



2015 Media Guide World Rowing Cup I

BLED, SLOVENIA 9-10 MAY 2015



Our planet depends on clean water

FISA, the World Rowing Federation, believes that we all have a responsibility to apply environmentally-sustainable practices to our use and management of water.

Because rowing is a clean water sport, everyone involved in rowing has a number of very good reasons to be part of the “clean water movement.”

Help safeguard our clean water

WWF and World Rowing are now in the fifth year of their global clean water partnership.

This engages all rowers, national federations and all rowing clubs to work towards safeguarding their own freshwater environment – for everyone’s benefit.

One of the greatest challenges of our time is to ensure there is enough clean water to support human life, nourish vital habitats and supply industry and agriculture. WWF and World Rowing want to be part of the solution and a joint action project is in motion.

Find out more: <http://www.worldrowing.com/environment/>

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1. General

1.1 Introduction

Bled, Slovenia welcomes the international rowing community to one of the most beautiful natural rowing courses in the world for the first regatta of the 2015 season, World Rowing Cup I and the first of three World Rowing Cups.

As the season-opener, this World Rowing Cup will act as the first measurement of the 2014 rowing speed. This is where athletes will be able to test how well their off-season training has worked and begin to build up their racing capability for the season to come. For many, Bled will be their first chance to race 2000m after a long period of endurance training.

In 2011 the World Rowing Championships were raced on Lake Bled. As this regatta doubled as the Qualification Regatta for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it was a truly memorable and monumental occasion. Before that Bled hosted the first leg of the 2010 World Rowing Cup as well as the 1966, 1979 and 1989 World Rowing Championships.

Being a natural lake, the 2000m regatta course has been carefully designed to fit into the available space. Starting at the town end of the lake, the lanes then track through the middle of Lake Bled, passing Bled Island at the 1800m mark. This means, after a start surrounded by spectators, the athletes move into a peaceful middle section of the race, away from the lake's shore. The course then finishes at the far end inlet where the crowds again are close by.

Locally, Bled has been the hub of rowing for generations. Its history goes back over 100 years, through the period when Lake Bled was an important part of Yugoslavian rowing. Today, as Slovenia, the name Iztok Cop has become synonymous with rowing. Cop is Slovenia's most successful Olympic athlete ever. Now retired, Cop remains involved in rowing and sports administration.

This media guide has been designed to bring much of the essential information together in one useful place. As well as practical information for media representatives attending the regatta, there is a race-by-race 'Who to Watch' which includes highlighted athletes and an easy guide to finding further information and event information relevant to media in the content-rich World Rowing website.

To you, the media, we wish to extend a warm welcome to World Rowing Cup I. World Rowing hopes that you enjoy this season opener. We appreciate your interest in and enthusiasm for our sport and as the suppliers of rowing information to the world, we want to help you have a great experience. World Rowing welcomes any feedback on the services provided.

The World Rowing communications team

[Melissa Bray](#) – Communications content manager

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1.2 World Rowing Cup – Boat classes & scoring

The World Rowing Cup, in its current form, was established by FISA in 1997 to give athletes more opportunities for top international racing. It is a series of three regattas that acts as a lead-up to the World Rowing Championships.

The racing programme at the World Rowing Cup includes the 14 Olympic boat classes and a selection of International boat classes. In Bled the women's eight will not be raced.

Olympic and World Rowing Cup boat classes

Men

Single Sculls (M1x)
Double Sculls (M2x)
Lightweight Double Sculls (LM2x)
Quadruple Sculls (M4x)
Pair (M2-)
Four (M4-)
Lightweight Four (LM4-)
Eight (M8+)

Women

Single Sculls (W1x)
Double Sculls (W2x)
Lightweight Double Sculls (LW2x)
Quadruple Sculls (W4x)
Pair (W2-)
Eight (W8+)

International boat classes (to be contested at Bled)

Men

Lightweight Single Sculls (LM1x)
Lightweight Pair (LM2-)

Women

Lightweight Single Sculls (LW1x)

For World Rowing Cup I in Bled the progression system will go directly from heats to semifinals (missing repechages). This is a trial system and will be trialed again at World Rowing Cup I in 2016.

Each Olympic boat class earns points based on the finishing order. The highest placing boat from a country is awarded the following points:

- 1st 8 points
- 2nd 6 points
- 3rd 5 points
- 4th 4 points
- 5th 3 points
- 6th 2 points
- 7th 1 point

If a country has more than one crew in a boat class, points will be awarded only to the first crew. The crew with the most points in each boat class is declared the World Rowing Cup leader and receives the yellow 'World Rowing Cup Leader Bib.' After the third World Rowing Cup regatta, the crew with the most points in each boat class is declared the World Cup winner and receives the World Rowing Cup for that boat class.

At the end of each World Cup, the country with the most points will be declared winner of that World Rowing Cup regatta and will receive the leading nation cup. The nation with the most points overall from all boat classes is declared overall winner of the 2015 World Rowing Cup.

1.3 What to find on worldrowing.com



- 1 ROWING** Information, updates, news and more for each of rowing's eight communities - elite, under-23, junior, masters, para, university, indoor and coastal.
- World Rowing **EVENTS** and general rowing events divided by category and community. By clicking on an upcoming event you will find more information including event documents, organising committee contact, events offered, venue information and more. For past events, you can find results, photos, news, documents and more.
- The **ATHLETE** section covers everything from athlete bios to medical, training and anti-doping. Find up-to-date information on all World Rowing athletes, read about the Top 10 athletes, get exclusive interviews with our Athlete of the Month and find information on World Rowing Awards.
- The **MEDIA CENTRE** is home to World Rowing media guides, information about media accreditation and links to our press release and newsletter registration form.
- The **NEWS** section leads you to the latest news, race reports, press releases and reviews.
- PHOTOS** of all World Rowing events in photo galleries, YouTube videos including interviews, coaching tips and more and our complete VOD library of racing footage going back to 1991.
- Find here more information about FISA's **ENVIRONMENTAL** policy, including the strategic alliance with WWF and what you can do to improve water quality at your club.
- The **FISA** section contains all of the governance documents and information including About FISA, Rule Book and other FISA Publications, FISA governance structure and the National Federation pages.

RESULTS
www.worldrowing.com/events/results

LATEST WORLD ROWING EVENT

2014 WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
New Zealand	1	0	0
Great Britain	1	1	1
Australia	1	1	1
Germany	1	0	0
France	1	0	0

RECENT RESULTS

2014 World Rowing Coaches Conference

SEARCH RESULTS

ATHLETE BIOS
www.worldrowing.com/athletes

KJETIL BORCH

QUOTES FROM ATHLETES

RACING VIDEO
www.worldrowing.com/photos-videos/racevideos

2014 World Rowing Championships

2014 WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.4 2015 World Rowing regatta calendar

May			
8-10	Bled	SLO	World Rowing Cup I (and Bled International Regatta)
23-24	Racice	CZE	European Rowing Junior Championships
29-31	Poznan	POL	European Rowing Championships
June			
18-21	Varese	ITA	World Rowing Cup II
July			
10-12	Lucerne	SUI	World Rowing Cup III
22-26	Plovdiv	BUL	World Rowing Under 23 Championships
August			
5-9	Rio de Janeiro	BRA	World Rowing Junior Championships
30-6 Sept	Aiguebelette	FRA	World Rowing Championships
September			
30 Aug-6 Sep	Aiguebelette	FRA	World Rowing Championships
10-13	Hazewinkel	BEL	World Rowing Masters Regatta
12-20	Luino	ITA	World Rowing Tour
October			
5-7	Tunis	TUN	FISA African Olympic Qualification Regatta
November			
13-15	Lima	PER	World Rowing Coastal Championships for Clubs
27-30	Valparaiso	CHI	FISA Americas Olympic Qualification Regatta
TBC – Asian/Oceania Continental Qualification Regatta			

For more event information: <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/>

2. Event Information

2.1 Key media information

Local organising committee press officer

Jaka Dobaj Kovacevic media@bled2015.org

About Bled

Bled is situated in Slovenia's northwest in the Julian Alps, less than an hour from the capital Ljubljana. It is a popular tourist destination both in the winter for skiing and in the summer for lakeside activities. It is known for the natural beauty as well as attractions like Bled Island and the iconic 'old castle.'

