

**Seu Social**

Carrer En Joan Fuster, 4.12 – Burjassot 46100 CIF:G-96.821.244

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## AREA DE PRENSA

### BURJASSOT CONFIRMS ITS STATUS AS A GLOBAL ULTRARUNNING HUB WITH A THRILLING SIX-RACE EVENT

Burjassot (Valencia, Spain) once again took center stage in the international ultrarunning scene during the weekend of March 27–29, hosting the sixth edition of its renowned ultradistance event. The competition reached a new milestone this year with the awarding of **IAU Gold Label status** (World Athletics) to the 50 km and 100 km races, alongside the introduction of a Silver Label for the 6-hour race, while maintaining Bronze status for the remaining events.

The event featured an ambitious multi-race format, bringing together six disciplines—50 km, 100 km, 6 hours, 12 hours, 24 hours, and 48 hours—on a World Athletics-certified road circuit in the city. With participation from athletes representing 25 nationalities, the competition reaffirmed Burjassot's growing international prestige.



This is an official event in the International Calendar of the Royal Spanish Athletics Federation, recognized by the IAU.

This year, the 48-hour distance was held again, featuring an outstanding lineup of athletes despite coinciding with the GOMU 48h World Competition (a private association).

The World Athletics-certified circuit was located between Avenida dels Esports and Avenida Vicent Andrés Estellés, with the first race starting at 12:00 PM on Friday, March 27.

The different race starts were attended by the Councillor for Health, **Isabel Mora**, and the President of C.A. Els Sitges, **Eduardo L. Gómez**, as well as **Carmen Yolanda Jiménez**, IAU Delegate. She was also present at the finish line. Among the most prominent participants were many 24-hour international athletes. International athletes were a key feature of all the events, with up to 25 nationalities competing in the streets of Burjassot.

Finally, among the final results in the **48-hour race**, two women stood out in an extraordinary way: on the one hand, the British runner **Michelle Whaite** (Lonely Goats RC), and on the other, the Estonian **Julia Rakitina**. Whaite's marathon time of 3 hours and 28 minutes was already more than surprising, revealing her intentions (a qualifying time for the Spartathlon). But she maintained that pace until the 100-mile mark and accumulated three Grand Prix Records throughout the race (12 hours, 24 hours, and 100 miles), even passing the 100km mark in under 9 hours! As expected, after passing the 100-mile mark, she took the opportunity to slow her pace, although she remained the absolute leader until the 30-hour mark, when she decided to stop to rest and then set off again in the final part of the race to secure a place on the podium, finishing third. On the other hand, Estonian Rakitina started at a steady pace, maintaining a very consistent rhythm from the first split of the Marathon. She alternated between second and third place with the leading male athlete, although by the 9th hour she had already moved into second position, which she only relinquished at the 30-hour mark when she took the lead and held it until the end of the race, winning the overall race and setting a new Burjassot Grand Prix Record with 327.723 km. The second position on the women's podium ultimately went to Lithuanian **Ugne Mirauskaite** with 301.309 km. Third place went to the aforementioned Michelle White with 289.185 km. Of note, it should be mentioned that the first three athletes broke the previous course record held by the British Sandra Brown in the 2015 edition. Fourth-

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place finisher **Karlotta Oskarsdóttir** (Ultraform) also achieved a personal best, setting a new Icelandic National Record, leaving it at 237.187 km.

In the Men's Category, **Ginés Maciá** (Los Machaca Piedras) maintained a close battle throughout the race with Dane **Michael de Oliveira Vorbeck** (SGI Lob). When the Spanish athlete stopped at the rest area, De Oliveira took advantage of the opportunity to try and close the gap, but Maciá played a constant cat-and-mouse game... Every time he narrowed the gap, De Oliveira surged forward again to increase his lead. Ultimately, Ginés Maciá prevailed with 322.713 km, setting a new National Record in his Masters category, ahead of the Dane's 301.873 km (the British Lawson's record was never in danger). They were joined on the podium by local athlete **Juan Arquiola** (Club D'Atletisme Els Sitges), who improved his personal best with an impressive 285.338 km, establishing the second-best mark of all time in his Masters category. Also noteworthy is the presence of the veteran athlete from C.A.Els Sitges, **Ricardo Vidán**, who at 84 years old achieved 128,660 km.

In the **100km race**, **Oscar Buján** from Asturias (Vino de Toro), **Erik Olofsson** from Sweden (IF Mantra Sport), **Iñaki Jiménez** from San Sebastián (Ixilpen), **Fran Calabuig** from Valencia (C.A.Els Sitges), and **Koldo Aguirre** from the Basque Country (Bealak) took off like a shot, all in search of getting closer to the minimum qualifying time for the 100km World Championships on September 20th in Ames (A Coruña). Their marathon time of 3h.19' suggested a great result, but unfortunately, discomfort after the effort made just seven days earlier in the 100k National Championships in Malaga caused Buján to give up and ultimately opt for withdrawal, as did Olofsson from Sweden. From that moment on, Jiménez took control of the race, setting a **new Grand Prix record for 50 miles**. Meanwhile, Finland's **Antti Hyttinen** (Vaajakosken Kuohu) gradually closed the gap on the leading group, eventually reaching podium positions. Ultimately, Jiménez crossed the finish line first with a time of 7 hours and 12 minutes, followed by Hyttinen and local athlete Calabuig.

