



British Open winner Joe Clarke..



Kimberley Woods, 2nd in women's C1 in the British Open heats.



Mallory Franklin took the women's C1 title.

**K1WP:** 1 A Haining, Selkirk, 110.02. 2 K Woods, Rugby, 113.88.  
 3 M Franklin, Windsor, 116.77.  
**K1MP:** 1 J Clarke, Stafford & Stone, 91.58. 2 B Forbes-Cryans, Central Cats, 97.10.  
 3 Z Franklin, Windsor/Polaczyk, 97.49.  
**C1WP:** 1 M Franklin, Windsor, 116.45. 2 K Woods, Rugby/Hydrasports, 118.44.  
 3 E Gibson, Strathallan/Hydrasports, 120.71.  
**C1MP:** 1 T Quinn, Lower Wharfe, 99.17. 2 A Burgess, Stafford & Stone/Galasport, 100.98.  
 3 R Westley, Lower Wharfe, 101.94.  
**C2P/1:** 1 Brown/Kevane, Lower Wharfe, 239.64. 2 Merrifield/Merrifield, Taunton, 247.69.

# Two wins for Franklin

## World Championships

Medals were evenly split on the opening day of the world championships in Pau with Germany, Slovakia, Great Britain and the Czech Republic all tasting glory in the team events in France.

Slovakia's C1 team of Matej Benus, Alexander Slafkovsky and Michal Martikan, dubbed slalom's 'dream team' after victory at the 2015 world championships, once again showed their dominance with a convincing win over Great Britain and France.

The Slovaks were three seconds faster than the silver medallists.

'I think it is very hard to find three canoeists like we are,' Slafkovsky said.

'We are so close to each other everyone knows what to do on the water. You need some luck and then you can see a run like we did today.

'We never train together. The team run is very hard to train; we just talk about how we will take the distances and every one of us knows what to do on the water so it's not necessary to train.'

The German women's K1 team could boast former world champion Jasmin Schornberg and the form paddler of 2017, Ricarda Funk, alongside Lisa Fritsche, which proved a winning combination.

The Germans finished in 103.60, just pipping Austria in 103.80, with Australia more than 4 seconds back in the bronze medal position.

For Schornberg victory came ten years after she won her first world championship in the women's K1.

'It was fun; it was the perfect run,' she said.

'After ten years another gold medal is fantastic.'

Vit Prindis has been the stand out paddler in men's K1 in 2017 and, alongside 2016 Olympian Jiri Prskavec and the consistent Ondrej Tunka, the Czech Republic were always going to be the team to beat in the team event.

They lived up to expectations with a sizzling run of 93.06, more than 1 second ahead of France, with Slovenia in the bronze medal position.

'This is the best way to start a world championships,' Prindis said.

'I am super happy that in one year we have won the European and world championship titles. It's a great feeling. I couldn't imagine a better start.'

Great Britain's Mallory Franklin and Kimberley Woods have been two of the more consistent performers in the women's C1 in 2017 and, alongside Eilidh Gibson, proved unbeatable.

They finished in 117.63, ahead of Australia in 119.28, with the Czech Republic 3rd.

'We've been wanting this championship title for a while so to come here and start the championships with a really good win gives a lot of

confidence to all three of us going into the individual races,' Woods said.

'It's exciting to have the teams event at the start; it's a way to bring the teams together before the main competition starts.'

Britain's Joe Clarke and Mallory Franklin set the early pace on Wednesday.

Clarke, the 2016 Rio Olympic K1 gold medallist, was fastest in the perfect conditions while Franklin had her best run of the season to qualify quickest in the women's C1.

Clarke's time of 77.90 put him more than half a second ahead of 2017 World Cup series champion Czech Vit Prindis, with Spain's Samuel Hernanz third.

'I didn't realize it was going to be quite that good,' Clarke said.

'I just went out there to do the best I could possibly do and that was good.

'I feel quite positive. I've done quite a lot of training here to prepare for this event as best as possible. The sun is shining so I can't complain.

'I would have liked to have won some races this year but it's kind of building back up. It's a four year cycle. I'm trying to get back to where I was last year.'

Franklin had her best run ever on the Pau course to qualify fastest in the women's C1.

23 year old Franklin whistled down the course in 95.52 seconds, 1.59 seconds ahead of local hope Claire Jacquet, with Spain's Nuria Vilarrubla, a winner in La Seu at the last World Cup of the season, qualifying third.

Jacquet picked up a 2 second penalty for a gate touch but there could be no denying Franklin.

'It was a really good run today. I kept everything together,' Franklin said.

'It was probably the best ever run I've done on Pau, which is quite nice. It's a good way to start the racing so I'm looking forward to the rest of it.

'The team run gave me a bit of confidence to keep the pressure on the blade and feel more in control on this course so I really enjoyed my run.'

Three time world champion Jessica Fox of Australia was fifth fastest, picking up 4 seconds in penalties for gate touches.

'I knew the girls had gone quite fast; the times were quite close together and it's a fairly open course so I tried to attack it a bit more than I would normally do in a qualifying run,' Fox said, 'but I'm happy with that; fifth place is where I want to be for now.'

In the men's C2 it was the Czech Republic's Jonas Kaspar and Marek