Lake Bled perfectly fits a rowing course being 2200m long and has welcomed rowers for over 100 years with the 100th anniversary of the first regatta taking place two years ago. The first major rowing event in Bled with the 1930 Yugoslavia National Championships.

Bled has been a regular host of international rowing events. It hosted the World Rowing Championships in 1966, 1979 and 1989, the World Rowing Masters Regattas in 1986 and 1995 as well as the World Junior Championships in 1971, European Championships in 1956, a stage of the World Rowing Cup in 2010, the World Rowing Championships in 2011 and the European Rowing Junior Championships in 2012. It will also be host to the World Rowing Masters Regatta in 2017.

Currency

The official Slovenian currency is the Euro (EUR)

[Exchange rates \(at 15.04.15\)](#) – 1 EUR = 0.72 GBP, 1 EUR = 1.03 CHF, 1 EUR = 1.06 USD

Transport and parking

Shuttle service from media hotel to venue: From 6 May until 10 May 2015 the shuttle buses will run according to a prearranged schedule at 30 minute intervals. Daily tickets for shuttles buses for media who have booked accommodation through the organising committee costs 5 EUR per person per day.

Media that have not booked accommodation through the organising committee and wish to use the transport service may do so for a fee of 10 EUR per person per day. Tickets can be bought at the transportation office in the information centre.

Due to limited space in the Boathouse area, media are advised to park at their hotel and use the paid shuttle service.

Media facilities

The Media Centre is located at the finish area, Velika Zaka, in the media grandstand and will be open daily from Friday 8 May 06:30 – 21:00, Saturday 9 May 07:00 – 19:30, Sunday 10 May 07:00 – 17:00.

TV commentator positions are situated in the grandstand. The positions must be booked in advance through EBU/RTV. Radio commentator positions are also situated on the media grandstands. These should also be booked through EBU/RTV.

The usual facilities are available to the press in the media centre and the tribune:

- [Workspaces with power](#)
- [Access to free wireless LAN and to cabled broadband \(limited\)](#)
- [ISDN and analogue connections are available \(please book\)](#)
- [Copy service](#)
- [Coffee, soft drinks and light snacks are available](#)

Note: Power sockets are European two pin

Accreditation

Media accreditation requests should be addressed to FISA directly through the official form on the website (Media Centre) <http://www.worldrowing.com/mediacenter/> Accreditation cards can be collected in the Information Centre (Boathouse Area).

Photographers

Designated areas for photographers are situated at the start and finish areas as for all World Rowing events. No photo positions will be available on boats. A shuttle service will be provided from the press centre to the start for photographers. Photographers are required to wear photo bibs to be acquired from the media officer. A 50 Euro deposit will be required for each bib.

General programme

Thursday 7 May 2015	15:00	Team managers meeting and draw
Friday 8 May 2015	10:00	Bled International Regatta, heats
	14:00	Bled International Regatta, B-finals
	14:50	Bled International Regatta, A-finals
Saturday 9 May 2015	09:30	World Rowing Cup, heats
	15:00	World Rowing Cup, semifinals
Sunday 10 May 2015	09:30	World Rowing Cup, B-finals
	10:52	World Rowing Cup, A-finals

2.2 Timetable of entries

PROVISIONAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

(Subject to the Draw at 15:00 hrs on Thursday, 7 May 2015 – As of 29 April 2015)

N°	Event	#	Friday, 8 May - International Regatta		Saturday, 9 May - World Cup		Sunday, 10 May - World Cup						
			Heats (Time Trials)	Final A	Heats	Final B	Semi-finals	Final B	Event	Final A			
International Events													
15	W4-	0											
1	W2-	10	10:00	10:05	14:00	14:50	9:30	9:35	9:40	15:00	9:30	LM2-	10:52
2	M2-	6				15:00	9:45	9:50	9:55	15:10	9:35	LM1x	11:02
20	LM2-	4				15:10						LW1x	11:12
World Cup Events													
18	LM1x	14	10:10	10:15	14:05	15:20	10:00	10:05	10:10	15:20	9:40	W2-	11:33
17	LW1x	12	10:25	10:30	14:10	15:30	10:20	10:25	10:30	15:30	9:45	M2-	11:48
9	LM2x	10	10:35	10:40	14:15	15:40	10:35	10:40	10:45	15:40	9:50	W4x	12:03
8	LW2x	6				15:50	10:55	11:00			9:55	M4-	12:18
5	M4-	10	10:45	10:50	14:20	16:00	11:05	11:10			10:00	W2x	12:33
11	W4x	7	10:55	11:00		16:10						M2x	12:48
12	M4x	4				16:20	11:15	11:20			10:05	M4x	13:03
4	M2x	14	11:05	11:10	14:25	16:30	11:25	11:30	11:35	15:50	10:10	LM2x	13:18
3	W2x	9	11:20	11:25	14:30	16:40	11:45	11:50			10:15	LW2x	13:33
10	LM4-	9	11:30	11:35	14:35	16:50	11:55	12:00			10:20	LM4-	13:48
13	W8+	0											
7	M1x	12	11:40	11:45	14:40	17:00	12:05	12:10	12:15	16:00	10:25	M1x	14:03
6	W1x	6				17:10	12:20	12:25	12:30	16:10	10:30	W1x	14:18
14	M8+	3				17:20						M8+	14:33
Training Times			7:00-9:45, 12:00-13:45 and 17:30-20:00hrs				6:30-9:15, 12:40-14:45, 16:25-19:30hrs				6:30-9:15hrs		

General notes

- The Team Managers to confirm their crews for the International Regatta by 10:00 hrs on Thursday, 7 May 2015.
The Draw for the International Regatta will be published at 12:00 hrs.
- Thursday's meetings:
13:00 hrs - Handover meeting
13:30 hrs - Fairness Committee Meeting
14:00 hrs - Preparation Meeting for the Draw
15:00 hrs - Team Managers Meeting and Draw
16:00 hrs - Jury Meeting and Inspection of the Course
17:30 hrs - Technical Dress Rehearsal/Rescue Rehearsal
* Races for allocation of lanes

Progression System - International Regatta:

7 to 12 Entries → 2 heats, 1st 3 each heat to Final A (For 7 entries - slowest last place getter in heats does not progress)
13 to 18 Entries → 3 heats, 1st 2 in each heat to Final A, 3rd and 4th crews in each Heat to Final B. (For 13 crews the slowest last-placed crew in the Heats does not progress. For 14 crews, the slowest 2 crews in the Heats do not progress.)

Progression System - World Cup:

7 to 12 Entries → 2 heats, 1st 3 each heat to final (For 7 entries - slowest last place getter in heats does not progress)
13 to 18 Entries → 3 heats, 1st 4 in each heat to semi-final
• 13 entries – slowest last place getter does not progress to semifinals
• 14 entries – slowest 2 last place getters do not progress to semifinals
19 to 24 Entries → 4 heats, 1st 3 in each heat to semi-final

Broadcaster information: all times indicated are local times. Televised races are indicated in bold font. Please revert to the EBU offer for international signal times and details. The last medal ceremony will finish approximately 20 minutes after the start of the last race.

