

Engineering Challenge Cup 2005

Final Bulletin



Dear sailors,

Well, it has been about one month since the last day of the ECC 2005 and we regret that it has taken us this time to publish our final bulletin - but at least this final bulletin with our recap of the last year and of course the event itself was completed before the first bulletin from the new Commodore and his new organising committee...

We had, despite all the work involved in organising an event of the size that the ECC has grown to be, a lot of fun and hope that you also enjoyed this year's event...



Preparation of the ECC 2005

We admit, we did have a few uncomfortable thoughts after our - unexpected - win in Split in 2004. We were not really prepared for this and, quite frankly, did not really know what we were facing. But thanks to the great support by the former Commodores and in particular all the files and data from Michael and Arno, we felt better and after teaming up with Sunsail and meeting Jon and Roddie (the then Kornati Base Manager who has since taken over the Sunsail Base in Dubrovnik) in Biograd in autumn last year, we felt that we were on our way. The support received from the various sponsors went far beyond our expectations and the assistance from Michael Fass (homepage) and all our colleagues at Outokumpu was great. We did face a couple of problems (such as the last minute changes of the second night marina and the location of the welcome party), but all in all, everything went more or less as planned. But the event itself was still to come...



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Arrival & Welcome Party



After arriving in then sunny and warm Biograd by car or by flying to Zadar or Split (many thanks again to Lisa and Natalie of Sunsail for organising the bus transfers so well and staying calm despite so many last minute changes), the take-over of the yachts and a first practice sailing for some of us, we all met for the welcome party in the Marina Kornati Restaurant (which later continued in the FIBRA café - possibly the reason for some not being really fit on

Sunday). Despite the last minute change of the venue, all of you - at least we have not heard otherwise - made it and the ECC 2005 was ready to begin with the skipper meeting in the FIBRA on Sunday.



Day 1 (Biograd - Vodice)

And so it did - after experiencing the starts of the first two days last year (we were not really innocent ourselves), we were a little afraid of the first start this year, but - judging from what we could see and hear - there were no problems at all (thanks to all of you for this - however, we'll talk about the mooring later) and the ECC 2005 was on its way. The weather was great, still reasonably warm with moderate winds until - the Bora started !



Fortunately, the field was well spread by this time and surely you all (if, as advised, you reefed in time) enjoyed strong winds with gusts up to 30 knots, didn't you ?

As the originally foreseen Marina Tribunj did

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not honour previous commitments, we were forced to a last minute change to the ACI Marina Vodice - only a few miles further south, so we could enjoy the windy day a little longer !

Okay, no need to talk about the mooring again and instead a big thank you to Sunsail for all the quick repairs...



The podium of the first day was, as we later learned, almost an indication for the whole week - the "blue boat" of Peter Bisschop won, followed by John Hall Hall and, jointly, David Boocock and the All-Ladies Boat of Inken Braunschmidt (many thanks again to Inken and David for the fair and sportive reactions of both of you).

Day 2 (Vodice - Šibenik)

The second day provided a triangle course - not as long as originally foreseen, but nevertheless a triangle. We were lucky with the weather, it may have been cold, but the wind was strong, providing some great races. No big changes in the result, Peter Bisschop



won again just ahead of John Hall Hall and David Boocock. Our overnight location was the town quay of beautiful Šibenik - the ECC yachts certainly provided a su-

perb scenery (just about everybody has sent a picture of this view). In the evening we met in Skradin for a special party provided by the Christof Group. Thank you to the Christof Group and especially Natalie Christof for this special event !



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Day 3 (Šibenik - Piškera)

The third day took us to beautiful Piškera in the Kornati Island National Park. Again, we were lucky with the wind, but it was getting a little cold today, wasn't it? Regrettably, an unfortunate collision had to be settled today, but fortunately nobody was injured and Sunsail was able to repair both boats to the extent that they could continue the event (and both boats



later made it into the top five of a race). The winner of the day was David Boocock with Peter Bisschop coming in second and Jörg Heppert in his Oceanis 393 in third place (notably also the first of three consecutive unlucky fourth places for Günter Holub - which, however,

in the end did pay off for the overall result...). The Commodores Cup was also held today, won by Peter Bisschop ahead of John Hall Hall and Carlos Moreno. And the parties continued, this time thanks to the Dutch evening provided by our various Dutch participants - thanks!



Day 4 (Piškera - Telašćica)



The fourth day, with a down wind start, took us to Telašćica, a marvelous bay north of the Kornati Islands - we hope that you all took some time to see the

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cliffs and the salt water lake before the dinghy race in the evening (remember, there were three rules - life jackets, two persons and - and this was new - motors - but no regulations about the amount (!) and the power the motor(s) - this could have been an easy one for the Cobra...). The results of the day saw the triumphant return of Arno Hemm in first place and Heinz Bädorff in second with David Boocock clinching the third place.



Day 5 (Telašćica - Hramina)



The penultimate day saw a demonstration of power by Željko Katunarić (special thanks to Gunnar Stein for bringing this team together), leaving Armin Schleussinger and Willem Rauwenhoff in second and third place, thus being the only day that had neither of the “big two” in the top three (David Boocock in fact had a podium finish on every other day, resulting

in the fewest overall points without consideration of the discard result). With the wind really picking up towards the end of the day (unfortunately the last real wind during this ECC..), we saw an interesting race all the way until all boats were moored up in the marina... And of course, there were parties again, both on several boats



and of course in the marina restaurant with the beer stands by courtesy of Future Pipes Industries. And then, there was only one last day to go...

