



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATCH RACING IN PORTUGAL

In Portugal the Match Racing Programme started when the Federation in 1995 invited Armando Goulartt to set up a pyramid-shaped structure for developing the discipline with the regions at its base to national level.



### THE PROGRAMME

The first step was to get the involvement of a sponsor (Land Rover) and with his help to acquire a fleet of J24 boats which could be trailed overland to different venues whenever they were needed.



To coordinate the programme, a National Match Racing Committee was established. All its members took part on a purely voluntary basis: Armando Goulartt (chairman), Miguel Boavida



(ranking), João Aranda (reports), António Peters (regulations), Eurico Teodoro (equipment)

The programme was started with 11 match racing events organized every year.



A national ranking was also established.

All aspects of the program - organization of events, handling of boats, national ranking, etc. - were established in well defined and very precise regulations.



Another important task has been to help the host clubs to organize the events.

The goal for the committee was to create a process through which sailors could enjoy match racing while, at the same time, the discipline was promoted through the whole of Portugal.



## ACTIVITIES

More than 100 match racing events have been organized. They have taken place in every region (North, Centre, South, Azores and Madeira) in a very wide range of regattas and at every level.



We have organized 20 international grade 2 events and several Match Racing European



Championships: in Lisbon (1998), in Madeira (2001) and in Vilamoura (2001) the J24 Match Racing Europeans for Women.

Ten Algarve Cup events (grade 2) and eight Land Rover Cup events (grade 2) were also run during that period.



Ongoing relations with the media have been actively promoted and television coverage was successfully achieved at all national and international events.



## THE YOUTH

Promotion of match racing at grass roots level was not overlooked.

A few match racing events for the young have been organized at yacht club level.



On the regional and the national circuits a great percentage of crews are young sailors under 20 years old.



## THE BOATS

The success of Match Racing in Portugal has been so huge and the utilization rate of the boats so high that more boats were needed in order to provide opportunities to everybody who



wants to participate in our program. The Madeira Sailing Association has purchased a fleet of six J22, and the CNPD in the Azores has also acquired Match Racing boats.



## THE SPECTATORS

Match racing is particularly exciting if the spectators can follow the races from the shore and the media can easily cover the competition.



We have started a new experiment of running events inside large harbours and marinas, as in Leixões, Portimão and Vilamoura, and hundreds of spectators have been following the races.



## IN SHORT

***Summing up our activity, we have organized:***

- 100 match racing events
- 20 international grade 2 events
- 3 Match Racing European Championships

***plus***

- 350 sailors have competed in our events





- 50 skippers have been registered on the world match racing rankings
- 27 umpires have been trained

## THE OUTLOOK

In our country, we did not want to convert match racing into an expensive discipline for a small group of professionals with very restricted access only.

We were aware that a new and difficult decade was coming for the sport of sailing - times of depression and great financial hardships in the whole world are forecast. But we believe match racing will emerge from the crisis because of its high visibility and great impact on TV broadcasting, guaranteeing good returns on sponsors' investments. Also, the fact that sailors can compete without any equipment costs must not be neglected or forgotten.

