Chicago Grade 2 Invitational Media Kit

August 12-14, 2011
Navy Pier

www.chicagomatchrace.com
Who?
Ten top internationally ranked sailing teams including an Olympic Gold Medalist and World Match Race Tour Champion.

What?
Three days of spectator-friendly America’s Cup style match racing.

Where?
Navy Pier's east end near the Grand Ballroom

When?
Friday August 12 - Sunday August 14
Friday: Qualifying Round Robin
Saturday: Qualifying Round Robin and Semi-finals
Sunday: Finals

Why?
A weekend of fun, action-packed, spectator-friendly sailing competition in the heart of Chicago. The winner of this event will qualify for September's Chicago Match Cup Grade 1.

How?
This event is open to the general public. There will be stadium seating at the end of Navy Pier. Live online broadcast of the entire event can be found on the Chicago Match Race Center website at www.chicagomatchrace.com.
CMRC History

In 2009, with the help of World Match Race Tour champion, Bill Hardesty, Don Wilson founded the Chicago Match Race Center to bring world-class match racing to the shores of Lake Michigan.

Due to the resource-intensive nature of the sport, US sailors suffered from a lack of match race training facilities and were losing ground within the international rankings. To fill this void, Hardesty and Wilson founded the CMRC to conduct high-level training sessions as well as host one of the most aggressive match race regatta schedules worldwide.

Within the sailing community, CMRC has quickly gained a reputation for sailing and regatta management excellence. Utilizing its fleets of TOM 28 and Elliott 6m sailboats, floating clubhouse and support motorboats the CMRC plays host to numerous regattas, clinics and nightly training sessions throughout the year.

With match racing found in the Americas Cup, the World Match Race Tour and in the Olympics for 2012 many of the best sailors in the world are coming to Chicago to train. To date, sailors from 15 countries have attended CMRC regattas. Multiple Olympic-hopefuls and professional sailing teams have spent time training at the CMRC.

In the fall of 2010, the first ever college match race national championship took place with thousands of sailors and fans across the country tuning in to watch. Now thanks to centers like CMRC that are opening across the United States, any sailor looking for a new challenge can get involved.

The CMRC is located at the north end of Belmont Harbor. They now have ten TOM 28s, four Elliot 6ms, five umpire boats, two 28’ Protectors, and a custom built 70’ houseboat, which serves as their floating club.

www.chicagomatchrace.com
About Match Racing

Match race sailing evolved with the America’s Cup, which began with the U.S. Defender Magic and the English Challenger Cambria in 1870. From the beginning, many of the America’s Cup matches were decided by technological advances in boat and sail design giving one competitor a speed edge. To ensure the best helmsman and crew win the oldest sports trophy and the most prestigious regatta in the world, the America’s Cup format was modified over the course of the 33 events which have occurred so that similar boats (such as the 12 meter, J-Class and International America’s Cup Class) are used by each competitor.

Match racing is a fast-paced game of tactics and strategy that keeps both the sailors and the spectators on their toes. The objective seems quite simple: cross the finish line in front of your opponent. The task however is much more complicated.

Unlike the conventional form of sailboat racing, known as fleet racing, match racing has only two competitors battle at a time. In this one-on-one duel, the leader uses blocking techniques to hold the other boat back while a trailing boat tries to pass with effective boat handling and potential wind and currents advantages.

Although some new rules are put into play, the basic right-of-way rules of sailing apply. Two of these rules help the boats change to or from the controlling position. The boat with the wind coming across its right, or starboard, side has the right of way and the other boat must stay clear. Within two boat lengths of a mark, the inside boat has the right to pass inside and ahead. The races are typically very close.

www.chicagomatchrace.com
About the Event

All the excitement of ISAF Grade 2 match racing is coming to the US, with the Chicago Match Race Center’s Grade 2 Invitational as the lead-off event in a four-week, four-regatta series called the US Grand Slam Match Race Series.

Ten teams from 5 nations will compete in Chicago over August 12-14th in equally-matched TOM 28 class keelboats at Navy Pier, the #1 tourist destination in the 3rd largest city in the US, attracting 8.6 million visitors a year. Cutting-edge match race sailing will contrast with 200 years of sailing heritage as the Pier also hosts the Taste of Tall Ships festival.

