



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

Press communication n°5 – Wednesday, the 7th of April 2010

Good start for Mirsky

The first duels full of suspense today in the Southern bay of Marseilles.

Six flights could be launched and more than twenty matches... The light weather conditions in the morning (5-10 knots West) slightly changed into a stronger NNW 10-15 knots in the afternoon.

After many hours waiting for a better wind, the racing finally ended at 19:30 under heavy rain. Torvar Mirsky was THE man of the day, without any doubt. The Australian did not fail in any of his four matches. In 2009, his lightning progress made his crew reach second place on the world ranking.

Just 23 years old, Torvar Mirsky is the youngest skipper in the World Match Racing Tour. His biggest fight of the day was against Frenchman Pierre-Antoine Morvan this morning. The two helmsmen, well known for their aggressive style, were faithful to their reputation. The light wind did not prevent them from keeping up with each other. On the contrary, Torvar Mirsky succeeded in inflicting two penalties on his opponent. "*Pierre-Antoine handles the J80 very well*", said the Australian skipper. "*After the 1st penalty, he managed to make up lost time but he made a little mistake at the leeward mark*". A fatal mistake... And finally everything was decided by very little things. "*We were expecting a very difficult match but it all played out on next to nothing*" confirmed the youngest Frenchman, Pierre-Antoine Morvan. Then Torvar Mirsky won against the two other Frenchmen with amazing records, Bertrand Pacé and Philippe Presti. He finished his day by dominating an Australian, and not just anyone : "veteran" Peter Gilmour, who is also chairing the World Match Racing Tour.

Perris' surprise

Another Match Racing legend, Ben Ainslie, ended his day on a positive note after four victories and one defeat. The Englishman has been sailing with his crew for two years, but he remains cool-headed. "*Each event is difficult*" confided Ben Ainslie. At the Yachting Club Pointe Rouge, eyes are also turned towards Adam Minoprio. And for good reason: last year the young New-Zealander stood out in Marseilles. A victory full of meaning as he went on to finish first in the World Match Racing Tour 2009. But his results today are contrasted : two defeats and two victories. Everybody spoke about his lost duel against the "outsider" Gian-Luca Perris. The Monaco resident admits being the first to be surprised. "*My aim was to win one match in Marseilles. I won two of them, so I have already doubled*

my target!” says Gian Luca Perris with humour and with a big smile all day. “I started skippering in match racing only three years ago”.

“Regattas in light conditions are usually uncertain” commented Dimitri Deruelle, off-shore committee organiser for Match Race France. “It is where you have the biggest surprises”. It was hard to predict where the wind was going to come from next, as the conditions were so shifty, with the wind coming from west and turning into north-west. The five Frenchmen involved did not manage to succeed all the time. “But the main thing is to qualify for the quarter-finals” said Henry Bacchini, vice-president of FFV (French Sailing Federation). “Usually the one who arrives top-ranked from the Round Robin is not the final winner”. So nothing is over, and all twelve skippers know it. Concentration is at it's highest. Tomorrow, the first flights could be launched at 10am. A NNW 5-15 knots is announced.

They said it

Didier Réault, Deputy mayor of Marseilles, in charge of water sports.

“The organisation of Match Race France is the visible result of a long-term policy of the municipality which bet on the J80 fleet. We have succeeded in attracting big events. Skippers who take part in them also carry out messages that give more credibility to the city of Marseilles. This is the way to host the America’s Cup, if one day it comes back to Europe.”

Henry Bacchini, Vice-president of FFV (French Sailing Federation), head of keel-boat racing.

“The bay is wonderful. In Marseilles, football overwhelms many things but the city has its place in the big bays of the world”.

>>> New : an entertainment village, open to the audience

Beside the competition, **a village will host the audience during the final week end (on the 10th and 11th)**: many free activities are offered, and also meetings and interviews with the skippers and their crews. Matches will be live-broadcasted on giant screens and commented by professionals : Thierry Fouchier will present the final, on Sunday, 11th – he is a French member of the BMW Oracle Racing Team (winner of the 33rd America’s Cup 2010) and the patron of the event.

A special action “Regate en vue” (Regatta on the water) will be held on Saturday, 10th, and Sunday, 11th of April: the audience will be embarked to assist the matches, as close as possible (free entrance).

Free registrations (but compulsory) : 04 91 90 94 90.

More information : www.officedelamer.com

>>>> **Press Reception**

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>> Press boats are available for press, reporters, photographers and TV to follow all regattas. If you wish to embark, please get in touch with the Press team.

>> Press Conference every evening (when crews are back)

>> Coordination of Press travels are possible (limited offer)

>>>> **Pictures**

Gilles Martin-Raget - gmr@martin-raget.com

Pictures can be downloaded each evening on the website www.matchracefrance.com

If you need more pictures, please contact the Press team.

>>>> **Website**

To get the last results, see pictures and read the last news:

www.matchracefrance.com

>>> **The Match Race France**

For the 8th consecutive year, the Marseille Yachting Club Pointe Rouge organizes international-level competitions of Match Racing. It has been two years since the Match Race France has entered the prestigious circuit of the World Match Racing Tour.

This year again, 12 of the biggest skippers in the world will compete in the harbour of Marseille to win the first stage of the 2010 World Championship. <http://www.wmrt.com/>

The 2010 World Match Racing Tour is made of 10 stages around the world, the 1st one being in France, from April, 6th to 11th.

New in 2010! Match Race France will host the public in the Escale Borély Entertainment Village... Matches will be broadcast on giant screens, with comments in live and activities for all the family.

All informations on Match Race France are available on the website:

<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

