



FARR® DESIGNS SWEEP 2003 ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART RACE

Annapolis, Maryland (30 December 30 2003) – *First National Real Estate*, a Beneteau First 40.7 designed by Farr Yacht Design, took the unprecedented double IRC and IMS handicap victories in the 59th Sydney Hobart Race. Michael Spies, skipper, and co owner Peter Johnson won the coveted double from a competitive IMS and IRC fleets of 40 ocean racing yachts.

"We are very excited by the double victory and full credit must go to Michael and his team," said Bruce Farr, president of Farr Yacht Design. "It was a brilliant performance by the 40.7 and we are very happy to see the design enjoy another major victory. The crew of talented sailors are to be commended for their superior achievement."

The 59th Sydney Hobart yielded very impressive results for many other Farr Yacht Design boats as well. The Farr-designed *Bounder* (IMS 49, Design 447), chartered by RORC Commodore Chris Little, took first place in the IMS A Division. *Ichi Ban*, Matt Allen's Farr 52 One Design, won IRC A division.

Farr Yacht Design has an enviable record of success in the history of the Sydney Hobart Race extending back to 1976 with Farr Designs taking the first two places, and in subsequent years across a wide range of boat size and rule type. "The Sydney Hobart Race is a true test of offshore sailing and design. We are proud to continue our long tradition with another crop of successes this year over a broad range of our designs. We are encouraged that our designs with good all around performance are capable of winning the big events" said Jim Schmicker, Senior Naval Architect at Farr Yacht Design.

Farr Yacht Design, Ltd. is acknowledged as the top yacht design team in the world based upon one of the most extensive and impressive records of winning race results ever compiled by the yachts of a single design group. Their long-running record of achievement includes 40 World Championships and a multitude of victories at internationally prestigious grand prix yachting events and round the world races.

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