

The Grand Finale – Around the Island Race at the Caribbean Foiling Championships

As Sunday, December 10 approached, anticipation filled the air for the renowned Around the Island Race—an event that promised a spectacular showcase of skill and determination.

Wingfoil Triumphs

Mahe Thebault (Guadeloupe, Wingfoil Pro) engaged in thrilling competition with Anthony Smith (Martinique, Wingfoil Pro) over the past three racing days. Mahe clinched first place after a remarkable performance in the ‘Half Way Around the Island Race.’ Not stopping there, he continued the race, completing a full circle of the island. Mahe shared, *“I really wanted to fully go Around the Island, and I made it! Lots of muscle soreness, but it was worth it!”*. He secured the title of the second Wingfoiler ever to complete the full Around the Island Race, setting an ‘unofficial new record’ for his discipline at 2 hours, 16 minutes, and 40 seconds.

Manon Dupe (Guadeloupe, Wingfoil Pro), accompanied by her father, Frederic Dupe, participated for the second time in the event. Braving the wind, Manon finished at Belmond – La Samanna, Baie Longue, ranking 7th in her class. Manon expressed, *“This was a cool race and great to practice different skills. I am very happy as I was the first woman to cross the finish line!”* Manon Dupe received the award for the best female foiler of the event, thanks to her long-distance result.

Wingfoil Leisure Class

For the Leisure Class, reaching the finish line was an achievement for most, as 7 out of 26 wingfoilers did not make it. Valerie Boyer (St. Martin, Wingfoil Leisure) shared her experience, saying, *“This event has been an amazing experience, and I have learned so much! Next year I will make it to the end of the long-distance race—a great goal to practice lots.”*

Kitefoil Challenge

Julien Quantel (St. Martin, Kitefoil Pro), the record holder of the Around the Island Race set in 2021, entered the race with caution. He stated, *“I will try to win this race, but I am not sure if I can beat my previously set record. The weather conditions are different, and top priority is to keep everything intact so that I can win this race!”* Julien came in first over the finish line in 1 hour and 15 minutes, falling short of beating his own seemingly unbreakable record by 3 minutes.

Windfoil Dominance

In the Windfoil Pro Class, Lucas Marot (St. Barths, Windfoil Race) emerged victorious. Despite being in the middle of the pack after Friday and Saturday’s races, Lucas expressed, *“The Around the Island Race is the race where I am coming for, and I have something to uphold as in 2021 I came in first in my class as well!”* He delivered on his goal, securing the first position during the Around the Island Race.

Maximum Security for the Around the Island Race

Ensuring the safety of all riders took precedence. Safety boats were strategically placed around the island, and all riders were geolocated in real time with a sim card provided by Dauphin Telecom. Two riders had to be rescued due to gear issues and fatigue, but no physical incidents were reported.

Sacha van der Wouden and Maxim van den Pol, the organizers, extend their heartfelt gratitude to all sponsors and supporters for their invaluable contributions that brought the fourth edition of the Caribbean Foiling Championships to life. They express thanks to those who played vital roles in managing logistics and safety, the dedicated volunteers, competitors who traveled from various islands and countries, and Club Wind Adventures (Orient Bay) for providing an incredible location. With conviction, they believe that this event brings positivity not only to the island but also to the Caribbean at large!

For all results please see here: <https://caribbeanfoiling.com/st-martin/results/>

Kitefoil Pro

Overall

1. Julien Quentel
2. Sasha Letthulier
3. Willan Dolmin

Around the Island

1. Julien Quentel (1h15m0s)
2. Frank Balvay (1h50m0s)
3. Aurelie Garreau (1h58m15s)

Windfoil Pro

Overall

1. Neels Pechoux
2. Clement Jeanjean
3. Raphael Payen

Around the Island

1. Lucas Marot (1h56m47s / *New Record Windfoil*)
2. Clement Jeanjean (2h0m30s)
3. Raphael Payen (2h13m31s)

Windfoil Pro

Overall

1. Eric Parmentier

Wingfoil Pro

Overall

1. Mahe Thebault
2. Anthony Smith
3. Arthur Thebault

Halfway Around the Island

1. Mahe Thebault (53m0s) *Unofficial Around the Island Record Wingfoil* (2h16m40s)
2. Arthur Thebault (56m30s)
3. Solenn Gall (58m54s)

Wingfoil Leisure

Overall

1. Miguel Mage
2. Pierre Cougny
3. Alex Parmentier

Halfway Around the Island

1. Miguel Mage (1h51m)
2. Quentin de Rosny (1h56m)
3. Pierre Cougny (1h57m)

The Caribbean Foiling Championships will celebrate its fourth edition in 2023. This new and innovative event will offer three days of racing for professional as well as leisure kite-, wind- and wingfoilers! With trade winds, crystal clear waters and an everyday sunshine, this island paradise is the perfect setting for this one-of-a-kind event. Come and join the biggest foiling event in the Caribbean!