Follow the live results on www.worldrowing.com

2.3 Entries by event

As of 28 April 2015

W2-	M2-	W2x	M2x	M4-	W1x	M1x	LW2x	LM2x	LM4-	W4x	M4x	M8+	LW1x	LM1x	LM2-
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(14)	(17)	(18)	(20)

14	16	9	21	9	13	15	8	21	12	6	9	5	13	20	6
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BLR1	BLR1	BLR	AUT	BLR	AUT1	BEL	AUT	AUT	AUT	CHN	CHN	CHN	ALG	ALG	AUT
BLR2	BLR2	CHN1	BUL	CHN1	AUT2	BEN	CHN1	BEL	CHI	CZE	CRO	FRA	AUT	AUT	CHN
CHI	CHI	CHN2	CHN	CHN2	BEL	BUL	CHN2	BRA1	CHN1	GER	CZE	GER1	BRA	AZE	CZE
CHN1	CHN1	CRO	CRO	CZE	BLR	CHN1	CZE	BRA2	CHN2	NED	EST	GER2	CHI	BUL1	ESP
CHN2	CHN2	CZE	CZE	ESP	BUL	CHN2	HUN	BUL	CZE	POL1	FRA	POL	CHN1	BUL2	GER1
CHN3	CRO1	GER1	EGY	FRA	CHN1	CRO	NED	CHI	ESP	POL2	GER1		CHN2	CHI1	GER2
CHN4	CRO2	GER2	ESP	GER	CHN2	CUB	POL	CHN	GER		GER2		CZE1	CHI2	
CHN5	CZE1	MDA	EST1	POL	CZE	EGY	SUI	CZE1	NED		POL		CZE2	CHN	
CHN6	CZE2	POL	EST2	SRB	ISR	NED		CZE2	POL		SUI		LAT1	CRO	
CRO	ESP		GER1		QAT	SLO1		EGY1	SUI				LAT2	CZE	
CZE	FRA		GER2		SRB1	SLO2		EGY2	TUR				POL1	EGY	
ESP	HUN		GER3		SRB2	SRB1		HUN	UZB				POL2	POR	
NED	SRB1		GER4		SUI	SRB2		NED					TUN	SLO1	
POL	SRB2		HUN			SUI		POL						SLO2	
	SRB3		ISR			UZB		POR						SRB1	
	TUR		NED					SRB						SRB2	
			POL					SUI1						SUI1	
			SLO					SUI2						SUI2	
			SRB1					TUR						SVK	
			SRB2					UZB1						VAN	
			SUI					UZB2							

LEGEND

W2-	Women's Pair
M2-	Men's Pair
W2x	Women's Double Sculls
M2x	Men's Double Sculls
M4-	Men's Four
W1x	Women's Single Sculls
M1x	Men's Single Sculls
LW2x	Lightweight Women's Double Sculls
LM2x	Lightweight Men's Double Sculls
LM4-	Lightweight Men's Four
W4x	Women's Quadruple Sculls
M4x	Men's Quadruple Sculls
W8+	Women's Eight
M8+	Men's Eight
W4-	Women's Four
M2+	Men's Coxed Pair
LW1x	Lightweight Women's Single Sculls
LM1x	Lightweight Men's Single Sculls
LM2-	Lightweight Men's Pair
LM4x	Lwt. Men's Quadruple Sculls

	Countries	Crews	Competitors
Men	24	75	181
Women	17	42	81
Lightweight Men	24	59	116
Lightweight Women	12	21	28
Total	34	197	406

2.4 Participating athletes – by country

	<i>Event</i>	<i>Name</i>
Algeria	LW1x	Amina Rouba
	LM1x	Sid Boudina
Austria	M2x	Julius Hirtzberger, Clemens Obrecht
	W1x	Magdalena Lobnig
	W1x	Lisa Farthofer
	LW2x	Sara Lambing, Leonie Pless
	LM2x	Paul Sieber, Bernhard Sieber
	LM4-	Joschka Hellmeier, Alexander Chernikov, Florian Berg, Matthias Taborsky
	LW1x	Stefanie Borzacchini
	LM1x	Michael Saller
	LM2-	Dominik Sigl, Markus Lemp
Azerbaijan	LM1x	Javid Afandiyev
Belgium	W1x	Eveline Peleman
	M1x	Hannes Obreno
	LM2x	Niels Van Zandweghe, Tim Brys
Benin	M1x	Privel Hinkati
Belarus	W2-	Alena Kryvasheyenka, Ina Nikulina
	W2-	Marharyta Krechka, Katsiaryna Shliupskaya
	M2-	Dzimiry Furman, Dzianis Suravets
	M2-	Dzmitry Vyberanets, Siarhei Valadzko
	W2x	Ekaterina Karsten, Yuliya Bichyk
	M4-	Vadzim Lialin, Dzianis Mihal, Dzianis Mihal, Ihar Pashevich
	W1x	Tatsiana Kukhta
Brazil	LM2x	Emanuel Dantas Borges, Dego Nazario
	LM2x	Thiago Pereira Carvalho, Ailson Silva
	LW1x	Fabiana Beltrame
Bulgaria	M2x	Georgi Bozhilov, Kristian Vasilev
	W1x	Kristina Boncheva
	M1x	Rangel Katsarski
	LM2x	Ivan Kolev, Grigor Manchev
	LM1x	Nedelcho Vasilev
	LM1x	Grigor Manchev
Chile	W2-	Melita Abraham, Antonia Abraham
	M2-	Felipe Leal Atero, Oscar Vasquez Ochoa
	LM2x	Francisco Ruiz Gavilan, Nivaldo Yanez Ortiz
	LM4-	Fabian Oyarzun Zbinden, Nelson Martinez Hodde, Felipe Oyarzun Zbinden, Rodrigo Munoz Santibanez
	LW1x	Josefa Vila Betanurt
	LM1x	Barnardo Guerrero Diaz
	LM1x	Francisco Ruiz Gavilan

China	W2-	Tian Miao, Min Zhang
	W2-	Dameng Yin, Wenjing Cheng
	W2-	Xiaotong Cui, Linlin Guo
	W2-	Huan Zhang, Liqin Yi
	W2-	Jing Yu, Rui Zhang
	W2-	Rui Ju, Dan Zhang
	M2-	Hongqian Jiang, Hailong Liang
	M2-	Wubing Zhao, Yang Liu
	W2x	Jie Wang, Yuwei Wang
	W2x	Yuemin Bai, Rong Gu
	M2x	Ganggang Li, Laifu Li
	M4-	Xunman Cheng, Hang Liu, Zengxin Yang, Dongjian Li
	M4-	Bobo Qiao, Jiankun Shen, Xulin Ni, Jiahui Feng
	W1x	Jingli Duan
	W1x	Weiwei Zhu
	M1x	Jian Ma
	M1x	Zhiqiang Shi
	LW2x	Cuiming Chen, Feihong Pan
	LW2x	Wenyi Huang, Dandan Pan
	LM2x	Yajun Li, Xiaoxiong Li
	LM4-	Bin Tian, Junjie Fan, Deming Kong, Tiexin Wang
	LM4-	Wei Jin, Tao Zeng, Chenggang Yu, Jingbin Zhao
	W4x	Yan Jiang, Xiaoxing Shen, Yang Lyu, Xinyue Zhang
	M4x	Zhiyu Liu, Liang Zhang, Dang Liu, Quan Zhang
	M8+	Xunman Cheng, Jiankun Shen, Bobo Qiao, Jiahui Feng, Xulin Ni, Hang Liu, Zengxin Yang, Dongjian Li, Shetian Zhang
	LW1x	Shuai Guo
	LW1x	Jing Liu
	LM1x	Guiying Zhu
	LM2-	Jiahao Li, Mingyang Liang
	Croatia	W2-
M2-		Bernard Samardzic, Danijel Plisic
M2-		Ante Janjic, Marin Begovic
W2x		Marcela Milosevic, Karla Milosevic
M2x		Martin Sinkovic, Valent Sinkovic
M1x		Damir Martin
M4x		David Sain, Vjekoslav Kolobaric, Vitomir Cavrlj, Mario Vekic
LM1x		Luka Radonic
Cuba	M1x	Angel Fournier Rodriguez

