



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

Press communication n°7 – Friday, 9th of April 2010

Mirsky in form

Circling, tight tackings, handlings under pressure: the twelve crews fought the whole afternoon in the Southern bay to be selected for the quarter finals. A W 5-10 knot wind settled in and gave the Race Committee the opportunity to launch seven flights, ending the Round Robin. Four skippers have been knocked out: « veterans » Peter Gilmour and Bertrand Pacé, Vanne resident Pierre-Antoine Morvan and Monaco resident Gian Luca Perris. The Australian Torvar Mirsky is top-ranked with nine points. Quarter finals will be held tomorrow, before the semifinals and final on Sunday. Three French crews stay in the competition. The duels will be launched close to the coast, to the audience's greatest delight, in Escale Borély village.

The world hierarchy has been respected pretty much. World n°2 Torvar Mirsky arrived first of the Round Robin with nine points. The only opponents who stood up to him are Italians Paolo Cian and Francesco Bruni. In the last flight of the day, the young Australian (23 years old) also managed to trap Briten Ben Ainslie, who ended second with the eight matches he won. Mirsky's team is incredibly strong and regular with J80s. *"They are dangerous with J80. It is a very good crew and they get on very well together"*, says Marc Bouëtè French Match Racing team coach. The other favourite of World Match Racing Tour won seven points during qualifications. In 2009, New-Zealander Adam Minoprio, 24 years-old stood out in Marseilles before winning the World Match Racing Tour.

The eighteen flights of the Round Robin have been run in a very short time. *"Usually there is more wind"*, says Dimitri Deruelle, off-shore committee organiser for Match Race France. The Wind was never stronger than ten knots. *« We spent three days hunting the wind, to catch each light breeze. We made clean, beautiful matches"*, comments Principal Race officer Christophe Gaumont. Four crews will stop here. Both Match Racing legends Peter Gilmour and Bertrand Pacé did not succeed in being selected. The eldest skippers (48 and 50 years old) lost in front of the young "machines of war", led by Minoprio and Mirsky. The two other crews that lost had qualified for Match Race France during the Y's Cup (organized by Yachting Club Pointe Rouge): Frenchman Pierre-Antoine Morvan and Monaco resident Gian Luca Perris.

Close to the coast

Tonight, the best ranked crews will choose their opponents during the official dinner that the YCPR organizes. It is a delightful specificity of Match Racing. Matthieu Richard's crew will not have this chance. He ends the

qualification process in a difficult position: five victories and six defeats. *“Sometimes you are at ease with tactic. Sometimes you are more nervous”*, recognises the Nantes resident who has sailed with the same crew for ten years. Eventually, three French skippers are selected: Matthieu Richard, Sébastien Col and Philippe Presti. And certainly weren't kind to each other. The match between Matthieu Richard and Sébastien Col was very tightly fought with a very aggressive Col receiving two penalties from the start. Then he tried to force his way through the windward mark and the umpires disqualified him. The All4one skipper was just as aggressive during his other French to French duel of the day against of Philippe Presti. But that time he managed to win a fifth victory, doing his penalty on the final line. In good form, Philippe Presti is in the end the best ranked French skipper of the Round Robin, with seven points

But everything starts from scratch the again, the quarter finals will be played with three winning points. The Semifinals and the final will be held on Sunday. *“The Frenchmen will have to increase their level”* insists Marc Bouët, French Match Racing team coach. *“But the good point in Match Racing is that we always start from scratch”*. The W wind that is announced for tomorrow should give the opportunity to launch the matches very close to the coast. The duels will be broadcasted on a giant screen in a village installed at Escale Borély. The Audience will also have the opportunity to hear Thierry Fouchier's comments. A member of YCPR, he is the first Frenchman to win the America's Cup, sailing on *BMW Oracle Racing*.













They said it

Matthieu Richard, the unique skipper who ran all Match Race France editions. *« Young people are incredible but you can beat them. We try to work on each opponent's strength and weaknesses, to establish our strategy, but it is still an unexplored path ».*

Christophe Gaumont, Principle Race Officer. *«In Match Racing, the action is in real time. You must be very reactive. In Marseilles, the bay is much more unpredictable than in Britain. It is more difficult. »*

Redaction : Delphine Nougairède

Round Robin results

ROUND ROBIN															
													Total Points	Ranking	
MINOPRIO Adam		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7	3	
MIRSKY Torvar	1		1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	9	1	
RICHARD Mathieu	0	0		0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	5	6	
AINSLIE Ben	0	0	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	8	2	
COL Sébastien	0	0	0	0		0	1	1	1	0	1	1	5	8	
CIAN Paolo	0	1	1	0	1		1	1	0	0	1	1	7	5	
GILMOUR Peter	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	1	1	3	11	
MORVAN Pierre-Antoine	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	1	1	1	4	9	
PRESTI Philippe	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1		1	1	1	7	4	
BRUNI Francesco	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0		1	0	5	7	
PERRIS Gian Luca	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	2	12	
PACE Bertrand	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		4	10	
	MINOPRIO Adam	MIRSKY Torvar	RICHARD Mathieu	AINSLIE Ben	COL Sébastien	CIAN Paolo	GILMOUR Peter	MORVAN Pierre-Antoine	PRESTI Philippe	BRUNI Francesco	PERRIS Gian Luca	PACE Bertrand	Total Points	Ranking	

Round Robin ranking

- 1 **MIRSKY Torvar**
- 2 **AINSLIE Ben**
- 3 **MINOPRIO Adam**
- 4 **PRESTI Philippe**
- 5 **CIAN Paolo**
- 6 **RICHARD Mathieu**
- 7 **BRUNI Francesco**
- 8 **COL Sébastien**
- 9 **MORVAN Pierre-Antoine**
- 10 **PACE Bertrand**
- 11 **GILMOUR Peter**
- 12 **PERRIS Gian Luca**

>>>> 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



