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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RC 44 CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR COMES TO MIAMI

A record number of entries, fourteen teams, will compete in next month's ORACLE RC 44 Cup Miami (December 7 – 12). The ORACLE RC 44 Cup Miami will be the final stage of the RC 44 Championship Tour 2010.

The RC44 is a high performance One Design sailing boat, designed by four-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts, together with naval architect Andrej Justin. All boats are as identical as possible in terms of construction, shape of hull and appendages, weight and weight distribution, deck layout and equipment, sail plan and performance.

The annual ranking is currently led by Russell Coutts and Larry Ellison's BMW ORACLE Racing, ahead of Pieter Heerema's No Way Back and James Spithill's "17".

BMW ORACLE Racing leads the fleet, match race and overall rankings. However, the American team is tied with Canadian Chris Bake and New Zealander Cameron Appleton's "Team Aqua" in the match race event. Third placed "No Way Back" – the winner of last year's Championship Tour - sits three points behind the leader in the fleet race contest. All three rankings (fleet, match and overall) remain open, with only five points between the leader and fifth placed Team Aqua in the overall ranking.

A new American team has joined the RC 44 Championship Tour and will see its first race in Miami: David Murphy's "Ironbound," with Ian Williams (GBR) at the helm for the match races, bringing the total number of entries to fourteen. Commenting his arrival in the RC 44 Class, David Murphy said: "We've entered this fleet because it represents the highest level of competition in sailing today. What could be better than competing against the best on a level playing field? IRONBOUND is in the house!!!" Other recent arrivals include Synergy Russian Sailing Team (RUS) and Peninsula Petroleum (GBR).

The RC 44 fleet will stay in the United States over the winter, with some teams competing in Key West Race Week in January before heading to the West Coast for the RC 44 San Diego Cup (March 2 – 6).

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