

PRODUCTS IN ACTION

illbruck - The Winner of Volvo Ocean Race 2002



illbruck at start and finish of the Volvo Ocean Race 2002

Greeted by tens of thousands of cheering fans, friends, family and illbruck employees, the jubilant crew were escorted by hundreds of spectator boats down the Kieler Fioerde to the finish line off the Kiel waterfront. Syndicate Chairman Michel Illbruck sailed into the finish with skipper John Kostecki and the race crew where they received a hero's welcome and the race trophy dockside before a throng of media.

illbruck led at the start of the 220 mile sprint from Gothenburg, Sweden, but the leaderboard shuffled in the light conditions enroute to Kiel. illbruck focused on covering Assa Abloy, the only team with a chance at snatching the overall race victory from the German team. Djuce Dragons, the Norwegian entry skippered by Knut Frostad, earned their first leg victory with a fist place finish to Kiel.

The illbruck Challenge race crew: Ed Adams, tactician; Stu Bannatyne, Watch Captain; Stu "Waffler" Bettany, bow; Mark "Crusty" Christensen, Watch Captain; Richard Clarke, trimmer/helmsman; Ray "Hooray" Davies, trimmer/helmsman; Dirk "Cheese" de Ridder, trimmer; Noel "Nitro" Drennan, trimmer/helmsman; Jamie Gale, mast; Ross "Rosco" Halcrow, trimmer and Sail Program Manager; Tony Kolb, bow; John Kostecki, skipper, Ian Moore, navigator; and Juan Vila, navigator. Drennan and Moore, who were on shore for Leg 9, along with syndicate chairman Michael Illbruck, joined the teammates on board illbruck for the victory ride to the dock in Kiel.

illbruck finished the race with 61 points and completed the nine-stage race with a total elapsed time of 123 days, 5 hours, 11 minutes and 24 seconds. While the illbruck green machine led the race since winning the opening leg from Southampton, England to Cape Town, South Africa, overall victory was far from assured until Kostecki and crew crossed the finish line into Kiel. The 32,700 mile race was punctuated by on board dramas, drastic weather conditions, and the closest racing in the history of the event. The Volvo Ocean Race is considered to be the world's premier ocean race and is arguably the ultimate test of stamina and performance for both the boats and the crews.

Divinycell HPS structural cores were used in the both the hull and deck of illbruck. HPS offers excellent dimensional stability up to 120°C, thereby making it compatible with the cure schedules of epoxy prepreps used for raceboats.

