



CHAMPAGNE MUMM ADMIRAL'S CUP 1997

Press Release No: CMAC017

Cowes, England, date: 11th August 1997

FASTNET SEA-SAW *Rock roundings expected tonight*

At 1000 this morning, the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup fleet was half-way across the Celtic Sea on its way towards the Fastnet Rock, with at least a breeze to give good speed. It has been a frustrating day-and-night, with the fleet making slow progress down Channel and past the Lizard before finally rounding Land's End in the early hours of this morning. The series lead has sea-sawed during the night between USA and Italy, with the Americans losing and then regaining pole position. At one stage both Madina Milano and Brava Q8 led their classes, with Breeze third - enough to give a repeat of two years ago with Italy pushing USA aside to take the Cup. The latest computer plot shows Flash Gordon 3 now ahead of Madina on corrected time, while Pinta has overtaken Brava. It is enough in this finely balanced series to tip the scales back in America's favour, despite the fact that Jameson continues to languish in sixth place in the Mumm 36s.

With the fleet now strung out in a line heading for the Rock the computer predictions of corrected time and placing should be pretty accurate in the Big Boat class. Racing boat-for-boat without handicaps, Pinta and Brava are just 0.2 miles apart some 80 miles from the Rock with Pinta ahead and doing just one tenth of a knot more through the water - 8.97 against 8.96. Such accurate 'snapshots' are possible because the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup yachts are required to carry INMARSAT C communication equipment which can be interrogated from the race results computer operated by AFTER srl, the sport-results computer company run by Andrea Fillachioni. The program runs its own waypoint/ speed evaluations to compute theoretical results while the race is in progress.

Great Britain's Bradamante still leads the Mumm 36s by almost six miles while Corum Indulgence is presently sailing in third place in the Big Boats. Again it is the British ILC 40 Easy Oars which holds back the British team performance - she is sixth out of seven - but so closely poised now are the points that Easy Oars making just one place would lift the Brits into third place overall. Easy Oars is less than half-a-mile behind MK Cafe.

Indeed, just about any place change by any boat will effect the overall standing of her team. First Rock roundings are expected at 1630 local time, with the whole fleet around by midnight.

Standings and team points from the mid-morning report: 1 USA 154.50, 2 ITA 157.50, 3 AUS 172.13, 4 GER 178.00, 5 NZL 180.00, 6 NZL 194.13, 7 SCN 252.50. Boat Positions: IMS Class 1 Flash Gordon 3, 2 Madina Milano, 3 Ragamuffin, 4 Corum Indulgence, 5 Rubin, 6 Numbers, 7 Investor. ILC40 Class 1 Pinta, 2 Brava Q8, 3 Fram XIV, 4 G'Net, 5 MK Cafe, 6 Easy Oars, 7 Mean Machine. Mumm 36 Class 1 Bradamante, 2 Sea, 3 Breeze, 4 Georgia Express, 5 Mumm a Mia, 6 Jameson, 7 Thomas I-Punkt

For more information contact Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup Media Centre, Plymouth, tel: +44 (0) 1752 262535 or 262539, fax: +44 (0) 1752 262556, email 100527.3303@compuserve; or surf the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup website: <http://www.1stresults.co.uk/mummyachts.htm>