze, her first medal in kayak cross, ahead of Chourraut.

**ICF**

**K1W:** 1 E Mintalova, Slovensko, 99.36. 2 J Fox, Australia, 99.42. 3 S Horn, Italia, 100.23. 9 L Leaver, GB, 114.13.

**K1M:** 1 P Kauzer, Slovenija, 89.36. 2 J Clarke, GB, 90.44. 3 V Prindis, Czechia, 90.90. 9 J Dickson, GB, 99.47.

**C1W:** 1 J Fox, Australia, 107.09. 2 A Herzog, Deutschland, 107.17. 3 K Woods, GB, 109.02. 9 M Franklin, GB, 136.45.

**C1M:** 1 R Ivaldi, Italia, 96.52. 2 L Bozic, Slovenija, 97.53. 3 M Mirgorodsky, Slovensko, 97.63. 4 R Wesley, GB, 97.84. 8 A Burgess, GB, 101.92.

**K1XW:** 1 E Lilik, Deutschland. 2 K Woods, GB. 3 R Funk, Deutschland.

**K1XM:** 1 J Rohrer, Schweiz. 2 J Clarke, GB. 3 A Delassus, France.



British women's C1 team.



Mallory Franklin, C1 winner.



K1 winner Jessica Fox.

# Britain most successful country on home course

**World Championships**

Four nations shared the gold medals on the opening day of the slalom world championships at the Lee Valley on Tuesday, including a first ever title for the Australian women's K1 team.

Host nation Great Britain, Paris 2024 host France and Czechia also picked up gold medals in the team events in challenging conditions at the London 2012 Olympic venue.

In women's K1 Australia showed the benefit of posting clean runs to win its very first ever team gold medal. Jessica and Noemie Fox and Kate Eckhardt were one of just two teams not to pick up any penalties, which was enough to take them to the top of the podium for the first time.

Spain, with a single gate touch, took second while Great Britain had the fastest raw time on the course but two gate touches saw the home nation relegated to third. The same Australian trio had also contested the women's C1 team event where a 50 second penalty knocked them out of medal contention.

'It's definitely a bit of an advantage but we don't get to practise teams all that often, especially compared to the other European nations,' Noemie Fox said, 'but we worked really well as a team, so to put down that run is truly special.'

Ellis Triller only got the call up to compete in the women's C1 team



event on the eve of the world championships following a shoulder injury to Sophie Ogilvie and on Tuesday Miller got the chance to celebrate Great Britain's first gold medal in the event since 2018 and their third overall.

Team mates Kimberley Woods and Mallory Franklin were both part of the winning teams in 2018 and 2017.

'It's obviously nice to do this at home and it was a really good, solid, clean run. I felt pretty confident when we got to the finish line,' Franklin said.

'It's the first time we've done the team run together so it was just making sure that we knew the water well; we knew how to paddle on this course, we're all good on this course and we worked well together,' Woods said.

Czechia kept up its perfect record of a medal at every women's C1 team event by finishing second while Slovenia took the bronze, taking its first ever medal in the event.

In men's C1 teams France returned to the top of the podium after losing their title to Slovenia last year. The French combination of Nicolas Gestin, Jules Bernardet and Lucas Roisin finished just 0.03 second ahead of Great Britain while Italy repeated its bronze medal performance of 12 months earlier.

'I'm really happy to do this today with Jules and Lucas; we already did