



Challenge Prince Albert II

Saturday 27 November 2021

A very sporty first day



©Eric Marie - MegAviron

The sea was milder than expected but the conditions on the first day of the race of this sixteenth edition of the Challenge Prince Albert II were Dantesque.

The rowers of the 18 teams coming from all over Europe had to face sea waves of one and a half metres made even more difficult by gusts of up to thirty knots.

These conditions did not dampen the enthusiasm of some of Europe's best rowers, Olympic medallists, world champions and European champions.

They competed in a new race mode, without penalties, between strictly mixed teams formed by affinity, where each race earns points for the final ranking. A format that aroused palpable enthusiasm in a competition of an excellent level.

The men's solos opened the ball, followed by the mixed doubles and then the women's solos. After a lunch break during which the wind picked up, the mixed fours race started in a stormy sea. A close race with a breathless finish in a handkerchief which saw Team Côte d'Azur cross the finish line first, ahead of Concorde and Filippi Spain Rowing Team.

The champions, often more accustomed to the calm of the pools in single-handed racing, had to show their adaptability to the Mediterranean on Saturday 27th, but it was the rowers who were used to the sea who came out on top, as they know how to read the sea and anticipate its movements and its whims.

At the end of these four races, thanks to a points system borrowed from Formula 1, the Filippi Spain Rowing Team came out on top of the general ranking with 62 points, ahead of the Team Côte d'Azur with 58 points and the Ukrainians from Concorde with 52 points.