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**“Gut” Instinct Secures Block Island Race Victory for *Bella Mente***

***Carina, Lindy and Skye are Other Top Performers***

**LARCHMONT, N.Y.** (May 31, 2010) – In a race where choosing sides is key, the crew aboard Hap Fauth’s (Minneapolis, Minn.) 69-foot Mini Maxi *Bella Mente* used their “Gut” instinct and flawless teamwork to win the Storm Trysail Club’s 65<sup>th</sup> Block Island Race. The 186 nautical mile race began Friday afternoon, May 28, and sent *Bella Mente* and 95 other IRC- and PHRF-rated boats off on a course from Stamford, Conn. (where host Stamford Yacht Club is located), down Long Island Sound, clockwise around Block Island (R.I.), and back. Choosing Plum Gut over an equally notorious passage called “The Race” on the way to Block Island and then again coming back, proved critical to *Bella Mente* in its taking of line honors after almost 19 1/2 hours of sailing. While *Bella Mente* finished at 11:40 Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend, the last of the smaller boats finished nearly 23 hours later.

“It’s the key to every Block Island Race, choosing between ‘The Gut’ and The Race,” said *Bella Mente*’s navigator Dirk Johnson (Middletown, R.I.), who picked the former for both heading out and heading in. “Frankly from a navigational perspective, it’s a true test. Anyone can make it on a fair tide, but we hit it at foul tide both ways, and for a two-mile stretch on the way back, the crew had to make four sail changes. They had to be ready for everything and be flawless at all times.”

Plum Gut and The Race are 60 miles away from the start, and there is a 20-minute current change between the two (the Race starts earlier). “If you are hitting that gate close to the change,” said Race Chairman Ray Redniss, “you have to make a quick choice, and it also depends on the conditions and whether you want to sail on the southern or the northern side of Long Island Sound.” The Race Committee was forced to postpone the start due to light breezes and that was a worry. “You can start in a lighter air if the tide is taking you down the sound, but when it isn’t, if you delay too long, you run out of tide,” said Redniss. As it was, most classes started in a 5-6 knot westerly, which built to 10 knots for the larger boats that started last. And indeed, some boats had to retire when the wind dropped to zero and they could not make headway through the foul tide at The Gut and The Race.

“It was a lovely race, with a full moon, and really enjoyable, which is what is most important to me,” said Rives Potts (Westbrook, Conn.), whose Custom 48’ *Carina* won its IRC class and the trophy for best performance by a vintage boat. “We sail with a bunch of young people on board, so we are not a hard-core racing boat,” said Potts, explaining that his 41-year-old boat is famous, nevertheless, for having won a Transatlantic Race, a Fastnet, and more than one Bermuda race. “The *Carina* crew chose The Race for the passage coming back,” said Potts. “It was a better wind angle, and the current was better, plus we wanted to get to the Connecticut shore for the favorable breezes. The last four hours of the competition were tedious, and we had just enough wind to cross the finish line.”

David Dickerson's (Waterford, Conn.) Peterson 38, *Lindy*, turned in best corrected and elapsed times for the PHRF fleet, earning Dickerson both the Terrapin and Governor's Race East trophies for best corrected and best elapsed time PHRF. Best performance by a doublehanded boat went to Ty Anderson and Eric Kreuter's (Riverside, Conn.) Farr 395 *Skye*, earning them the Gerold Abels Trophy. (*Bella Mente* won the Governor's Race West Trophy for best elapsed time in the IRC Fleet and the William Tripp Jr. Memorial Trophy for best corrected time in the IRC Fleet.)

The Block Island Race is part of the US-IRC Gulf Stream Series, the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy and the Double Handed Ocean Racing Trophy (both for IRC) and the New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF). Specifically for Long Island Sound sailors, the Block Island Race is a qualifier for the Caper, Sagola and Windigo trophies awarded by the Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound and the "Tuna Trophy" for the best IRC combined scores in the Block Island Race (weighted 60%) and Larchmont Yacht Club's EDLU Race (weighted 40%).

### **About the Storm Trysail Club**

The Storm Trysail Club, reflecting in its name the sail to which sailors must shorten when facing severe adverse conditions, is one of the world's most respected sailing clubs, with its membership comprised strictly of skilled blue water and ocean racing sailors. In addition to hosting Block Island Race Week presented by Rolex in odd-numbered years, the club holds various prestigious offshore racing events (among them the annual Fort Lauderdale to Key West Race and the Pineapple Cup Montego Bay Race); annual junior safety-at-sea seminars; and a regatta for college sailors using big boats.

For more information on the Storm Trysail Club and its events, including the Block Island Race, visit the official website [www.stormtrysail.org](http://www.stormtrysail.org).

