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Scuttlebutt Europe #828 - 10 October 2005

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TRANSAT 6.50 CHARENTE-MARITIME/BAHIA

Saturday at 1731 local time in Lanzarote, the Mini 6.50 fleet departed on the second leg of the Transat 6.50 Charente-Maritime/Bahia. Their destination: El Salvador de Bahia Brasil. Departure from the marina took a bit longer than expected, delaying the scheduled start for the 70 boats for 14 minutes.

After nearly two weeks' rest at the marina in Lanzarote, the skippers were off in an 8 knot breeze generated by a depression centered on Madeira. The next passage mark is Cape Verde island, nearly 900 miles away.

The fleet is divided into three groups: one which is travelling on the eastern shore of Fuertaventura, one on the western shore, and a final group which has gone farther West.

It is uncertain at this time which path will be the best, as among the leaders there are Corentin Douget on the eastern coast path, Sebastien Gladu, Yves le Vlevec and Phil Sharp on the western coast.

Top ten positions at 1600 French time Sunday 9 October

1. Alex Pella, Open Sea/ Team Work, Proto
2. Yves Le Blevec, Point Mariage, Proto
3. Corentin Douguet, E. Leclerc / Bouygues Telecom, Proto
4. David Lancry, Areas Assurances, proto
5. Sebastien Gladu, Armor Lux, proto
6. Andrea Caraccic, Speedy Bonsai, Proto
7. Juan Carlos Sanchis Mari, Spasmos, Proto
8. Sebastien Mesure, Cultisol-Marins Sans Frontieres, Series
9. Adam Currier, Satech, Proto
10. Mathieu Sannie, LPO Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, Series

www.transat650.org

ALINGHI WINS LOUIS VUITTON ACT 9, TAKING FIVE OF SIX ACTS IN 2005

Trapani, Italy: There was everything to play for on the last day of racing in the 2005 America's Cup season. The final race would decide the winner of the Trapani Louis Vuitton Act 9, and while Alinghi had a stranglehold on the America's Cup Class Season Championship, teams were fighting to finish as well as possible in Act 9 to boost their position on the season championship leaderboard.

The final run to the finish was incredibly tight, with the Spanish boat nosing ahead of BMW ORACLE Racing in a 'photo' finish. Alinghi was third, a good enough result for it to claim the top of the leaderboard on the tie-break.

In terms of the America's Cup Class Season Championship, with five wins in six Acts, Alinghi is the class of the fleet. BMW ORACLE Racing and Emirates Team New Zealand are fully 10 points in arrears, with the Kiwis getting the nod for second place by virtue of beating the Americans in two of their three match races this year. Luna Rossa is fourth, followed by Desafio Español and Victory Challenge. The French K-Challenge sneaks ahead of +39 Challenge on a tie break. -- Marcus Hutchinson

* The fleet racing of the Trapani Louis Vuitton Act 9 was not kind to the team members of K-Challenge. Indeed, the team was not able to take part in the last race today because of a crack in the boom that appeared 30 minutes before the start. The wind and sea conditions made it too difficult to bring a replacement out to the race course. -- Stephanie Nadin

Trapani Louis Vuitton Act 9 - Provisional Results And Leaderboard

** scoring is a high point system, with the winning team earning 12 points, second place - 11 points and so on.

1. Alinghi, SUI, 56 points
2. BMW ORACLE Racing, USA, 56
3. Emirates Team New Zealand, NZL, 46
4. Desafio Español, ESP, 40
5. Team Shosholoza, RSA, 37
6. Luna Rossa Challenge, ITA, 34
7. +39 Challenge, ITA, 26
8. Victory Challenge, SWE, 24
9. United Internet Team Germany, GER, 22
10. Mascalzone Latino-Capitalia Team, ITA, 19
11. China Team, CHN, 16
12. K-Challenge, FRA, 12

www.americascup.com

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BARCOLANA 37: PROVINCIA DI... (SKANDIA) WITH BRESSANI WINS

Barcolana 37 has been the fastest in racing history; the winner set the record time of 58'20": Trieste, Provincia diŠ (internationally known as Skandia, the yacht that won the Sydney-Hobart race in 2003, Australia, and came in second a few months ago at the Rolex Fastnet Race, chartered for the occasion by a group of Triestine sailors) the maxi yacht with Lorenzo Bressani at the helm and Furio Benussi as tactician has cut down the record set by Cometa in 2001 of about 16min and 40 seconds on the 17-mile triangular course, beating Slovenia's Maxi Jena, with Mitja Kosmina at the helm, and Shining with helmsman Lorenzo Bodini.

The race was characterized by a strong Bora wind with gusts between 30 and 35 knots at the start (it later calmed down a little to 20 knots) and by the usual huge participation of 1725 boats at the start of this sea festival which takes place every second Sunday of October and attracts many sailing enthusiasts to Trieste.

