

Olympic champion Jessica Fox finished third, her gold medal chances scuppered by a two second penalty for a gate touch.

Savsek won his first world title in 2017 after consecutive silver medals in 2014 and 2015 but had not been back on the championship podium since before breaking through again on Friday.

'It was an amazing run today. I can't describe how happy I am to be a world champion again,' Savsek said.

'It's hard to be a world champion. This year I said "Now or never," so I'm really happy to do this again. It's amazing; it's always great to be a world champion.'

Nicolas Gestin and Italy's Paolo Ceccon won their first senior world championship medals by finishing second and third respectively.

In the battle for Olympic tickets the provisional quotas on Friday in the women's were won by Andorra, USA, Australia, Great Britain, Czechia, Germany, Slovakia, France, Brazil, Spain, Italy and the Ukraine.

In the men's, Slovenia, Poland, Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Great Britain, France, Italy, Ireland, Croatia and the USA earned quotas. The final quota was yet to be determined after Spain and Switzerland posted exactly the same time.

All quotas were provisional and depended on acceptance by the successful national federations.

Joe Clarke won his third consecutive kayak cross world title and Kimberley Woods her first as Great Britain made a clean sweep of the gold medals on the final day on Sunday.

A big crowd was on hand at the 2012 Olympic venue to lift the British paddlers to double gold and to cement their place at the top of the medal table.

Just 24 hours after Clarke celebrated his first ever K1 world title he was back on top of the podium again, surviving a gruelling final duel with France's Boris Neveu to add the 2023 crown to the gold medals he won in 2021 and 2022.

Clarke said he struggled to get back into his boat today after the euphoria of the previous day's triumph.

'A lot of the times that I've done well at kayak cross I've had disappointment in slalom so you get fired up and ready to go,' Clarke said.

'I was shattered this morning when I woke up. I just thought "Right, let's just go for it." It's been a dreamy weekend for me; it doesn't get any

better than this. Two gold medals, two world championship medals; my son was watching. I love it.'

Neveu took his third kayak cross silver while Martin Dougoud finished with the bronze, his first kayak cross championship medal.

Kimberley Woods also had difficulty getting back on the water on Sunday but her roadblock was the disappointment of missing the women's K1 final on Saturday. After winning as part of Great Britain's women's C1 team on the opening day of the championships Woods dug deep to take her first ever kayak cross world title.

'I was really disappointed after my K1 racing yesterday, pretty heartbroken, and I came in to today still pretty broken but now it's just incredible, to be a world champion,' Woods said.

'I felt pretty nervous as the runs went on. There was just a moment when I felt this is awesome, just so happy to have been here.

'I struggled to sleep a bit but I used all of my skills through all of my journey through mental health to pick myself up. I was still teary this morning; even getting to the semi final was really tough but I just tried to enjoy it.'

France's Camille Prigent took the silver and Eva Terceelj the bronze.

Host nation Great Britain finished the week as the most successful nation, picking up five gold, two silver and a bronze medal. Australia, with two gold and a bronze, was second while France had one gold and four silver.

#### ICF

**K1W:** 1 J Fox, Australia, 103.60. 2 E Mintalova, Slovensko, 104.73.

3 K Zwolinska, Polska, 105.00. 8 M Franklin, GB, 108.65.

**K1M:** 1 J Clarke, GB, 91.32. 2 J Prskavec, Czechia, 93.26. 3 M Soudis, Morocco, 93.91.

9 J Dickson, GB, 98.28.

**C1W:** 1 M Franklin, GB, 108.05. 2 K Woods, GB, 108.47. 3 J Fox, Australia, 108.94.

17 P Spicer, GB. 19 K Woods, GB.

**C1M:** 1 B Savsek, Slovenija, 97.40. 2 N Gestin, France, 98.58. 3 P Ceccon, Italia, 98.90.

5 A Burgess, GB, 99.80. 11 R Wesley, GB.

**K1XW:** 1 K Woods, GB. 2 C Prigent, France. 3 E Terceelj, Slovenija.

**K1XM:** 1 J Clarke, GB. 2 B Neveu, France. 3 M Dougoud, Schweiz.

**K1WT:** 1 Australia, 108.62. 2 España, 108.91. 3 GB, 109.02.

**C1WT:** 1 GB, 112.45. 2 Czechia, 114.55. 3 Slovenija, 115.32.

**C1MT:** 1 France, 99.17. 2 GB, 99.20. 3 Italia, 100.31.



Two more wins for Fox to round off the season.



C1 winner Raffaello Ivaldi.

# Clarke wins without making final

## Vaires-sur-Marne Slalom

Olympic champion Benjamin Savsek and three time Games medallist Jessica Fox posted the quickest times and moved a step closer to being crowned 2023 champions on day one of the World Cup final at the Paris 2024 venue.

The final was also doubling as a final test event ahead of next year's Games and had an Olympic atmosphere on Thursday with hundreds of cheering schoolchildren packing the banks of the waterway.

The World Cup final was worth double points and, with Savsek currently sitting third in the men's C1 and Fox leading the women's K1, they had set themselves up for a strong showing on medals day on Friday.

Adam Burgess showed an early liking for the Vaires-sur-Marne Olympic course, declaring it one of his favourites after posting the



fastest time in the opening run of the men's C1 qualifiers on Thursday afternoon.

Burgess was in a tight battle with team mate and European champion Ryan Westley for GB's Paris C1 quota but was focused this week on making it onto the World Cup final podium.

'I'm very happy to be on top for the first run; it's a bit of a surprise, to be honest, because I thought there was quite a bit of time in it,' Burgess said.

'I've got raw pace and I didn't lose too much time on the course. I love it here; if you're a canoe slalom fan, if you like me and enjoy some of the artistry of the sport, this is the place. I prefer it to my home course, Lee Valley, actually; there's way more variety of feature here.

'The atmosphere here is amazing; it gives us a bit of flavour of what to expect on the big day next year.'