Czech Republic	W2-	Martina Stillerova, Katerina Kopecka
	M2-	Jakub Paroulek, Matyas Klang
	M2-	Jakub Podrazil, Lukas Helesic
	W2x	Kristyna Fleissnerova, Lenka Antosova
	M2x	Michal Plocek, David Jirka
	M4-	Matyas Klang, Jakub Podrazil, Jakub Paroulek, Kornel Altman
	W1x	Mirka Knapkova
	LW2x	Klara Janakova, Denisa Cvancarova
	LM2x	Jan Vetesnik, Ondrej Vetesnik
	LM2x	Martin Slavik, Jiri Simanek
	LM4-	Michael Humpolec, Jan Hajek, Jiri Kopac, Miroslav Vrstil Jr
	W4x	Kamila Ondrackova, Lucie Heranova, Radka Novotnikova, Lucie Zabova
	M4x	Martin Basl, Jaroslav Kedaj, Stepan-Adam Havlicek, Adam Sterbak
	LW1x	Anna Zabova
	LW1x	Tereza Kocianova
	LM1x	Petr Cabla
	LM2-	Adam Kapa, Milan Viktora
Egypt	M2x	Abdel Khalek Elbana, Moustafa Fathy
	M1x	Nour El Din Hassanein
	LM2x	Mohamed Nofel, Omar Emira
	LM2x	Hamada Morsi, Abdelmohsen Massoud
	LM1x	Mohamed Hassam Aly
Spain	W2-	Nuria Dominguez Asensio, Anna Boada Peiro
	M2-	Jon Carazo Tobar, Ismael Montes Caamano
	M2x	Castillo Guzman Del, Juan Garcia
	M4-	Javier Garcia Ordonez, Jaime Canalejo Pazos, Marcelino Garcia Cortes, Castillo Guzman Del
	LM4-	Sergio Perez Moreno, Jesus Gonzalez Alvarez, Marc Franquet Montfort, Patricio Rojas Aznar
	LM2-	Ander Zabala Artetxe, Imanol Garmendia Maiz
Estonia	M2x	Andrei Jamsa, Kaur Kuslap, Joosep Laos, Geir Suursild
	M4x	Allar Raja, Sten-Erik Anderson, Tonu Endrekson, Kaspar Taimsoo
France	M2-	Germain Chardin, Dorian Mortelette
	M4-	Matthieu Moinaux, Benoit Demey, Edouard Jonville, Julien Despres
	M4x	Julien Montet, Hugo Boucheron, Mickael Marteau, Matthieu Androdias
	M8+	Sebastien Lente, Valentin Onfroy, Thibaut Verhoeven, Benoit Brunet, Romain Delachaume, Cedric Berrest, Benjamin Lang, Laurent Cadot, Emmanuel Bunoiz

Germany	W2x	Julia Lier, Mareike Adams
	W2x	Wiebke Hein, Julia Richter
	M2x	Marcel Hacker, Stephan Krueger
	M2x	Lauritz Schoof, Philipp Wende
	M2x	Hans Gruhne, Lars Hartig
	M2x	Patrick Leineweber, Karl Schulze
	M4-	Jakob Schneider, Bjoern Birkner, Paul Schroeter, Clemens Ernsting
	LM4-	Lucas Schaefer, Alexander Kevin Diedrich, Lars Wichert, Jonathan Koch
	W4x	Annekatri Thiele, Carina Baer, Marie-Catherine Arnold, Lisa Schmidla
	M4x	Karl Schulze, Lars Hartig, Philipp Wende, Stephan Krueger
	M4x	Patrick Leineweber, Hans Gruhne, Lauritz Schoof, Marcel Hacker
	M8+	Maximilian Planer, Kristof Wilke, Anton Braun, Malte Jakschik, Richard Schmidt, Felix Drahotta, Maximilian Munski, Hannes Ocik, Martin Sauer
	M8+	Toni Seifert, Maximilian Korge, Johannes Weissenfeld, Alexander Egler, Peter Kluge, Eric Johannesen, Maximilian Reinelt, Felix Wimberger, Jonas Wiesen
	LM2-	Lucas Schaefer, Sven Kessler
	LM2-	Stefan Wallat, Alexander Kevin Diedrich
Hungary	M2-	Adrian Juhasz, Bela Simon Jr
	M2x	Gergely Papp, Bendeguz Petervari-Molnar
	LW2x	Lilla Samu, Syham Abid
	LM2x	Daniel Matyasovszki, Peter Galambos
Israel	M2x	Oleg Gonorovski, Dani Fridman
	W1x	Irina Vorvoreanu
Latvia	LW1x	Olga Svirska
	LW1x	Kristine Putnina
Moldova	W2x	Tatiana Contevicenco, Daria Scorinina
Netherlands	W2-	Elisabeth Hogerwerf, Olivia Van Rooijen
	M2x	Ruben Knab, Stefan Broenink
	M1x	Roel Braas
	LW2x	Elisabeth Woerner, Maaïke Head
	LM2x	Tycho Muda, Vincent Muda
	LM4-	Joris Pijs, Jort Van Gennep, Timothee Heijbrock, Bjorn Van Den Ende
	W4x	Nicole Beukers, Chantal Achterberg, Inge Janssen, Carline Bouw
	W4x	Nicole Beukers, Chantal Achterberg, Inge Janssen, Carline Bouw
Poland	W2-	Anna Wierzbowska, Maria Wierzbowska
	W2x	Magdalena Fularczyk, Natalia Madaj
	M2x	Dawid Grabowski, Adam Wicenciak
	M4-	Karol Leszczynski, Piotr Hojka, Konrad Wojewodzic, Rafal Hejmej
	LW2x	Weronika Deresz, Martyna Mikolajczak
	LM2x	Artur Mikolajczewski, Milosz Jankowski
	LM4-	Patryk Pszczolkowski, Bartosz Pszczolkowski, Rafal Serwiak, Milosz Bernatajtsy
	W4x	Agnieszka Kobus, Joanna Leszczynska, Maria Springwald, Monika Ciaciuch
	W4x	Ariana Borkowska, Marta Wieliczko, Marta Wieliczko, Joanna Dittmann
	M4x	Mateusz Biskup, Dariusz Radosz, Miroslaw Zietarski, Wiktor Chabel
	M8+	Zbigniew Schodowski, Mateusz Wilangowski, Mikolaj Burda, Robert Fuchs, Krystian Aranowski, Michal Szpakowski, Marcin Brzezinski, Piotr Juszcak, Daniel Trojanowski
	LW1x	Joanna Dorociak
	LW1x	Martyna Mikolajczak

Portugal	LM2x	Nuno Goncalves Coelho, Pedro Fraga
	LM1x	Nuno Mendes
Qatar	W1x	Tala Abujbara
Slovenia	M2x	Ales Zupan, Matej Rojec
	M1x	Gasper Fistravec
	M1x	Janez Zupan
	LM1x	Rajko Hrvat
Serbia	LM1x	Ales Jalen
	M2-	Veselin Savic, Nenad Bedik
	M2-	Milos Vasic, Dusan Bogicevic
	M2-	Goran Jagar, Nikola Stojic
	M2x	Marko Marjanovic, Aleksandar Filipovic
	M2x	Radoje Deric, Andrija Sljukic
	M4-	Goran Jagar, Milos Vasic, Nikola Stojic, Radoje Deric
	W1x	Iva Obradovic
	W1x	Ljiljana Josic
	M1x	Andrija Sljukic
	M1x	Radoje Deric
	LM2x	Milos Stanojevic, Marco Josic
	LM1x	Milos Stanojevic
	LM1x	Petar Jovanovic
Switzerland	M2x	Jacob Blankenberger, David Aregger
	W1x	Jeannine Gmelin
	M1x	Markus Kessler
	LW2x	Frederique Rol, Patricia Merz
	LM2x	Daniel Wiederkehr, Michael Schmid
	LM2x	Fiorin Rueedi, Joel Schuerch
	LM4-	Simon Niepmann, Mario Gyr, Lucas Tramer, Simon Schuerch
	M4x	Roman Rooesli, Augustin Maillefer, Nico Stahlberg, Barnabe Delarze
	LM1x	Silvan Zehnder
	LM1x	Joel Schuerch
Slovakia	LM1x	Lukas Babac
Tunisia	LW1x	Khadija Krimi
Turkey	M2-	Onat Kazakli, Fuad Rafail
	LM2x	Huseyin Kandemir, Enes Kusku
	LM4-	Cem Yilmaz, Hakan Ozcan, Barbaros Gozutok, Ahmet Yumrukaya
Uzbekistan	M1x	Artyom Kudryashov
	LM2x	Shakhboz Kholmurzaev, Islambek Mambetnazarov
	LM2x	Doston Oripov, Abbas Abdujabborov
	LM4-	Anatoliy Krasnov, Alisher Yarov, Zafar Usmonov, Botir Murodov
Vanuatu	LM1x	Luigi Teilemb

2.5 Who to watch

Women's Pair (W2-)

With the top boats from Great Britain, the USA and New Zealand not yet competing be ready to see new names coming to the fore. The most likely candidates for the medals are China with their large number of entries. The Netherlands may be the main competition.

