

TECLA WINNERS OF FIRST LEG OF THE TALL SHIPS ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

- May 14, 2009

The Dutch vessel *Tecla* has been confirmed as the overall winner on corrected time of the first leg of the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge. All the vessels that took part in the first race are now in Tenerife and all race declarations have been received. Behind *Tecla* overall and in the Class A and B vessels combined was *Kruzenshtern* (Russia), with *Jolie Brise* (UK) in third.

In the Class C and D vessels on corrected time, *Rona II* (UK) has been confirmed as the winner on corrected time, with *Urania* (Netherlands) in second and *Xsaar* (Belgium) in third.

Line honours, for the first vessel to cross the finish line, went to *Peter von Danzig* (Germany) who took just five days, two hours, 38 minutes and 13 seconds to travel the 900 nautical mile route from Vigo to Tenerife, just 31 minutes and 44 seconds quicker than the second vessel *Rona II*. All the vessels completed the race in a little over six days.

“The first race proved to be an excellent start for the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge,” says Bernard Heppener, Race Committee Chairman. “There were good winds from the north which helped the fleet make excellent time into Tenerife which meant all the trainees on board the vessels had a fantastic experience that they will no doubt remember for the rest of their lives. However, this was just an introduction to prepare them for the next race when they will cross the Atlantic to Bermuda. We now look forward to a successful four days in Tenerife where there is already an excellent ambiance building up for both the crews and the general public.”

The prize giving will be held on the main stage in Santa Cruz harbour on Friday 15 May, following the traditional crew parade through the streets.

The Argentinean Class A ship *Libertad* has joined the fleet for the stay in Tenerife and the Romanian Class A ship *Mircea* will join the fleet for the 2,600 nautical mile second race across the Atlantic to Bermuda. Race two will start on Sunday 17 May.

Ends

For further information, contact Corinne Hitching, Media Manager of Sail Training International. Email:

Corinne.hitching@sailtraininginternational.org. Tel: +44 77641 83866.

High resolution photographs are available from the website:
<http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/page.asp?eventID=471&isSubmitted=1&partID=470>