From April 6th to 11th, 2010 - Marseille
www.matchracefrance.com / www.worldmatchracingtour.com
1st STAGE OF MATCH RACING TOUR 2010

Press Communication n°10 –Sunday, 11th April 2010

Richard's consecration

Mathieu Richard has fought like a lion. The Nantes resident's crew won Match Race France, the event held in Marseilles over five days. After having eliminated Italian Francesco Bruni this morning in the semifinals, he won against Briton Ben Ainslie this afternoon, in two matches. The last duels were fought in a Westerly 3-10 knots, that turned from NW to SW. The suspense was shared with the audience on the shore. Being the opening of the World Match Racing Tour, the competition organised by Yachting Club Pointe Rouge has acquired an importance that cannot be ignored. Mathieu Richard has already stood out in Marseilles in 2008.

"Go Marseilles !" shouted Mathieu Richard during the Prize giving ceremony, at Escale Borély. Yes, he can relax now, as he has won the Marseilles crown, which was once more highly-coveted. Twelve skippers were in competition to start the match racing season "*The level was very high. It gives value to the victory"* simply commented Mathieu Richard. "*It is important to make a good start to the season. But we know it is very long, and that we can have ups and downs"*.

In 2009, Adam Minoprio's victory in Marseilles was a good sign for him, as he finished first ranked of the World Match Racing Tour. This year, Match Race France has been run in a light weather. "*We know that light winds are a good point for Mathieu Richard's crew"* said Marc Bouët, French Match Racing team coach. This victory is also an award for those sailors who have been sailing together for the last ten years (Thierry Briend, Greg Evrard, Olivier Herlédant, and Yannick Simon).

Ainslie trapped

Today Richard gave "a lesson" to Briton Ben Ainslie. Twice he won thanks to his great starts. Then he maintained his leading position and the triple gold medalist could not get back to him anymore. "*We made a decisive choice in the last flight, going left. They wanted to do the same but they couldn't"* commented Mathieu Richard. And he made the right choice…

Mathieu Richard had sought the pressure in a little wind and trapped his opponent. However, his first performances were not so good at the beginning of the week, as he finished sixth in the Round Robin qualifications. But the French crew succeeded to increase its level. "*To win the Round Robin is useless"* Marc

Bouët likes to repeat. The rule was once again confirmed, as Australian Torvar Mirsky was eliminated in the quarter-finals after having won the Round Robin.

The Match Race France ranking does not exactly follow the world hierarchy. Both Italians Francesco Bruni and Paolo Cian got third and fourth position. Favourites Adam Minoprio and Torvar Mirsky were eliminated in the quarter-finals. And we also remember that "veterans" Peter Gilmour and Bertrand Pacé did not even succeed to qualify. Finally, local resident Sébastien Col (member of the YCPR) took fifth place.

"Tonight we can be glad of the results" concludes Dimitri Deruelle, in charge of the Match Race off-shore commission. *"The weather conditions were not easy but we managed to fulfill the whole schedule".* The other positive aspect of the event for Yachting Club Pointe Rouge is the entertainment village installed at Escale Borély, that gave the audience the opportunity to really live the event. *"We put up a giant screen and many people were here for the final. We showed that sailing can be a popular media event, even if we have many things to improve. We must carry on that way".* A beautiful competition, and a Frenchman who wins a beautiful victory: it gives a lot of energy to start the World Match Racing Tour season.

Text: Delphine Nougairède

>>>> Match Race France

Pour la 8ème année consécutive, le Yachting Club Pointe Rouge de Marseille organise des épreuves de Match Racing de niveau international. Depuis 2 ans, le Match Race France, a intégré le prestigieux circuit du World Match Racing Tour.

Cette année encore, 12 des plus grands skippers du monde s'affrontent dans la rade de Marseille dans le but de remporter la première épreuve du Championnat du Monde 2010. http://www.wmrt.com/

Le World Match Racing Tour 2010 est composé de dix d'épreuves réparties à travers le monde, dont la première étape se déroule en France du 6 au 11 avril.
Nouveau en 2010 ! Le Match Race France accueille le public sur son village animations de l'Escale Borely...
Diffusion des courses sur écran géant, commentaires en direct et animations pour petits et grands.
Toutes les informations sur le Match Race France sont disponibles sur le site :
http://www.matchracefrance.com/

Dates : Match Race France du 6 au 11 avril 2010
Lieu : Yachting Club Pointe Rouge – Escale Borely – Marseille 8ème
Niveau : Epreuve internationale –Championnat du Monde - Meilleurs skippers mondiaux
Retrouvez toutes les infos sur www.matchracefrance.com