

Carmichael takes junior ladies' wins

Willebroek Marathon

Triple Olympian Henriette Engel Hansen celebrated her return to marathon racing with a gold medal in the women's K1 at the World Cup at the Mechelen course in Hazewinkel, Belgium.

Engel Hansen competed in sprint canoe at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympics and won a world championship gold medal in the K2 1,000 at the 2014 world championships.

She and fellow Dane Emilie Rosenkilde cleared out in the final kilometre of the 3.6 kilometre race to take control in the short track final, the pair working together well to ensure no other paddler could get near.

Dutch paddler Eef Haaze finished 3rd.

Frenchman Quentin Urban unleashed a powerful finishing burst over the final 200 metres to win his first World Cup short track marathon gold medal with Hungary's Adrian Boros 2nd.

Another Frenchman, Edwin Lucas, took the bronze in the 20 strong field.

France also tasted victory in the men's C1 with Pierrick Martin showing his class over the final portage to hold out Czech Věclav Dubsky with another Frenchman, Tanguy Soucheyre, finishing 3rd.

The junior events saw a win for Great Britain's Georgia Carmichael in the short track K1, an outstanding result for a young athlete with several years of junior racing still in front of her.

German Tobias Heuser won the men's junior K1 while teammate Arved Heine won the junior men's C1.

France laid down the challenge ahead of this year's world championships in South Africa with a strong performance at the World Cup event.

Quentin Urban was the star for France and would be looking to challenge the traditionally strong marathon nations of Hungary, Spain and South Africa at the September world titles.

Quentin followed up his victory in the short track event with a gold medal in Sunday's full distance marathon, beating a record field of 44 athletes in hot and still conditions over the 30 kilometre course.

Hungary's Adrián Boros was 2nd while another Frenchman, Jérémy Candy, was 3rd. A group of six approached the final portage, before Boros attempted a break but it was a replay of the previous day with Quentin finishing with a withering burst to take the gold.

France handed out a paddling master class in the morning's C1 event with Pierrick Martin following up his gold from the short track with a win in the 26 kilometre event.

Teammates Tanguy Soucheyre and Damien Mantovani took the silver and bronze medals respectively after the French team worked together right up to the final 800 metres to ensure a team trifecta.

In the women's K1 it was a double victory for Hungary, reversing the

result inflicted upon them by Denmark on the short course the previous day.

Lili Katona and Noémi Horváth worked together as a team to overrun short track gold and silver medallists Henriette Engel Hansen and Emilie Rosenkilde halfway through the race.

French former sprint specialist Amelie Kessler tried to keep with the Hungarians, the trio staying together to the final decisive portage where Katona made her move.

Horváth was 2nd and Kessler 3rd.

'I damaged my rudder in the second portage, had too much water in my boat and could not really manage the group racing after that,' Engel Hansen said.

Tobias Heuser won his second gold in the junior men's competition with Ireland's Ronan Foley 2nd and Great Britain's Joseph Petersen 3rd.

All three made a mistake in lap counting and lost a lot of ground but managed to get the medals after a tremendous fightback.

The impressive Georgia Carmichael from Great Britain took her second gold in women's K1 with Belgians Amber van Broekhoven 2nd and Joke Plas 3rd.

Germany's Arved Heine also won the full distance, with Poland's Patryk Piotrowich 2nd and Grzegorz Ludwiczak 3rd.

ICF

K1SWJ: 1 G Carmichael, GB, 18:49.249. 2 M Mix, Deutschland, 18:49.334.

3 J Plas, Belgique, 18:53.512. 7 B Holden, GB, 20:02.834.

K1SW: 1 H Hansen, Danmark, 17:40.581. 2 E Rosenkilde, Danmark, 17:41.473.

3 E Haaze, Nederland, 17:54.031.

K1SMJ: 1 T Heuser, Deutschland, 16:10.242. 2 J Petersen, GB, 16:11.752.

3 R Foley, Ireland, 16:16.461. 6 O McKittrick, GB, 16:56.169.

14 T Gannicott-Porter, GB, 17:30.101. 17 A McIntyre, GB, 18:15.883.

K1SM: 1 Q Urban, France, 15:44.812. 2 A Boros, Magyarország, 15:49.476.

3 E Lucas, France, 15:50.038. 16 S Plummer, GB, 16:49.330. 19 A Hicks, GB, 17:32.214.

K1WJ: 1 G Carmichael, GB, 1:34:58.34. 2 A Van Broekhoven, Belgique, 1:34:59.23.

3 J Plas, Belgique, 1:35:22.93. 6 S Martyn, GB, 1:36:23.75. 10 B Holden, GB, 1:40:19.44.

K1W: 1 L Katona, Magyarország, 2:04:37.175. 2 N Horváth, Magyarország, 2:04:46.383.

3 A Kessler, France, 2:04:54.838. 12 J Withers, GB, 2:10:42.097.

K1M: 1 Q Urban, France, 2:09:02.0. 2 A Boros, Magyarország, 2:09:04.8.

3 J Candy, France, 2:09:05.7. 15 L Bowyer, GB, 2:14:34.7. 17 S Plummer, GB, 2:15:34.5.

K1MJ: 1 T Heuser, Deutschland, 1:40:29. 2 R Foley, Ireland, 1:40:30. 3 J Petersen, GB, 1:40:50.

7 O McKittrick, GB, 1:42:57. 12 T Gannicott-Porter, GB, 1:45:04. 16 A McIntyre, GB, 1:46:34.

K1M45-49: 1 K Gieres, Deutschland, 1:12:29.759. 2 S Baker, GB, 1:09:59.058.

3 D Francis, Ireland, 1:14:26.057. 6 P Curtis, GB, 1:31:45.972.

K1M55-59: 1 T Kittner, Deutschland, 54:32.794. 2 B Stalmans, Belgique, 54:34.794.

3 T Benschop, Nederland, 56:52.700. 6 T Boyer, GB, 1:05:26.900.

K1M60-64: 1 C Johanson, Danmark, 56:24.771. 2 H Van Dooren, Belgique, 57:40.771.

3 E Legrand, France, 58:56.982. 7 B Price, GB, 1:05:35.119.



The pack together at Willebroek.



Short course winner Quentin Urban.

Mason/Chmeil win record mixed race

National Championships

For the third time in four years the national championships were held on the Thames near Reading, the second time run by Pangbourne Canoe Club using the Purley course. It not only needs a large club or grouping of clubs to provide the manpower but also needs a large parking area now that clubs tend to come in fleets of cars rather than minibuses and trailers.

This time the weather was largely sunny intervals and showers



with moderate breeze, comfortable for racing and a bit better for spectating than the last time the race came here. To pass the time between the classes, somebody performed aerobatics overhead on Saturday. The event was helped by the general good behaviour of the larger boats, assisted by the marshals.

Racing got underway with the Lightning classes. Don't parents and siblings shout inane comments to their family and friends? I have some sympathy with the young lady who shouted back 'Shut up, Mum.'