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for immediate release
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**ROLEX China Sea Race 2016**

**Starts Wednesday 23 March**

Two Records Under Threat

The 28th edition of the China Sea Race has the potential to rewrite the record books for not just one, but two records, as the progress of both RP66 Alive and Banuls 60 Catamaran MACH2 suggest that both monohull and multihull records set in 2000 are under serious threat. After 24 hours of racing, both boats had covered in excess of half the course and, averaging 12kts VMG, have a current estimated elapsed time of around the 44 hour mark. The current outright record is 47h 43m 07s, while the multihull record stands at 48h 01m 47s.



*Standard Insurance Centennial*



*UBOX*



images: Rolex / Daniel Forster

This, of course, takes no account of changing weather patterns as the boats approach the Philippine coast and it is interesting to note that, of only two boats in the fleet to stay high of the rhumb line, Standard Insurance Centennial has possibly the best local knowledge of likely conditions. UBOX is hot on her tail, currently estimated to finish after around 56 hours, together with fellow IRC Premier competitors, *Shahtoosh* and *Moonblue 2*, who have both elected to stay south for now.

There is a constant change at the top of the leaderboard for the projection of winner in IRC Corrected time, with only three hours on estimated corrected time (ECT) separating the top seven boats. Standard Insurance Centennial’s owner, Ernesto Echauz, has plenty of form, having lifted the China Sea Race Trophy in 1998 and 2008 and will be putting his previous experience to good use, however Anthony Root’s *Black Baza* is running the TP52 very close, as is Sydney GTS43, EFG Mandrake, with less than an hour amongst the three on ECT.

Chinese A40RC Seawolf is currently leading the charge on ECT in IRC Racer 2, however predictions change with every tracker update, with Krampus and double handed entry Whiskey Jack also laying claim to the leadership through the day.

Night 2 beckons and forecasts suggest it will be as rough as the first night out, with the north east monsoon picking up behind the fleet. If it is strong enough to negate the diurnal breezes off the Luzon coast, we could be looking at Line Honours being taken at 1000hrs tomorrow.

Armchair enthusiasts can follow the action by checking the Yellowbrick trackers at [www.rhkyc.org.hk/rcsr16tracking.aspx](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk/rcsr16tracking.aspx) - trackers are set to update twice an hour and have proved addictive watching for friends and family.

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URL : ftp.rhkyc.org.hk

Username : chinasearace16

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**About Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club**
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) is one of the oldest sports clubs in Hong Kong and is proud of its rich, colourful history, which stretches back over 160 years of social and competitive sailing and rowing. RHKYC organises a full calendar of local and international racing for both keel boats and dinghies, ranging from round-the-cans to Category 1 offshore races. The Club also provides sailing courses for members and non-members at various levels to nurture the development of sailing.

**About Rolex**

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history. A truly integrated and independent manu­facturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, sports, exploration, the spirit of enterprise, and the environment through a broad palette of sponsoring activities, as well as philanthropic programmes.

For enquiry:

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| Koko MuellerPR & Communications ManagerTel.: +852 2239 0342 / +852 9488 7497Fax: +852 2838 5738 +852 2572 5399email: Koko.Mueller@rhkyc.org.hkRoyal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett Island, Causeway BayHong KongRHKYC website: [www.rhkyc.org.hk](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk) | Lindsay LyonsAssistant Manager – Sailing and PromotionTel: +852 2239 0391Email: Lindsay.Lyons@rhkyc.org.hkFax: +852 2239 0364Royal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett IslandCauseway BayHong Kong |