



For Immediate Release

## **The Atlantic Cup presented by 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing announces Six new entrants from France, Germany and England; Total number of entries now stands at 10**

March 6, 2012 – Newport, Rhode Island – With just over two months until the start of the second annual [2012 Atlantic Cup presented by 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing](#), Manuka Sports Event Management is pleased to announce an additional six teams entered into the race. Teams from France, England, USA and Germany are all slated to be on the start line for what will be the largest fleet of Class 40s ever to race in the United States.

As previously announced, the Atlantic Cup will feature one of the largest prize purses for sailing in the U.S. (\$30,000) and will be the first “eco-friendly” competition of its kind, using biodiesel and hydrogenators to limit the use of fuel during the competition and eliminating single-use plastic bottles in its hospitality villages.

### **Manuka Sports Event Management Founder and Atlantic Cup Race Director, Hugh Piggin, commented:**

*“The growth we are seeing for the 2012 Atlantic Cup is terrific. This year’s race is going to be an extremely tough and challenging competition for everyone involved. For the fans it will provide some of the best short-handed sailing the United States has ever seen. If you will be in Charleston, New York or Newport you will not want to miss seeing this many Class 40 boats lining up against each other. And just like last year we will provide up to the minute tracking and updates from all boats via our website and facebook page, making it easy to follow the Atlantic Cup whenever and wherever you may be.”*

### **Competition Schedule:**

- **May 11** - Depart Charleston, South Carolina, for double-handed (two people on board) 645 nautical miles from Charleston to New York Harbor, New York around the challenging Cape Hatteras
- **May 18** - Compete in a one day Pro-Am race in New York Harbor
- **May 19** - Depart New York Harbor with double-handed 260 nautical miles from New York to Newport
- **May 26** - Two days inshore fully crewed (six people on board) buoy racing held over the weekend of May 26 in Newport, RI
- **May 27** – Event finish - party and prize giving at Newport Shipyard

Teams that have announced their entry into the Atlantic Cup include:

<b>#90 - 40 Degrees – GBR</b>	Hannah Jenner and Peter Harding
<b>#73 - Toothface – USA</b>	Mike Dreese and Ken Luczynski
<b>#85 - Groupe Picoty – FRA</b>	Jacques Fournier and Jean Christophe “JC” Caso
<b>#109 - Masai – FRA</b>	Stephane Le Diraison
<b>#113 - Partouch – FRA</b>	Christophe Coatnoan
<b>#115 - Mare – GER</b>	Jorg Riechers and Marc Lepesquex

Previously announced entries include:

<b>#54 - Dragon – USA</b>	Michael Hennessy
<b>#106 - Gryphon Solo 2 – USA</b>	Joe Harris
<b>#116 - Icarus Racing – USA</b>	Tim Fetsch and Ben Poucher
<b>#118 - Bodacious Dream – USA</b>	Dave Rearick and Matt Scharl

The English entry [40 Degrees](#) will be skippered by the accomplished short-handed sailors Peter Harding and Hannah Jenner. Harding started sailing at the age of 16, but jumped into short-handed racing in 2007 and has since completed 4 trans-Atlantic races and placed in the top ten in 13 Class40 races on 40 Degrees. The only female to skipper the Clipper



Around the World Race and a third place finish in the 2011 Transat Jacques Vabre, Hannah Jenner is considered to be one of the top female short-handed skippers in world.

**When asked about what she thinks the toughest aspect of the Atlantic Cup will be, Jenner stated:** *"The Atlantic Cup presents a great variety of challenges for us. The combination of inshore and offshore racing, interesting weather patterns, ocean currents and intense competition will keep us on our toes. The stages of this race allow interaction between teams shore side and of course make for a great social as well as sporting event. We are very much looking forward to the Atlantic Cup."*

**Team Groupe Picoty is made up of two skippers who combined have completed 12 trans-atlantic crossings.** Jacques Fournier, formally the Class40 president, is teaming up with Jean-Christophe "JC" Caso. Caso is known for being an expert technician and has managed four Vendee Globe projects since 1996 and was one of the shore crew for Brad VanLiew's 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the 2010/11 Velux Five Oceans Race.