W2-: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh13</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	NZL	GBR	GBR	GBR
2	GBR	AUS	ROU	USA
3	AUS	NZL	NZL	NZL
4	CHN	USA	USA	ROU
5	ROU	ROU	NED	AUS
6	RSA	GER	RSA	RSA
7	ITA	CHN	SRB	RUS
8	USA	RSA	GER	IRL
9	CAN	ARG	UKR	SRB
10	GER	ITA	ITA	CAN
11	BLR		RUS	UKR
12	FRA		AUS	CZE

Men's Pair (M2-):

In the absence of the Kiwi pair - World and Olympic Champions, Eric Murray and Hamish Bond - the top boat to watch out for will be France's Germain Chardin and Dorian Mortelette. Chardin and Mortelette are Olympic silver medallists and they are resuming their partnership after a year of racing in the men's eight. The break from the pair that they had in 2014 was likely to have been strategic and will no doubt boost their motivation.

The most experienced of the competitors here is Serbia's Nikoa Stojic. Stojic has not only been rowing internationally for more than two decades, but he also knows Bled well through the many changes in the region. Now 40 years old, Stojic was most recently successful at the 2013 European Championships. He is teaming up in Bled with Goran Jagar who hails from the men's four.

M2-: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh13</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	NZL	NZL	NZL	NZL
2	GBR	FRA	FRA	GBR
3	ITA	GBR	NED	RSA
4	GRE	ITA	ESP	ESP
5	CAN	AUS	POL	GER
6	GER	CAN	ITA	USA
7	AUS	GER	GBR	ITA
8	NED	USA	RSA	TUR
9	USA	GRE	SRB	ARG
10	SRB	POL	GER	NED
11	HUN	NED	ARG	CHI
12	FRA	SRB	HUN	CRO

Women's Double Sculls (W2x):

The top boat to look out for is likely to be Poland. Magdalena Fularczyk and Natalia Madaj won silver at the Worlds last year and were part of the bronze medal winning quad at the 2013 World Rowing Championships. Fularczyk also won Olympic bronze in this event in 2012.

But Belarus's Ekaterina Karsten is back in this event with Yuliya Bichyk. Karsten, the multiple Olympic and World Champion, left her priority event, the single, following London 2012. In 2013 she won World Championship bronze with Bichyk in the double and after a stint in the quad last year, they've formed a duo once again. Karsten is aiming for Rio which will be her seventh Olympic Games.

Also look out for the two German entries. Both boats will be aiming to impress selectors.

W2x: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	GBR	GBR	LTU	NZL
2	AUS	AUS	NZL	POL
3	NZL	POL	BLR	AUS
4	UKR	CHN	GBR	LTU
5	POL	NZL	GER	CHN
6	CZE	USA	DEN	USA
7	GER	CZE	USA	NED
8	CHN	NED	RUS	GER
9	USA	GER	UKR	RUS
10	FIN	UKR	IRL	UKR
11	SRB		ITA	IRL
12	IRL		KOR	DEN

Men's Double Sculls (M2x):

Croatia's Martin and Valent Sinkovic are back in the double this year leaving their 2013 World Champion men's quadruple sculls behind. The switch from quad to double last year served them well as they not only set a new World Best Time to become the first double ever to go under six minutes, but they also became 2014 World Champions.

The brothers will be facing new competition from Germany. Formerly Germany's top single sculler, Marcel Hacker lost his national champion title to countryman Stephan Krueger a couple of weeks ago. German selectors have placed Hacker and Krueger in the double and the question will be whether the two can gel together in this short space of time. Germany has also entered three other boats, including three members of the 2012 Olympic Champion men's quadruple sculls.

Watch out also for Bulgaria's Georgi Bozhilov and Kristian Vasilev. Together they finished sixth at last year's World Rowing Championships and will be looking to keep on improving.

M2x: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	NZL	NZL	NOR	CRO
2	GER	ITA	LTU	ITA
3	FRA	SLO	ITA	AUS
4	AUS	ARG	GER	LTU
5	SLO	GBR	ARG	GER
6	GBR	LTU	NZL	BUL
7	EST	NOR	SRB	GBR
8	NOR	AUS	AUS	NZL
9	ARG	GER	GBR	SRB
10	LTU	FRA	USA	NOR
11	CAN	UKR	CUB	CHN
12	CZE	CAN	DEN	DEN

Men's Four (M4-):

With last year's world medallists not competing in Bled, this field will be a relatively clean slate. One of the top crews to look out for will be Serbia who finished ninth at last year's World Rowing Championships in Amsterdam. They have entered the same crew at Bled. Nikola Stojic and Goran Jagar are in the boat and they will be doubling up in the pair as well.

Also on the radar will be France and Germany. Their new line-ups should stay on the look-out for China who have entered two boats in this event.

M4-: Major results since 2010

Place	WRCh11	OG12	WRCh 2013	WRCh14
1	GBR	GBR	NED	GBR
2	GRE	AUS	AUS	USA
3	AUS	USA	USA	AUS
4	USA	GRE	ITA	NED
5	GER	NED	GBR	CAN
6	NED	GER	CZE	GRE
7	CAN	BLR	BLR	ITA
8	NZL	ITA	ESP	GER
9	BLR	CAN	CRO	SRB
10	ITA	SRB	ROU	RUS
11	SRB	NZL	SRB	ROU
12	CZE	ROU	GER	UKR

Women's Single Sculls (W1x):

In the absence of the 2013 and 2014 World Champions, Kim Crow (AUS) and Emma Twigg (NZL), all eyes will no doubt return to 2012 Olympic Champion Mirka Knapkova of the Czech Republic. Knapkova underperformed in 2014, but will she be on form as she views to qualify her boat for Rio 2016 later this year?

Jingli Duan from China is back after winning World Championship bronze last year. She will be competing against a second Chinese athlete, Weiwei Zhu who has mostly been seen competing in the women's double sculls. Both of these athletes are experienced and have proved to contain medal potential.

Austria's young Magdalena Lobnig is a name to watch out for. The 2012 under-23 World Champion continues to improve her senior level standing. A regular A-finalist, Lobnig has already medalled at the European Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup levels.

W1x: Major results since 2010

Place	WRCh11	OG12	WRCh 2013	WRCh14
1	CZE	CZE	AUS	NZL
2	BLR	DEN	NZL	AUS
3	NZL	AUS	CZE	CHN
4	CHN	NZL	AUT	IRL
5	SWE	BLR	USA	AUT
6	GER	CHN	NED	RUS
7	AZE	USA	GBR	CZE
8	RUS	LTU	RUS	GBR
9	LTU	RUS	UKR	USA
10	GBR	SWE	ZIM	LTU
11	USA	GER	NOR	DEN
12	EST	AZE	LAT	NED

Men's Single Sculls (M1x):

The men's single sculls will see the arrival of a newcomer to this boat class. Damir Martin from Croatia is a World Champion and Olympic medallist in the men's quadruple sculls. In 2014 he did not race due to injury and now makes his comeback in the single. All eyes will turn to observe his level of fitness and the type of contender he will be in relation to the rest of the field.

But it is Cuba's Angel Fournier Rodriguez that will be the one to beat. Cuba's top rower and world silver and bronze medallist will again be aiming for the podium this year and in the absence of World Champion Ondrej Synek, Fournier is likely to take gold.