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Day 6 (Hramina - Biograd) / Prize Award Party

What a shame - the course envisaged for the day would have been phantastic, but unfortunately the wind was not with us - well, one day without wind is not too bad for an entire week, wouldn't you agree ? The start was delayed and the course was



shortened to be able to finish in time before the prize award party later on the day. In a slow motion photo finish, Peter Bisschop finished the ECC 2005 in style ahead of David Boocock and Heinz Bädorff in third place (approx. 100 metres and 26 minutes behind...). Fortunately, the wind picked up a little towards the end to ensure that all

yachts came in before 17:45 to prepare for the final ECC 2005 party (many thanks to Milan Sanguin for the organisation of both parties with a great band and the provision of the professional camera man for the last day and the party).



The object of the party was of course to have a lot of fun again but also to declare the various winners and the new Commodore for the ECC 2006. Congratulations to all participants and of course the winners (we almost ran out of pictures of one of the boats...):

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Overall Winner



Winner - Commodores Cup



Winner - Aveva Cup

Peter Bisschop - ABB Lummus



2nd place - Overall

David Boocock - Foster Wheeler



3rd place - Overall

Günter Holub - ACE Engineering

Acknowledgements



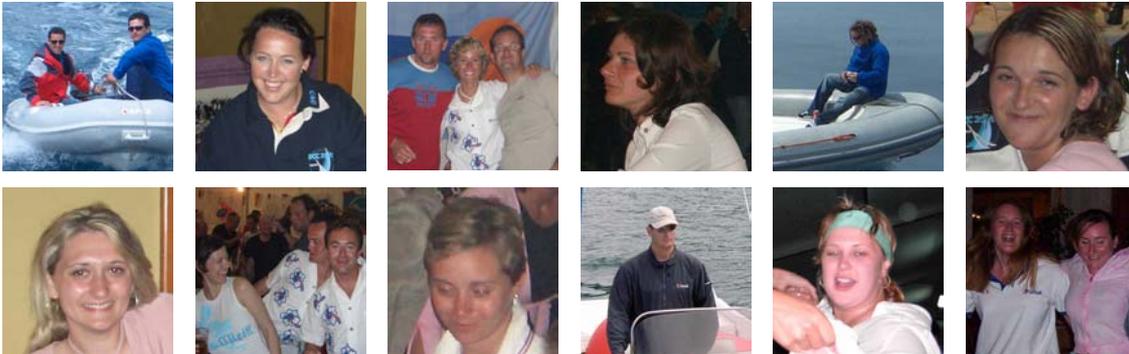
Firstly, we would like to sincerely thank all the sponsors of the ECC 2005. We are more than grateful for the great support provided by all sponsors. While the ECC is growing and growing, we all know that we are not the America's Cup, Swedish Match Race or the like - even though we were mentioned on the Sailing Channel in a report about Biograd ! We meet once a year to enjoy sailing, have a lot of fun and work on our networking and let's face it, without sponsorship, an ECC of this size could in all probability not exist in this form any longer ! Thank you !

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Further, we would like to express our special gratitude and admiration to Sunsail who were great from the very beginning of the organisation throughout the whole event (“if you can hear me, give me wave, guys”) - Jon and the entire Sunsail Team (including those of whom we do not have a picture available), thank you for everything, you were simply phantastic !



Last, but not least, a big thank you to our race officials (Alen / Baldo / Robbie) - the ECC is, of course, not a world championship, but, with such a group of experts, we felt as if it was. The administration of the races itself was probably our biggest worry before the event (let’s face it - we are not professional regatta organisers and have never done this before) and we very early (apart from the requirements set by Croatian law) decided to put this into professional hands, as we felt that the fleet has just become too big to be handled by us alone. But even then we could not really expect such an extraordinary race



committee - perfect racing organisation, professional course settings and fun to be with - Thank you !



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ECC 2005 Quiz

Many thanks to the many of you who participated in the ECC 2005 Quiz. And the winner is ... with 98 points ... Arno Hemm and his team who also scored the maximum points for a category of 29 pts. in the group "ECC". Well, if they don't know everything about the ECC, who does ? But, Arno, we did not win the fourth race of the ECC 2004 with our Salona 40 (thanks, however, for believing that we did) - no, the win on that day went to the "nordish by nature" team in their Oceanis 361 - "nordish by nature", with the exception of Oliver Lohfert as a member of Carlos Moreno's crew this year, unfortunately could not participate this year, but, as confirmed by Oliver, envisage to join us again next year. Anyway, many thanks to all of you for participating !



Photos / Videos



You will hear from us one more time - within the next weeks or so, we will send one or more CDs with lots of photos (thank to you all of you for sending these in) and videos (of the last day and the prize award party) to all skippers - we have seen them already and we are certain that you will enjoy them as well !

We look forward to seeing you again next year ! Peter, Rob, Peter, John, Pieter and Ludwig, it's all yours now - best wishes (and, of course, any assistance we can provide) for the organisation of the ECC 2006 !

Ex-ECC Organising Committee

