



For Immediate Press Release

Dubai, 28th February 2008:

Ichi Ban and Westin Mina Seyahi were headed towards the top honours in Division 1 and 2 respectively at the end of the penultimate day of sailing at the Emirates Maktoum Sailing Trophy off the Mina Seyahi waters at the Dubai International Marine Club (DIMC) yesterday.

The CYCA Ichi Ban, skippered by Matt Allen, proved its pedigree on the fourth day of sailing winning the seventh and eighth races to head the overall standings in Division 1 with nine points.

Yo!, owned and skippered by Toby O'Connell, kept up its chase of the leader with another strong performance to continue in second position with 12 points, while Team Aqua continued in third with 27 points ahead of the Kristian Tzanov-skippered Pal Zileri SG.

In Division 2, Westin Mina Seyahi, skippered by Sultan Hareb and Marcus Wieser continued their impressive showing with another flawless performance winning both races yesterday to lead the standings with seven points.

Le Meridien Mina Seyahi, the second boat owned by Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum and skippered by Alexandre Mercier, continued its pressure on the leader finishing with 17 points. AGMC BMW, skippered by UAE national Yousuf Bin Lahej maintained its place for a position on the podium with 21 points.

Division 3 too had its fair share of excitement as overall leader North Star slipped into third place after a strong showing from defending champion Eureka, who now leads the standings with 11 points.

Rush Knot is in second with 14 points, while the Christophe Vanek-skippered North Star in third place with 15 points.

"Ichi Ban is showing its true potential with such a fantastic showing during this championship," commented Saeed Hareb, Managing Director of DIMC.

"The boat has been consistent, along with Westin Mina Seyahi and they fully deserve to be where they are," he added.

Today's final day of sailing will see the last two races being held at the same venue.

The event is being held under the patronage of Sheikh Mayed Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum with sponsorship from Emirates Airline, AGMC BMW, Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort and Marina, The Westin Dubai and Marine Pool.

Overall standings on the penultimate day of the Emirates Airline-sponsored Maktoum Sailing Trophy being held at the DIMC:

(Division 1) 1. Ichi Ban (Matt Allen) 9 pts; 2. Yo! (Toby O'Connell) 12 pts; 3. Team Aqua (Cameron Appleton) 27 pts.

(Division 2) 1. Westin Mina Seyahi (Sultan Hareb/Marcus Wieser) 7pts; 2. Le Meridien Mina Seyahi (Alexandre Mercier) 17 pts; 3. AGMC BMW (Yousuf Bin Lahej) 21 pts.

(Division 3) 1. Eureka (Niccolo Bertola) 11 pts; 2. Rush North (Phil Hoskings/Lee Turnbull) 14 pts; 3. North Star (Christophe Vanek) 15 pts.