Also lining up in the single will be Roel Braas of the Netherlands. In the past two years Braas has been a regular A-finalist in the single and claimed bronze at the European Rowing Championships in 2013. Braas is a powerhouse on the indoor rowing machine and is constantly inching towards the leading bunch on the water.

M1x: Major results since 2010

Place	WRCh11	OG12	WRCh 2013	WRCh14
1	NZL	NZL	CZE	CZE
2	CZE	CZE	CUB	NZL
3	GBR	GBR	GER	CUB
4	GER	SWE	GBR	LTU
5	SWE	AZE	NED	GER
6	NOR	GER	LTU	AZE
7	LTU	CUB	AZE	BLR
8	CUB	LTU	BUL	BEL
9	AZE	NOR	ISR	NED
10	CHN	ARG	RUS	CAN
11	USA	CHN	SUI	ITA
12	BUL	BEL	IND	SUI

Lightweight Women's Double Sculls (LW2x):

The 2014 world bronze medallists from China, Wenyi Huang and Dandan Pan, will race as their country's number two boat, having to prove to selectors that they are still their nation's best choice for the lightweight double.

World Champions in the lightweight women's quad, Maaïke Head and Elisabeth Woerner (and the crew that also set a new World Best Time) from the Netherlands, will be testing their strength in the double. Together they raced as a duo at the 2013 World Rowing Championships where they finished sixth. They also raced to fifth in the lightweight double last year at the European Rowing Championships. Back in the double must be a strategic move to be in the Olympic boat class boat in this Rio 2016 Olympic Qualification year.

Watch out too for Poland's experienced lightweight sculler Weronika Deresz. She will be racing with a new partner, Martyna Mikolajczak.

LW2x: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	GRE	GBR	ITA	NZL
2	CAN	CHN	USA	CAN
3	GBR	GRE	GER	CHN
4	USA	DEN	GBR	RSA
5	AUS	AUS	NZL	AUS
6	NZL	GER	NED	ITA
7	CHN	CAN	AUS	GBR
8	DEN	NED	RSA	POL
9	NED	NZL	SWE	SWE
10	ITA	CUB	POL	USA
11	GER	USA	DEN	AUT
12	BEL	JPN	ARG	CZE

Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x):

The lightweight double is possibly the boat class featuring the most sibling combinations and very often they're twins. There are the Muda twins, Tycho and Vincent, from the Netherlands. They raced in the A-final at last year's World Rowing Championships, finishing sixth overall.

The Czech Republic is sending to Bled the Vetesnik duo of Jan and Ondrej. They have spent the majority of their rowing career in the lightweight men's four and last year focused on the double, racing to a sixth place finish at the World Rowing Cup in Lucerne. Austrian brothers Paul and Bernhard Sieber became World Under 23 Champions back in 2012 and since then have been aiming to make their mark at the senior level.

Portugal's Pedro Fraga, the Olympian and 2014 European Champion in the lightweight single, has a new doubles partner in Nuno Goncalves Coelho. Also to be noted is Peter Galambos from Hungary who raced to World Championship bronze in the lightweight men's single sculls in 2013 and is now racing with Daniel Matyasovszki.

LM2x: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	GBR	DEN	NOR	RSA
2	NZL	GBR	SUI	FRA
3	ITA	NZL	GBR	NOR
4	GER	FRA	ITA	ITA
5	DEN	POR	GER	GER
6	CHN	GER	GRE	NED
7	FRA	ITA	NED	GBR
8	GRE	GRE	POL	CZE
9	NOR	NOR	AUT	SUI
10	POR	CUB	UKR	USA
11	CAN	HUN	DEN	DEN
12	POL	JPN	USA	AUT

Lightweight Men's Four (LM4-):

Switzerland will likely be the crew to beat in this boat class. They have not featured a crew in this boat class since the London 2012 Olympic Games where they finished fifth. The same crew is back together after racing with success in smaller boats for the past two seasons.

The Netherlands are sending the same crew that finished sixth at the 2014 World Rowing Championships and will be the crew for Switzerland to use as a benchmark. China readily comes up with surprises and they will line up two boats, aiming to find the perfect combination to improve on their seventh-place finish in Amsterdam last year.

Watch out too for Spain. The members are the same as last year's and with the experience they gained together as a crew they will likely be competitive.

LM4-: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	AUS	RSA	DEN	DEN
2	ITA	GBR	NZL	NZL
3	GBR	DEN	GBR	GBR
4	CHN	AUS	FRA	FRA
5	DEN	SUI	USA	AUS
6	SUI	NED	RSA	NED
7	POL	FRA	ITA	CHN
8	CZE	USA	POL	GER
9	GER	GER	ESP	ESP
10	FRA	CHN	AUS	USA
11	RSA	CZE	CZE	AUT
12	SRB	ITA	NED	ITA

Women's Quadruple Sculls (W4x):

The top boat in this event for the past few years has been Germany. They are the 2013 and 2014 World Champions and won Olympic silver in 2012. There is little doubt that the Germans will be the crew to beat in Bled.

But watch out for China. They are back with the same boat that won World Championship silver last year and it can be expected they will do just as well this year with Olympic qualification on the horizon.

The Netherlands will also be aiming for the podium, but there will be no shortcuts for the Dutch with Poland's two entries likely to be pushing all of the way to the line.

W4x: Major results since 2010

Place	WRCh11	OG12	WRCh 2013	WRCh14
1	GER	UKR	GER	GER
2	USA	GER	CAN	CHN
3	NZL	USA	POL	USA
4	AUS	AUS	NED	AUS
5	CHN	CHN	USA	NZL
6	UKR	GBR	ITA	CAN
7	GBR	NZL	NZL	NED
8	POL	POL	AUS	POL
9	SUI	ITA	GBR	GBR
10	RUS	ROU	BLR	BLR
11	ROU	VIE	KOR	RUS
12				ITA

Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4x):

In this event, Germany has united its top single scullers, including Stephan Krueger and Marcel Hacker, in two separate boats. All of them are also racing in the men's double sculls. Clearly selectors are looking to form the most efficient combinations in both events making the most out of the wide pool of talent they have available.

Croatia medalled at the Olympics and were the 2013 World Champions in this event with the famed crew of the Sinkovic brothers, David Sain and Damir Martin, before the crew split up for the 2014 season. For Bled, Croatia has entered a quad that contains Sain. Whether this new combination will be able to live up to the name of the Croatian men's quad remains to be seen.

Estonia finished fifth at the 2014 World Rowing Championships and will feature the same crew in Bled, with one change: Olympic medallist Tonu Endrekson has returned to elite competition and replaces Kaur Kuslap. The return of Endrekson brings the crew closer to the fourth-placed London Olympic crew.

M4x: Major results since 2010

Place	WRCh11	OG12	WRCh 2013	WRCh14
1	AUS	GER	CRO	UKR
2	GER	CRO	GER	GBR
3	CRO	AUS	GBR	GER
4	POL	EST	UKR	CHN
5	RUS	GBR	EST	EST
6	ITA	POL	SUI	SUI
7	GBR	NZL	ITA	CAN
8	USA	RUS	NED	USA
9	SUI	UKR	SLO	FRA
10	NZL	FRA	RUS	POL
11	UKR	ITA	CZE	RUS
12	CUB	SUI	CAN	NZL

Men's Eight (M8+):

Germany are the reigning Olympic Champions in this event, but their losses to Great Britain at the latest two editions of the World Rowing Championships means they are looking to fine-tune their line-up and have consequently entered two German men's eights for Bled.

Great Britain will not be racing in Bled, so stay on the look-out for 2014 world bronze medallists Poland. Their crew remains identical to last year's. France will also be a boat to keep a close eye on as they have shown regular A-finalist potential, with last year's boat finishing fifth at the World Rowing Championships.