The ten teams competing in Chicago will bristle with some of the highest talent ever assembled to compete on Lake Michigan, with numerous Olympic Medalists and World Champions in the rosters. Among these are 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist Anna Tunnicliffe (USA) and her Team Maclaren, who will be returning to Chicago, as will 2008 World Match Race Tour champion Bill Hardesty (USA), the highest-ranked skipper in the field. US Intercollegiate champion Taylor Canfield (ISV) will be returning to try and repeat his win of last year’s Grand Slam predecessor, the US Match Racing Trifecta.

Qualifying skippers for the event include Patrick Ryan (USA) for winning the Oakcliff Spring Invitational in New York, Mike Buckley (USA) as defending champion from last year and Jordan Reece (AUS) from last week’s CMRC Eurex Match Cup.

The remaining skippers include Nicolai Sehested (DEN), Laurie Jury (NZL), William Tiller (NZL) and Don Wilson (USA).

Racing is scheduled to start daily August 12-14 at 9AM on courses set off the east end of Navy Pier. The Pier provides free access to spectators who will feel like they are in the race as the boats whisk by. For spectators outside the Chicagoland area, a live broadcast of the races with expert commentary can be found on www.chicagomatchrace.com.
Event Schedule

Thursday August 11th:
9:00am-5:00pm: Competitor Registration & Practice
6:00pm Opening Press Conference

Friday August 12th:
9:00am: First Race - Qualifying Round (10 team Round Robin)
5:30pm: Press Conference on Navy Pier

Saturday August 13th:
9:00am: First Race - Quarter Final Round #2 (8 team Round Robin)
3:00pm: Start of Semi-Finals
5:30pm: Press Conference on Navy Pier

Sunday August 14th:
9:00am: First Race - Semi-Finals
12:00pm: Finals & Petit Finals
3:00pm: Awards & Press Conference on Navy Pier

Map

www.chicagomatchrace.com
Competitors

Mike Buckley

Hometown: Southold, NY
ISAF Ranking: 120
Crew: Nathan Hollerbach - Main
       Danielle Soriano - Floater
       Michael Whitford - Bow

Mike Buckley, last year's Chicago Match Cup winner, upset the entire field of competitors when he came in as the lowest ranked seed and proceeded to knock out favored competitors Bill Hardesty, Taylor Canfield, and Reuben Corbett in the Quarters, Semi’s and Finals securing himself an invitation to the WMRT Danish Open. Buckley returns to Chicago in 2011 to defend his title.

Taylor Canfield

Hometown: St. Thomas, USVI
ISAF Ranking: 29
Crew: Alden Reid - Main/ Spin
       Matt Clark - Jib

Taylor Canfield, the Chicago Match Race Center Sailing Director, is a recent graduate of Boston College and 2011 ICSA National Champion and All-American Skipper. In 2010 Taylor won the US GRAND SLAM’s predecessor, the US Match Racing Trifecta receiving an invitation to the 2011 Congressional Cup Grade 1. Taylor returns to 2011 with the goal of repeating his results from last year in the US GRAND SLAM and Bermuda Gold Cup.

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Competitors

Bill Hardesty
Hometown: San Diego, CA
ISAF Ranking: 28
Crew:
Jennifer Wilson - Main
Tyler Rice - Jib
Mandy Markee - Floater

Bill Hardesty is a Chicago Match Race Center Co-Founder and World Match Race Tour Champion Tactician. Bill returns to Chicago this year to avenge his early exit from the 2010 event in the quarterfinals at the hands of eventual winner Mike Buckley. This year as tactician for Ian Williams on the World Match Race Tour Bill’s team is fresh off two tour wins in Sweden and Portugal and currently sit in 3rd overall in the Tour standings.

Laurie Jury
Hometown: Auckland, NZ
ISAF Ranking: 26
Crew:
Andrew Phillips - Main
Logan Fraser - Jib
Phys O’Can - Bow

As a member of the Royal New Zealand Youth Training Programme from 1993-2003 Laurie was selected to race in a number of youth match racing regattas in Australia, USA, Japan and New Zealand. Since then Laurie has competed both locally and internationally with much success, having previously completed tours of Europe and the USA as skipper and also as crew.
Competitors

Jordan Reece

Hometown: Sydney, AUS
ISAF Ranking: 49

Crew:
Henry Kernot - Main
Arnow Frras - Jib
Hamish Hardy - Bow

True Blue Racing is a youth match racing team based in Sydney, Australia. Representing the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, the team is lead by Jordan Reece with a crew from Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 2010, the team has had good success on the youth match racing circuit within Australia, New Zealand and America and in 2011 the team will expand their racing to world match racing tour qualifying rounds.