It has definitely been one of the best and most technical regattas over the last ten years with a strong wind which forced the Organizing Committee of the Società Velica di Barcola e Grignano to exclude the "Passere" category from the competition. They are small boats entirely built in wood which would not have been able to cope with strong gusts of wind.

The race started after the traditional three gun shots at the start line offshore Barcola at 10.00 o'clock sharp. The favourite Trieste, Provincia diŠ took the lead straight away hoisting the gennaker with a brave and technically perfect manoeuvre and thus leaving the opponents behind, in particular Maxi Jena. The crew consisting of mostly Triestine sailors gained half a mile in the first three minutes of race. An advantage which was already clear after half of the first leg sailed close hauled.

Behind came the Slovenians of Maxi Jena who tried to catch up hoisting different fore sails, and other large yachts such as Shining, Esimit (helmsman Branko Brcin), historic Veliki Viharnik with Dusan Puh at the helm and Cometa.

The rest of the fleet scattered across the Gulf in about 20 minutes on the first lap providing almost 200 thousand spectators, located on the many strategic viewpoints along the coast, with a wonderful sight, one of the best over the last years.

While small boats were reaching the first buoy, Trieste Provincia di Šhad already crossed the finish line in record time, after leaving the Slovenian rival more than 1 kilometre behind on the second leg. After Maxi Jena another Triestine helmsman Lorenzo Bodini on Shining crossed the finish line third. --

www.my-pressbox.com/barcolana

Event site: www.barcolana.it

LES VOILES DE SAINT-TROPEZ

Comfortably in the lead in the IRC-A tables, Lindsay Owen Jones (Orlanda) had simply to sail his own race today and leave the two runners-up, Roel Pieper (Favonius) and James Carroll (Black Dragon) free to go for broke whenever the opportunity might arise.

And the two Challengers duly obliged in the first fast reach across the Gulf of Saint Tropez under a north-north-west wind. Black Dragon, in the shadow of the ultra-fast and ultra powerful Mari-Cha was the first to anticipate the strange cone of windless calm situated off Les Issambres, right on the course towards the Lion de Mer buoy. With a man posted in the mast, the big black Reichel-Pugh design began a frantic series of tacks through the flat calm, soon imitated by Atalanta II (Farr 70).

While the giants Velsheda and Mari Cha were struggling to get free of the light airs, James Carroll and his crew found the north-easterly breeze coming down from the Estérel and were able to accelerate towards Fréjus. Favonius and Mean Machine (Peter de Ridder) had broken off the engagement long before, seeking more wind out at sea. A pretty fifteen-minutes of match-racing with the nervous tension invariably provoked by light winds, then a sudden acceleration, reaching under the fresh breeze from the summits. As time went by Aeolus totally deserted the area, forcing the race committee to reduce the course and establish the finish line at the entrance to the Gulf.

The unbeatable Mari Cha with her stiff handicap was first, but Atalanta II made the best of the situation by heading Favonius despite the latter's fast return leg.

First to cross this new line in IRC Class C, Franck Noël of the SN Genève put the finishing touch to a week of success: his Grand Soleil 42 won 5 races - out of 5 starts!

Full results at www.snst.org

LASER WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Fortaleza, Brazil: Although several of the age groups had already been won and the race leaders took a welcome rest after a tough week of racing there was still plenty of competition for the runner places.

The glory of a race win or just beating the sailor who had been in front of you for most of the races was enough to keep everyone going for the final two races sailed in 20 to 22 knots easing to 15 knots for the final race.

Kerry Waraker AUS wrapped the Great Grand Masters division (over 65 years) with another second behind series runner up Peter Seidenberg USA.

In the remaining category still to be decided Mark Orams NZL reversed the positions of the 2002 championship when he led Steve Cockerill GBR from start to finish.

In spite of the tropical air and sea temperatures this has been one of the toughest Masters Championships ever held with no races under 15 knots and always big waves demanding total concentration. The 3 message tables have been in constant use and even the well prepared are now looking forward to a rest. However everyone is already talking about the next championship to be held in Jeju, Korea. -- Jeff Martin

Top three by fleet:

Masters

1. Murray Thom, NZL, 11

2. Peter Conde, AUS, 28
3. Kurt Miller, USA, 38

Apprentice Masters

1. Brett Beyer, AUS, 9
2. Xavier Leclair, FRA, 17
3. Scott Ferguson, USA, 30

Grand Masters

1. Mark Bethwaite, AUS, 11
2. Nicolas Livingstone, GBR, 22
3. Keith Wilkins, GBR, 36

Great Grand Masters

1. Kerry Waraker, AUS, 13
2. Peter Seidenberg, USA, 22
3. Denis O'Sullivan, IRL, 31

Full results and photos: www.2005laserworlds.com.br/results.html

CHRIS LAW WINS 3rd ANNUAL ANNAPOLIS VOLVO SENATOR'S CUP

Annapolis, Maryland, USA: With remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy lingering long enough over the Mid-Atlantic coast to produce two solid days and nights of torrential rain and winds to over 30 knots, event organizers of the 3rd Annual Annapolis Volvo Senator's Cup were forced to decide the outcome after Match 3 in favor of England's Chris Law who was leading local-based New Zealander Gavin Brady 2-1 after Friday's competition.