M8+: Major results since 2010

<i>Place</i>	<i>WRCh11</i>	<i>OG12</i>	<i>WRCh 2013</i>	<i>WRCh14</i>
1	GER	GER	GBR	GBR
2	GBR	CAN	GER	GER
3	CAN	GBR	USA	POL
4	AUS	USA	POL	USA
5	POL	NED	NED	FRA
6	NED	AUS	FRA	RUS
7	UKR	POL	AUS	AUS
8	USA	UKR	ITA	NED
9	CZE		RUS	ITA
10	NZL		KOR	CHN
11	CHN			BLR
12	FRA			ESP

3. 2014 World Rowing Season Highlights

3.1 World Cup season summary

The 2014 World Rowing Cup series opened early with a March regatta down under for World Rowing Cup I in Sydney, Australia. The series then headed to Europe with the second of the series in Aiguebelette, France and the third in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The 2000 Olympic rowing regatta venue in Penrith, outside of Sydney tested early season speed. The headline race was the women's single sculls as the rivalry between Kim Crow (AUS) and Emma Twigg (NZL) continued. Crow had won the 2013 World Champion title, but 2014 would prove to be Twigg's year, and it all started at the first World Cup. Beating Crow in the sprint to the line, Twigg established her season status. She went on to be the only athlete in 2014 to win all three World Rowing Cups and take home the World Championship title.

Australia did not fail to please their home crowd in the women's double sculls. Olympia Aldersey and Sally Kehoe started their season with a bang by beating the reigning World Champions from Lithuania, Donata Vistartaite and Milde Valcuikaite. Australia also managed to finish first in the men's four and the women's quadruple sculls. They took full advantage of their home course and landed the top spot on the leader board for the first World Cup.

The Australian lead, however, would soon be challenged. At the second World Rowing Cup in Aiguebelette there was an impressive 22 nation medal spread. This showed that mid-way through the season, nothing was guaranteed. For many teams, it was the first international race of the season. New Zealand secured the men's and women's single sculls. The United States dominated in the women's and men's eights and everything in between was mixed.

The Sinkovic brothers from Croatia came out of the men's quadruple sculls and into the men's double sculls with great success. They held off the Azerbaijanis and the Australians to take gold.

In the women's pair the Olympic Champion crew of Helen Glover and Heather Stanning (GBR) were back together and back on form. They held off a fleet of fast competition from the United States to take the gold. For the men's pair Eric Murray and Hamish Bond (NZL) again made it look easy in winning to kick off their 2014 season.

Aiguebelette also hosted para-rowing events. Great Britain was successful with Tom Aggar back on top in the men's para AS single sculls and newcomer Rachel Morris taking silver in the women's para AS single sculls. Britain won the para LTA mixed coxed four by holding off Ukraine.

At the end of the Aiguebelette weekend which saw near perfect conditions, Australia continued to lead the World Cup points table, but New Zealand had amassed an impressive 81 points to finish in second.

The third and final World Rowing Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland saw Great Britain top the points tally. The British took gold in the women's pair, the men's four and the lightweight women's double sculls.

New Zealand won the men's and women's singles (Mahe Drysdale and Emma Twigg respectively), the men's pair (Bond and Murray) and, in a very close race, the New Zealand lightweight men's four finished ahead of the World Champion Danish crew.

The men's and women's eights saw some changes in the fields. In the absence of the United States, the women's race went to Canada. The men's eight featured the newly formed Russian crew who came in second, pushing Olympic Champions, Germany to the line.

With the series of three World Cups complete, overall New Zealand finished first on the points table for the first time, Great Britain finished second and Australia held on to third.

3.2 World Rowing Championships summary

The 2014 season wrapped up with the top athletes in the world racing at the World Rowing Championships in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The Bosbaan regatta course became the home for over 1100 competitors from 60 countries.

Racing was spread over eight days with the finals taking place on the last four days in 27 boat classes including 14 Olympic, eight international and five para-rowing boat classes.

Amsterdam will be remembered overwhelmingly for the number of new World Best Times that were set. Some of the times were just a fraction faster than the previous World Best Times while others created a whole new standard. The women's four time was demolished by an impressive 11 seconds when New Zealand beat defending World Champions, the United States.

Also rewriting the records was Eric Murray and Hamish Bond of New Zealand. They joined with coxswain Caleb Shepherd to race the men's coxed pair and in the final they won by knocking nine seconds off the former World Best Time. Murray and Bond then raced in the men's pair to claim their fifth consecutive World Championship title.

Croatia's Martin and Valent Sinkovic topped off a winning season in the men's double sculls by setting a World Best Time in their semifinal and becoming the first crew to go under six minutes in this boat class. The Sinkovic's then won the final ahead of Italy. The women's double sculls also had a new World Best Time set. Sally Kehoe and Olympia Aldersey did it in the semifinals, but then went on to finish third in the final behind New Zealand and Poland.

Olympic Champions Helen Glover and Heather Stanning (GBR) reunited to win the women's pair. Pushed by the United States and New Zealand, Glover and Stanning broke the 2003 Romanian World Best Time by three seconds to set the standard at 6:50.51.

James Thompson and John Smith became the pin-up boys for African rowing when they unleashed an almighty sprint to win the lightweight men's double sculls. From South Africa, Thompson and Smith pipped Azou and Delayre of France at the line to not only take the World Best Time that Azou and Delayre had earned earlier in the championships, but also become the new World Champions. The light women's double sculls had the standards reset by Julia Edward and Sophie MacKenzie (NZL) with the duo becoming World Champions and making the new World Best Time half a second faster.

A battle between Ukraine and Great Britain in the men's quadruple sculls ended in a Ukrainian win and a new World Best Time. The German women also set a new World Best Time in the women's quad.

Lucas Tramer and Simon Niepmann of Switzerland broke a 20-year-old World Best Time in the lightweight men's pair while Marcello Miani of Italy became the World Best Time holder by winning the lightweight men's single sculls. The lightweight men's and women's quadruple sculls World Best Time were also reset by substantial margins. The men's quad time is now in the hands of Greece and the women's time with the Netherlands.

In the blue riband women's single sculls Emma Twigg of New Zealand dethroned the reigning World Champion, Kim Crow (AUS) while Ondrej Synek of the Czech Republic held off Olympic Champion Mahe Drysdale (NZL) in the men's race. The United States women's eight won their seventh-consecutive World Championship title and Great Britain successfully defended their World Championship gold in the men's eight.

The para-rowers raced over the 1000m distance with Norway's Birgit Skarstein becoming the new golden child of the para AS women's single sculls. In the men's equivalent, Erik Horrie of Australia successfully defended his 2013 title with 2008 Paralympic Champion, Tom Aggar (GBR) working his way back onto the medals podium. Australia proved to be the top para-rowing nation by picking up two more medals - gold in the para TA mixed double sculls and silver in the para LTA mixed double sculls.

4. Best Times

4.1 World Best Times

Elite Overall Best Times				
Event	Time	Name	Date	Location
Lightweight women's single sculls	07:28.1	Romania Constata Burcica	19 Jun 94	Paris (FRA)
Lightweight women's double sculls	06:48.6	New Zealand Sophie MacKenzie, Julia Edward	30 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Lightweight women's quadruple sculls	06:16.0	Netherlands Mirte Kraaijkamp, Elisabeth Woerner, Maaïke Head, Ilse Paulis	28 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Women's single sculls	07:07.7	Bulgaria Rumyana Neykova	21 Sep 02	Seville (ESP)
Women's pair	06:50.6	Great Britain Helen Glover, Heather Stanning	30 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Women's double sculls	06:37.3	Australia Olympia Aldersey, Sally Kehoe	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Women's four	06:14.4	New Zealand Kayla Pratt, Kelsey Bevan, Grace Prendergast, Kerri Gowler	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Women's quadruple sculls	06:06.8	Germany Annekatrien Thiele, Carina Baer, Julia Lier, Lisa Schmidla	30 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Women's eight	05:54.2	United States Amanda Polk, Kerry Simmonds, Emily Regan, Laura Schmetterling, Grace Luczak, Caroline Lind, Victoria Opitz, Heidi Robbins, Katelin Snyder (cox)	14 Jul 13	Lucerne (SUI)
Lightweight men's single sculls	06:43.4	Italy Marcello Miani	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Lightweight men's pair	06:22.9	Switzerland Simon Niepmann, Lucas Tramer	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Lightweight men's double sculls	06:05.4	South Africa James Thompson, John Smith	30 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)

