

TRAVE MÜNDE WOCHE #137

RS Games 2026 – RS500 Europeans

A **total of 48 sailors representing eight countries travelled** to Travemünde for the RS500 Europeans. Entries came from **Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the UK and the host nation, Germany** and they weren't to be disappointed by the conditions. Despite rumours suggesting it was generally light in the region at this time of year, the 500-class had what widely turned out to be the best (and most challenging) of the two weeks weather. Sailing on Bravo course some six miles off the launch beach, the class would get accustomed to the daily trek there and back.

With the Race Officer and mark layers having the breeze **drag the spreader mark some 200 metres from its anchor point on the first day**, racers were prevented from any early decision to gybe and three laps on the opening Saturday was considered by most, to be tough but fun and it would **remain that way for four of the five days racing**.



Apart from a benign Tuesday that only saw one race held, sailors spent the day on the beach mainly playing volleyball but also rescuing a local yachtsman who was hellbent on driving his heavily sand banked yacht further aground. Four 500 sailors, including our two Draycote sailors swam out and turned his boat around to 'rescue his family'. He must have wondered who these guys were that suddenly started climbing up the side of his locally registered yacht!

As for the results, the top four Europeans were all British with Paul Cullen and Fresh Abendstern going one step further in each of the past three years, former World Champions, Peter & James Curtis came 2nd, Hugh & Luke Watson 3rd and multiple National & World Champions Tim & Heather Wilkins 4th.

Nigel & Aaron posted their personal best result in these Championships to-date, completing all but two races **securing a 24th out of 48** and were **the last boat to suffer a capsize of the regatta on the final day's racing** (with a DNC and a 'wise' DNF).

The 500 class is once again growing in the UK and Nigel and Aaron will happily chat to anyone looking to get into the class ahead of a **monumental Festival of Sailing in 2027**.