Shawn Ryan

Hometown: New Orleans, LA
ISAF Ranking: 194

Crew:
Andrew Phillips - Main
Logan Fraser - Jib
Phys O’Can - Bow

Shawn Ryan graduated from Tulane University in 2011 after leading his collegiate sailing team to a 4th place finish at the first Match Racing College National Championship. Shawn qualified for the Chicago Match Race Grade 2 Invitational by winning the 2011 Oakcliff spring invitational sailed in Swedish Match 40’s. Shawn is quickly climbing the international match race rankings and while he comes into this event the lowest seed don’t count him out.

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Competitors

Nicolai Sehested
Hometown: Copenhagen, DN
ISAF Ranking: 42
Crew:
Thomas Hedegaard - Main
Jesper Blom - Jib
Casper Hjaltelin - Bow
Skipper Nicolai Sehested won the Danish Nationals 5 times in different classes. He also competed in the worlds 3 times in dinghies with his best result at 13th place.

William Tiller
Hometown: Auckland, NZ
ISAF Ranking: 24
Crew:
Andrew Phillips - Main
Logan Fraser - Jib
Phys O’Can - Bow
Will Tiller returns to Chicago in 2011 as the highest ranked open seed at 24th in the world. Tiller’s young team has been consistently climbing the rankings over the past year and will be sailing in the 2011 Grand Slam Series.

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Competitors

Anna Tunnicliffe

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, FL
ISAF Ranking: 4 (Women’s)

Crew:
Molly Vandemoer - Main
Debbie Cappozi - Jib
Liz Bower - Bow

2008 Gold Medalist, 2009 ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year and 3-time Rolex US Sailing Yachtswoman of the Year, Anna Tunicliffe, and her Team MACLAREN are pursuing 2012 Olympic Gold in Womens Match Racing. The Match Racing challenge is quite alluring to her because of the intense pressure before, during and after the start, pitching one’s own tactics and wit against one other boat, rather than a fleet, and also because of working with a team on a much larger boat than the Laser Radial.

Don Wilson

Hometown: Chicago, IL
ISAF Ranking: 50

Crew:
Steve Hunt - Main
Eric Doyle - Jib

Don Wilson, Chicago local and founder of the Chicago Match Race Center currently sits at his best World Ranking of 50th. As the winner of the 2010 Canadias Cup Don has been focused this season on match racing with the goal of getting good results at the Chicago Grade 2 & Grade 1 events and winning the Canadias Cup. With two first place, a second and third at this years opening events 2011 is off to a good start for Don.

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A live broadcast with expert commentary can be found online at www.chicagomatchrace.com beginning each day at 9AM.

Press conferences will be held immediately after the racing each day at approximately 5PM aboard the Chicago Match Race Center’s houseboat docked at the end of Navy Pier.

Live results will be posted to the CMRC website.

High Resolution photos and videos will be posted daily to the CMRC website.

For more information on CMRC, visit www.chicagomatchrace.com or contact CMRC Program Director Tod Reynolds at tod@chicagomatchrace.com.

Media inquiries can be sent to Morgan Kinney at morgan@chicagomatchrace.com or (847)208-5530.
FEBRUARY

2/18 - 2/20 Match Race Winter Series: Miami Invitational

MAY

5/28 - 5/29 CMRC Spring Invitational, Grade 3: LMSRF Richardson and USMRC Group E/K Qualifier

JUNE

6/14 - 6/16 Collegiate Coaches Clinic
6/24 - 6/25 GoPro Match Cup (A), Grade 3
6/26 - 6/27 GoPro Match Cup (B), Grade 3

JULY

7/8 - 7/10 Eurex Match Cup

AUGUST

8/12 - 8/14 CMRC Grade 2 Invitational

SEPTEMBER

9/9 - 9/10 CMRC Autumn Open (A), Grade 3
9/11 - 9/12 CMRC Autumn Open (B), Grade 3
9/28 - 10/1 Chicago Match Cup Grade 1

OCTOBER

10/8 - 10/9 Richardson Trophy