Lightweight men's four	05:43.2	Denmark Kasper Winther, Jacob Larsen, Jacob Barsoe, Morten Joergensen	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Lightweight men's quadruple sculls	05:42.8	Greece Georgios Konsolas, Spyridon Goannaros, Panagiotis Magdanis, Eleftherios Konsolas	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Lightweight men's eight	05:30.2	Germany Klaus Altena, Christian Dahlke, Michael Kobor, Bernard Stomporowski, Thomas Melges, Uwe Maerz, Michael Buchheit, Kai von Warburg, Olaf Kaska (cox)	13 Aug 92	Montreal (CAN)
Men's single sculls	06:33.3	New Zealand Mahe Drysdale	29 Aug 09	Poznan (POL)
Men's pair	06:08.5	New Zealand Eric Murray, Hamish Bond	28 July 12	Eton Dorney (GBR)
Men's coxed pair	06:33.3	New Zealand Eric Murray, Hamish Bond, Caleb Shepherd (cox)	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Men's double sculls	05:59.7	Croatia Martin Sinkovic, Valent Sinkovic	29 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Men's four	05:37.9	Great Britain Alex Gregory, Pete Reed, Tom James, Andrew Triggs Hodge	25 May 12	Lucerne (SUI)
Men's quadruple sculls	05:32.3	Ukraine Dmytro Mikhay, Artem Morozov, Olexandr, Ivan Dovgodko	30 Aug 14	Amsterdam (NED)
Men's eight	05:19.3	Canada Gabriel Bergen, Douglas Csima, Rob Gibson, Conlin McCabe, Malcolm Howard, Andrew Byrnes, Jeremiah Brown, Will Crothers, Brian Price (cox)	25 May 12	Lucern (SUI)

Para-rowing Best Times				
Event	Time	Name	Date	Location
AS Women's Single Sculls	05:13.950	Russia Natalia Bolshakova	28 Aug 13	Chungju (KOR)
TA Mixed Double Sculls	03:54.92	China Xiaoxian Lou, Tianming Fei	31 Aug 12	Eton Dorney (GBR)
LTA Mixed Coxed Four	03:15.91	Germany Anke Molkenthin, Astrid Hengsbach, Tino Kolitscher, Katrin Splitt, Kai Kruse,	31 Aug 12	Eton Dorney (GBR)
LTA Mixed Double Sculls	03:27.980	Ukraine Kateryna Morozova, Dmytro Aleksieiev	28 Aug 13	Chungju (KOR)

4.2 World Cup Best Times

Para-rowing Best Times				
Event	Time	Name	Date	Location
Women's Pair	6:54.80	United States Caroline Lind, Taylor Ritzel	05 May 12	Belgrade, Serbia
Men's Pair	6:16.01	New Zealand Eric Murray, Hamish Bond	23 Jun 13	Eton, Great Britain
Women's Double Sculls	6:40.41	Poland Magdalena Fularczyk, Julia Michalska	25 May 12	Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's Double Sculls	6:03.25	France Jean-Baptiste Macquet, Adrien Hardy	17 Jun 06	Poznan, Poland
Men's Four	5:37.86	Great Britain Alex Gregory, Pete Reed, Tom James, Andrew Triggs Hodge	25 May 06	Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Women's Double Sculls	6:49.43	New Zealand Louise Ayling, Julia Edward	25 May 12	Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Men's Double Sculls	6:10.02	Denmark Mads Rasmussen, Rasmus Quist	23 Jun 07	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Light Weight Men's Four	5:45.60	Denmark Thomas Ebert, Thomas Poulsen, Eskild Ebbesen, Victor Feddersen	09 Jul 99	Lucerne, Switzerland

Women's Quadruple Sculls	6:09.38	Germany Julia Richter, Carina Baer, Tina Manker, Stephanie Schiller	25 May 12	Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's Quadruple Sculls	5:33.15	Russia Vladislav Ryabcev, Alexey Svirin, Nikita Morgachev, Sergey Fedorovtsev	25 May 12	Lucerne, Switzerland
Women's Single Sculls	7:14.12	Germany Katrin Rutschow	13 Jul 03	Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's Single Sculls	6:33.68	Germany Marcel Hacker	27 May 11	Munich, Germany
Women's Eight	5:54.16	United States Amanda Mandy Polk, Kerry Simmonds, Emily Regan, Lauren Schmetterling, Grace Luczak, Caroline Lind, Victoria Opitz, Heidi Robbins, Katelin Snyder	14 Jul 13	Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's Eight	5:19.35	Canada Gabriel Bergen, Douglas Csimas, Rob Gibson, Conlin McCabe, Malcolm Howard, Andrew Byrnes, Jeremiah Brown, Will Crothers, Brian Price	25 May 12	Lucerne, Switzerland
Women's Four	6:30.74	Australia Julia Wilson, Kyeema Doyle, Victoria Roberts, Monique Heinke	13 Jul 03	Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's Coxed Pair	6:59.22	Germany Lars Krisch, Andreas Werner, Claus Mueller-Gattermann	03 Aug 02	Munich, Germany
Lightweight Men's Single Sculls	6:50.65	Netherlands Jaap Schouten	21 Jun 08	Poznan, Poland
Lightweight Women's Single Sculls	7:28.15	Romania Constanta Burcica	19 Jun 94	Paris, France

Lightweight Men's Eight	5:38.67	Germany Bastian Seibt, Martin Raeder, Joachim Drews, Martin Hasse, Carsten Borchardt, Birger Schmidt, Matthias Hobein, Christian Dahlke, Olaf Kaska	13 Jul 03	Lucerne, Switzerland
Lightweight Men's Pair	6:26.21	Ireland Neville Maxwell, Tony O'Connor	19 Jun 94	Paris, France
Light Weight Women's Quadruple Sculls	6:28.44	Great Britain Sophie Hosking, Andrea Dennis, Laura Greenhalgh, Jane Hall	21 Jun 08	Poznan, Poland
Light Weight Men's Quadruple Sculls	5:49.93	France Pierre-Etienne Pollez, Fabrice Moreau, Jeremie Azou, Remi Di Girolamo	21 Jun 08	Poznan, Poland

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Parmigiani Spirit Award

This year marks the third year of the Parmigiani Spirit Award. The award is open to university rowers worldwide and is sponsored by Swiss watchmaker, Parmigiani Fleurier. The award is designed to encapsulate rowing's core values - teamwork, fairness, natural, inclusive and enduring - and to recognise the achievements of our next generation of rowers.

In 2014, nominations were received from around the world with Franz Gravenhorst, a PhD student in electrical engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland winning the award. A German national rowing team member, Gravenhorst has taken an active part in the organisational side of rowing. He is responsible for weekly rowing courses and instructs at the Zurich Universities Sports Association as well as organising an annual rowing camp which is open to all students in Zurich.

Gravenhorst's PhD is based on two projects. One has the goal to improve the healthcare situation for people with mental illness by developing monitoring technology and the other addresses the development of measurement tools for rowing technique using wireless sensors to track the angles of the rowing oar in combination with the movement of the rower.

The award earns Gravenhorst a hand-crafted Parmigiani Fleurier watch and a custom-built top-of-the-range Filippi eight racing shell for his rowing club. The boat is named 'Parmigiani Spirit 2014.'

A panel of judges including New Zealand's Olympic men's single sculling champion Mahe Drysdale, FISA council representative Lenka Wech, Parmigiani Fleurier CEO Jean-Marc Jacot and FISA President Jean-Christophe Rolland decided the 2014 winner.

The inaugural winner was James Cook, an engineering student from the University College of London, Great Britain. Cook chose for the Filippi eight to go to the women's crew at his club and they promptly started recording impressive results.

Nominations for the 2015 Parmigiani Spirit Award can be made during May and June at: <http://www.worldrowing.com/athletes/parmigiani-spirit-award>

Parmigiani Fleurier joins World Rowing in supporting all young rowing scholars around the world.