In the women's category, **Alba María Reguillo** (Green Power) dominated from the start, even passing the 50k mark in 3 hours, 41 minutes, and 15 seconds, aiming for the coveted qualifying time for the World Championships in Ames. However, her hamstrings gave out, forcing her to withdraw. The victory went to **Marta Comalat** (Ultrafondo Cantabria), who was the standout performer of the race.

In the **50km race**, **Rafa Durán** (Green Power) won with a time of 3h 31'19", followed by Romanian **Bogdan Todea** (Pista de Lansare) in second place and **Gonzalo Montesinos** (C.A. Tortuga Algemesí) in third. In the women's category, **Marta Muñoz** (Paterna Runners) edged out **Ester Sáez** in a hard-fought race.

At 12:00. On Saturday morning, the starting gun fired, kicking off the **24-hour race**. Two athletes once again finished with distances exceeding 200 km, with **Mario Martín-Romo** (Tierra Trágame) and **Josep Navarro** (Rickysportteam Alzira) standing out. However, it was the Italian **Claudio di Pietro** (Green Power) who was one of the most active runners in the early stages, leading by more than twelve kilometers after 12 hours and maintaining his position until the 15-hour mark. Martín-Romo then took over the lead until the finish. In the women's category, German athlete **Tina Günther** achieved a resounding victory with 192.633 km, finishing third overall. Swedish athlete **Jenny Lindroth** (Stockholm Gerillalöpare) finished second with 176.899 km, while the Czech athlete finished third. **Marcela Marsalkova** (110 Kms).

In **12 hours race**, Ukrainian **Andrii Palamarchuk** (a regular in Burjassot) clearly won, dominating from start to finish, covering a good 126.477 km, more than 10 km ahead of his closest pursuers; meanwhile, in the women's category, the presence and victory of the very young Serbian **Tiana Sebok** (Paligo Palusz Palics) was surprising, with an 18 km advantage over her pursuers.

In the **6-hour race**, it was already anticipated that the presence of **Alberto Plazas** (Torres de Cotillas) and **Pedro Serna** (Rajaos Runners) would lead to a fierce battle for the podium. Any doubts were dispelled when Serna dropped out at kilometer 33, securing an undeniable victory for Plazas with 82.167 kilometers. The women's race was won by Australian **Tia Jones**, who reached 62.575 kilometers, with **Cristina Vallés** (Green Power) in second place with 58.830 kilometers. The podium was completed in third place by the tenacious Valencian athlete **Marta Lozano** (The Kenyan Urban Way).

In this edition of the Ultrafondo, we had up to twelve athletes from the local club, and a total of 25 nationalities (Spain, France, Portugal, Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, Bulgaria, Denmark, Australia, Norway, Serbia, Estonia, Lithuania, Iceland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, Argentina, United Kingdom, Italy, Brazil and Germany), which gives us an idea of the internationalization of our race.

Beyond the elite performances, the event also stood out for its human stories and inclusive spirit, including veteran athletes over 80 years old.

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An exciting weekend of pure ultramarathon, where we witnessed truly inspiring human stories: a father who completed the 48-hour race and his daughter who debuted in the 24-hour race; an athlete who was disqualified from the 2023 Spanish Championship for helping a runner who became dizzy at the finish line and who returned to Burjassot to redeem himself; two athletes over 80 years old who competed in the 48-hour race and whose inspiring personal stories enriched the competition.

Without a doubt, it was an intense day of ultramarathon running, thanks to the tremendous work and effort of the volunteers (athletes from the organizing club). For 48 hours, the ultramarathon spirit was brought to the streets of Burjassot, and we always have the support of the City Council and our sponsors. This great event is rapidly gaining ground on the international calendar, placing the town at the epicenter of international ultramarathon running.

Supported by local authorities, volunteers, and sponsors, the Burjassot ultradistance event continues to strengthen its position on the global calendar, attracting top-level athletes and reinforcing its reputation as a key destination for ultrarunning worldwide.

### RECORD'S OF THE BURJASSOT CITY GRAND PRIX 2026

PBA RACE	ATLETA / ATHLETE		SEXO	F.NAC.	CAT.	CLUB / TEAM	MARCA
48 h.	Julia	Rakitina	F	11/06/1980	F45	Independiente (EST)	327,723
50 Mi	Iñaki	Jiménez sorron	M	04/02/1985	M40	Ixilpen	5:40:15
24 h.	Michelle	White	F	30/03/1972	F50	Lonely Goats RC (GBR)	206,009
12 h.	Michelle	White	F	30/03/1972	F50	Lonely Goats RC (GBR)	131,852
100 Mi	Michelle	White	F	30/03/1972	F50	Lonely Goats RC (GBR)	14:53:44
200 Mi	Julia	Rakitina	F	11/06/1980	F45	Independiente (EST)	46:53:17
200 Mi	Gines	Macia Molina	M	24/08/1972	M50	Los MachacaPiedras	47:52:36

### NATIONAL RECORD OF THE BURJASSOT CITY GRAND PRIX 2026

PBA RACE	ATLETA / ATHLETE		SEXO	F.NAC.	CAT.	CLUB / TEAM	MARCA
RN 48h.	Karlotta	Oskarsdóttir	F	29/03/2026	F45	Independiente (ISL)	237,186



#### Media Contact & Information

More information: <https://elssitges.com>

Live results: <https://elssitges.com/ultra2026/index.html>

Streaming: <https://youtube.com/@clubatletismoelssitges1160>

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Ajuntament de  
Burjassot



Comunitat Valenciana  
**COMUNITAT  
DE L'ESPORT**



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Camilo Miralles  
*tejidos de seda*



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