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### **Storm Trysail Club's 65th Block Island Race Overall Results**

#### ***Finish Position, Yacht Name, Yacht Type Length, Skipper, Hometown***

##### **IRC Doublehanded (IRC - 16 Boats)**

1. *Skye*, Farr 395, James T. Anderson, Riverside, CT, USA - 1; 1
2. *Mireille*, J 120, Hewitt Gaynor, Fairfield, CT, USA - 2; 2
3. *Alibi*, J 120, Gardner Grant, Westport, CT, USA - 3; 3

##### **IRC 30 (IRC - 7 Boats)**

1. *Sinn Fein*, Cal 40, Peter Rebovich, Metuchen, NJ, USA - 1; 1
2. *Emily*, custom-k a nielsen 43-9, Edwin Gaynor, southport, CT, USA - 2; 2
3. *Hiro Maru*, Swan 43, Hiroshi Nakajima, Stamford, CT, USA - 3; 3

##### **IRC 35 (IRC - 7 Boats)**

1. *Apsara*, J 109, Mike Sleightholme, Summit, NJ, USA - 1; 1
2. *Zest*, Hinckley SW42, Brian Swiggett, Huntington, NY, USA - 2; 2
3. *Afterglow*, Express 37, Bill and Lucy Walker, Easton, CT, USA - 8/DNF; 8

IRC 40 (IRC - 17 Boats)

1. Partnership, J 122, David/MaryEllen Tortorello, Fairfield, CT, USA - 1; 1
2. Christopher Dragon, J 122, Andrew Weiss, Mamaroneck, NY, USA - 2; 2
3. Wings, J 122, Mike Bruno / Jim Callahan, Armonk, NY, USA - 3; 3

J-44 (IRC - 5 Boats)

1. Beagle, J 44, Philip Gutin, New York, NY, USA - 1; 1
2. Glory, J 44, Jack Neades, New London, CT, USA - 2; 2
3. VAMP, J 44, Leonard Sitar, Holmdel, NJ, USA - 3; 3

IRC 45 (IRC - 11 Boats)

1. Carina, Custom 48', Rives Potts, Westbrook, CT, USA - 1; 1
2. American Girl, King 40, Daniel Galyon, Binghamton, NY, USA - 2; 2
3. Dragonfly , J 130, Colin McGranahan, Larchmont, NY, USA - 3; 3

IRC 50 (IRC - 13 Boats)

1. Oakcliff, Ker 50, Oakcliff Sailing Center, Oyster Bay, NY, USA - 1; 1
2. Gracie, McCurdy & Rhodes 69, Steve and Simon Frank, Darien, CT, USA - 2; 2
3. Bombardino, Santa Cruz 52, James Sykes, New York, NY, USA - 3; 3

IRC Zero (IRC - 8 Boats)

1. Bella Mente, Mini Maxi 69', Hap Fauth, Minneapolis, MN, USA - 1; 1
2. Rima2, R/P 55, John Brim, New York, NY, USA - 2; 2
3. Vanquish, STP65, USMMA/ Riker/Rego/Lucas, Kings Point, NY, USA - 3; 3

PHRF (PHRF - 12 Boats)

1. Lindy, Peterson 38, David Dickerson, Waterford, CT, USA - 1; 1
2. Gringo, Pearson 37, Michael McGuire, Rowayton, CT, USA - 2; 2
3. Wildeyes, Quest 33, Teri and Pete Binkley, Branford, CT, USA - 3; 3

**65th Block Island Race – Overall Trophies**

**George Lauder Trophy**- Best performance by a Vintage boat (15 years old +)  
Carina, Rives Potts

**Commodore's Grail Trophy** - Best corrected time B IRC below 1.08  
Carina, Rives Potts

**Governor's Race West Trophy** - Best elapsed time IRC Fleet  
Bella Mente, Hap Fauth

**William Tripp Jr. Memorial Trophy** - Best corrected time IRC Fleet  
Bella Mente, Hap Fauth

**Terrapin Trophy**- Best corrected time B PHRF  
Lindy, David Dickerson

**Governor's Race East Trophy**- Best elapsed time - PHRF  
Lindy, David Dickerson

**Gerold Abels Trophy** - Best Performance by a Double Handed boat  
Skye, Ty Anderson/Eric Kreuter

**Roddie Williams Team Race Trophy**

Storm Trysail #3, Sinn Fein/Rima2/Gracie

**Tuna Trophy** - for the best IRC combined scores in the Eclu (40%) and the Block Island Race (60%)  
Siren Song, Tom Carroll

**Commodore's Trophy** - To the boat that has won her class and has beaten the second and third place boat by the greatest margin of time.

Aspara, Mike Sleightholme

**Harvey Conover Memorial Overall Trophy** - Awarded to the boat that has won her class and, in the judgment of the Flag Officers and Race Committee, had the best performance.

Bella Mente, Hap Fauth