Racing in the event started on Thursday, with a practice round held in light air to warm up the crews followed by a fun promotional race, with Andrzej and Gosia Rojek's Swan 45 'Better Than' finishing barely a boatlength ahead of Steve DeVoe's 'Devocean.'

Friday's race action started with Chris Law winning the first match after holding off an attack from Gavin Brady on the first spinnaker run. But building breeze and waves in the Severn River prompted organizers to call off use of spinnakers for Matches 2 and 3. This did not diminish, however, the closeness of the action, as these two America's Cup veteran helmsmen using mostly local crew talent traded results in the remaining matches, with Brady winning and successfully defending the favored right side of the course to win Match 2, and Law capitalizing on a navigational error made by Brady to overcome a penalty and go on to win Match 3.

With monsoon-like conditions persisting throughout the day, Principal Race Officer Dick Neville of the Storm Trysail Club and Chief Umpire Jim Capron decided to terminate racing rather than risk damage to boats or crews.

All proceeds from Senator's Cup are used to support local charities, including Box of Rain, a year-round program designed to inspire and encourage Annapolis area youth. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Special Olympics of Maryland also receive support from the event. -- Dobbs Davis

www.senatorscup.com

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CREWS ANNOUNCED FOR THE ROUND BRITAIN AND IRELAND CHALLENGE

The crews for the Round Britain and Ireland Challenge were announced today in Southampton, UK kicking off the start of Race Week for the voyagers, who will take to the start line next Saturday (15th October 2005).

Sir Chay Blyth welcomed crew to the Challenge Business marquee in Ocean Village and introduced them to the skippers for the third generation of this fiercely demanding two-week circumnavigation of Britain and Ireland.

This time round the race is also going to be run under affiliation of the RYA. Another change to the event is that the yachts in the Round Britain and Ireland Challenge 2005 will each be headed by a professional skipper and assisted by two professional mates.

The skippers for the race are: 36 year-old Marcus Chorleton assisted by Adam Tuffnell, 29 and Kent Cassels, 48; 40 year-old Des Harvey with Steve Durkin, 22 and Andy Buchanan, 26; 36 year-old Will Otton racing with Ricky Chalmers, 45 and Matthew Barnes, 35; 31 year-old John Quigley with mates Corrie McQueen, 26 and David Albury, 31 and last but by no means least 28 year-old Martin Wild who will be sailing with Duncan Jubb, 30 and Kelly Robinson, 24.

A full line up of events and activities is planned for Race Start Week, before the yachts assemble at the start line for an 11am start on Saturday 15th October. -- Rachel Anning

www.roundbritainchallenge.com

XVI IMPERIA WINTER REGATTA

Imperia, Italy: More than 200 are boats expected at 2005 IWR December 8th,9th,10th,11th, coming from different Countries. Imperia Winter Regatta is a four days event, hosted by Porto Maurizio Yacht Club and Lega Navale Italiana in the town of Imperia, in North West Italy.

Now at 16th edition, IWR is an official ISAF international event since 2002, and starting this year, has been also classified as Grade 3 ranked event for 470 international class.

The event will start on 8th December, with the registration day and the Opening ceremony on late afternoon. Ten races are scheduled during the following three days.

Last year the event saw 165 boats across the three classes: with seven nations represented, the biggest fleet was the 107-boat 420 fleet, but very interesting was also the

32-boats 470 fleet, with 5 nations represented.

See www.pmyc.it/iwr

CONRAD HUMPHREYS RACING IN NEW VOLVO EXTREME 40 CIRCUIT

Plymouth, UK: Conrad Humphreys Racing has announced that it will enter a British team in the Volvo Extreme 40 (VX40) grand prix circuit during 2005-06. The Great Britain VX40, which is sponsored by Motorola, will be skippered by Humphreys and includes Team GBR members Leigh McMillan and Will Howden, both British hopefuls for Beijing 2008 and Global Challenge winning navigator Hamish Oliphant.

The Motorola-Humphreys VX40 is a 40ft one-design multihull that has been designed for fast-paced inshore grand prix racing. The new circuit which will be held during some of the Volvo Ocean Race 2005-06 stopovers, including Spain, Brazil, US, UK and Holland. The first grand prix starts in Sanxenxo, Spain, during the first week of November.

Humphreys will compete in both the IMOCA Open 60 and the VX40 grand prix circuits in 2005-06. -- Vikki Cheung

www.conradhumphreysracing.com

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Brokerage through Burin Yachting Club: yachtworld.com/burin-club

Complete listing details and seller contact information at
www.boats.com/listing/boat_details.jsp?entityid=14468661

THE LAST WORD

Before we set our hearts too much upon anything, let us examine how happy those are who already possess it. -- Francois de La Rochefoucauld