**JC Caso expressed his excitement for racing in the U.S.:** *"Jacques and I are looking forward to be in Uncle SAM territory, and take part in the ATLANTIC CUP! It's definitely a pleasure to see some class 40s for a departure in Charleston, the race is gonna be really tactical on the east coast up to Newport via New York. We think all the crews will give their best to win; it will be a nice fight on the water and a nice cultural exchange with all the international crews. (ouahhhh big parties)!!!!!!!"*

**French native, Christophe Coatnoan skipper of [Partouch](#) has been competitively sailing for over 14 years.** In 2007, Coatnoan won the Morgan Cup and this past fall he completed his second Transat Jacques Vabre finishing 8<sup>th</sup>. This will be his first appearance in the Atlantic Cup.

**Christophe Coatnoan had this to say on the appeal of the Atlantic Cup,** *"The 2012 Atlantic Cup is perfectly integrated into the schedule as it is set between two Transats: Transat Jacques Vabre and Quebec St Malo. This winter, I was able to race the West Indies, and then keep the boat quietly in Charleston. The course is a key asset of the Atlantic Cup as well, because of Charleston to Newport, via NY, all these places have a feel of legend for us Europeans. Finally, this race will give us the opportunity to meet with the U.S. Class40 teams."*

### **About The 2012 Atlantic Cup**

The Atlantic Cup presented by 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing is a dedicated professional Class 40 race held annually in the U.S. with a focus on running an environmentally responsible event. The 2012 edition of the Atlantic Cup starts Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in Charleston, South Carolina and will showcase the top Class 40 sailors in the world as they race a 648 nautical mile off-shore leg double-handed from Charleston around the infamous, Cape Hatteras then north to New York City. Once in New York there will be a brief stopover before competitors start the coastal leg of the race. The coastal leg will take competitors along the same course as the 2011 race: 260 nautical miles, south out of New York to a turning mark off the New Jersey coast before heading north to Newport. Once in Newport, competitors will race a two-day, inshore series with a crew of six. The combined overall winner of both stages will be the Atlantic Cup Champion. The prize purse will be \$30,000, making it again one of the largest purses for sailing in the United States.

### **Quick Facts**

- Presented by [11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing](#)
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing's establishes a dynamic new platform for public education about the responsible use of energy and resources in the context of an exciting recreational and competitive sport. The use of hydro-generators and bio-diesel in the boats competing in the Atlantic Cup is a direct result of 11<sup>th</sup> Hour's commitment to the environment.
- [Atlantis Weather Gear](#) is the official apparel provider
- The [Newport Shipyard](#) is the official Newport home of the Atlantic Cup
- [Boomer Esiason Foundation](#) is the Atlantic Cup's Official Charitable Partner
- Run under [Sailors for the Sea](#) 'Clean Regattas guidelines'
  - Using canteen water bottles on the boats while racing and set up and maintain water filling stations during the event
  - Using environmentally friendly cleaning products on all boats
  - Recycling at all sites during the race



- Recycling by all boats when completing the off-shore and in-shore portion of the race
  - Using biodegradable plastic throughout the race including at pre and post-race parties and dinners
  - Using 100% post-consumer recycled paper for all event packets
  - Organizing a green team to maintain a trash-free site at both hospitality events
  - Preventing discharge of untreated sewage or black water in harbor areas and on race courses throughout the event
  - Asking all race participants to use water only when washing down their boats during the course of the regatta
- Open to Class40 boats
  - \$30,000 prize purse
  - Depart Charleston, South Carolina May 11, 2012
  - Race double-handed 645nm from Charleston to New York
  - One day of Pro-Am racing held May 18, 2012 in New York Harbor
  - Depart New York Harbor May 19, 2012
  - Race double-handed 260nm from New York to Newport
  - Two days inshore fully crewed buoy racing held over the weekend of May 26 in Newport, RI
  - Finish Party and prize giving in Newport at Newport Shipyard on May 27

#### ***History of The Atlantic Cup***

Having sailed professionally and worked on some of the biggest sporting events in the world, the creators of The Atlantic Cup have watched professional sailing grow in popularity around the world, however interest has not been as strong in the United States. They realized that professional sailing in the United States has remained a secondary sport largely because there is a lack of races that are sponsor driven, have mass media attention, professional competitors and award prize money. The organizers of The Atlantic Cup, therefore, came together to fill the void and create a top-level premier sailing race in the United States. The goal is to produce hard fought, intense sailing competitions featuring the top U.S. and international short-handed sailors. The races will be surrounded by entertaining, engaging events that will engage the casual fan's interest and grow a new generation of sailing fans and enthusiasts.

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For more information please on The Atlantic Cup please visit the Website at [www.AtlanticCup.org](http://www.AtlanticCup.org)