

Competition Heats Up for First Overall

HAMILTON, BERMUDA (May 24, 2007) - For two of Charleston to Bermuda's most competitive entries, conditions aboard were consistently bad for the first 24-hours of racing and the last 24-hours of racing. Will Hanckel aboard *EmOcean* and Scott Jones aboard *Lung Ta* both reported bumpy upwind sailing at the start and finish, and near bliss in between.

At a mellow lunch today with proud parents in tow, while a parade of Bermudians decorated the streets for the annual Bermuda Day, Hanckel reported that he and his crew were on a port tack nearly the whole way to Bermuda, with only one short 4-hour stint on starboard. "Our first tack was after we could see the island," stated crewmember Jonathan. The last 24-hours however brought a bumpy tight reach resulting in a very wet scene down below.

"We were taking water in at the bow sprit," said Hanckel. "As we flew down a wave water would come gushing in bringing the water ankle deep at times down below."

The good news is that Hanckel had a great crew that has sailed together consistently, making it fun for all even after abandoning their watch schedule to ride the rail to the finish. C2B is Hanckel's longest offshore race serving as captain, with his nearest work-up being the Daytona – Charleston race at about 250 miles.

"I was surprised how easy it is once you get in the routine," the young and recently well-rested sailor said. "I really didn't want to get off the boat when we got here. I was ready for another 10 days."

Scott Jones aboard *Lung Ta*, a veteran of the race from 2005, pushed his blue water cruiser harder than he ever has before putting him in tight competition with Hanckel for 1st place overall on corrected time. "When I sailed in '05 we were cruising. This time it was a shake down. It was a tough beginning and end, but the middle was wonderful," he reported shortly after hitting the docks at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club. "The boat performed remarkably well."

It didn't hurt to have one of Charleston's most famous foodies aboard, Henry Eang, the owner of Charleston restaurants *Basil* and *Chai*, serving up delicacies through the trade winds such as wilted roast curry duck. "We were checking in with land and happy to find that we were leading the race for quite a while," said Jones. However, the delight came to a quick end with 6-9 foot rolling seas and one breaker of 30-35 feet last night.

With the results not final as to who has won on corrected time, it is a tale of two great boats and two great captains for now, each with a desire to spend more time on their boats not less, even after a harsh end.

The Charleston to Bermuda yacht race is sponsored by Bermuda Tourism, Gosling's Rum, the Fairmont Hamilton Princess, Charleston Harbor Resort, Bennett-Hofford, and

Charleston Boatworks. Follow the latest news and race boats via iBoat at www.charlestontobermuda.com.

Official Elapsed Times

Gryphon Solo	4 days, 8 hours, 33 minutes
Luna Danns	4 days, 21 hours, 8 minutes, 39 seconds
EmOcean	4 days, 21 hours, 43, 32 seconds
Don Quixote	5 days, 5 hours, 45 minutes, 18 seconds
Kintaro	5 days, 7 hours 9 minutes, 0 seconds
Paikea	5 days, 7 hours, 54 minutes, 10 seconds
Lung Ta	5 days, 21 hours, 19 minutes, 37 seconds

View the latest finish times and corrected times at http://yachtscoring.com/event_results_detail.cfm?Race_Number=1

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