

Ultimate 20 *Alexa* Wins Asian Yachting Grand Prix's 2017 Commodore's Cup

10th Commodore's Cup 2017 Subic Bay, Philippines

April 19, 2017: The Commodore's Cup is the 10th regatta on the Asian Yachting Grand Prix.

Ringed by hilly terrain, Subic Bay is large enough to develop its own microclimate, which cycles between local land and sea breezes. This can be very tricky and could have a bearing on the overall outcome. Today, there was an uncharacteristic and gusty 12 to 14 knots, blowing in from the south and southwest in the morning, which defied all weather forecasts.



April 20, 2017: The morning breeze was slow to materialize. After an hour's wait, the sea breeze settled in and sent the yachts on their way. Similar point to point races were selected for the various classes that started with a beat for the entire six nautical mile length of Subic Bay, and return under spinnaker. While the IRC racing class did two laps, the other classes did different return legs and finished in front of the Lighthouse Resort.

Eric Jurado's Ultimate 20 *Alexa* and the larger boats had close battles in the first lap and, as the wind increased to 12 to 14 knots, *Alexa* planed off into the distance, to claim the daily double by 27 minutes ahead of the class and four minutes on corrected time ahead of her closest rival.



April 21, 2017: The morning land breeze was slow to materialize again, but came in earlier than yesterday. Racing got underway on time and in 7 to 9 knots of wind from the south, southwest. There was no lack of spirited effort at the crowded start line, with skippers taking different approaches and

jockeying for position to give themselves a little advantage. The breeze topped out at 17 knots in the second race and every ounce of speed was needed, as mere seconds separated the class leaders and, in some cases, resulted in a change in the overall order.

Despite Eric Jurado's Ultimate 20 *A/lexa* disappearing into the distance and finishing 17 minutes ahead of the class, *A/lexa*'s closest rival came out on top by a mere five seconds when the handicaps were applied, and both were tied at three points at the top of the class point score.



April 22, 2017: For a third day in a row, the mirror like water surface was slowly replaced with wind ripples from the incoming sea breeze and, by start time, 5 to 6 knots of wind blessed the fleet. Point to point courses crisscrossed Subic Bay and, as the breeze increased to 16 knots, the classes made quick time of the courses and were all finished by 1400 hours.

Eric Jurado's Ultimate 20 *A/lexa* blitzed the course, finishing 29 minutes ahead of the class. The case of a missing harbor mark was resolved amicably among the skippers. *A/lexa* took the overall lead from her closest

rival by two points and, barring a mishap tomorrow, the class title.



April 23, 2017: The sea breeze arrived early. By start time, 8 to 10 knots of wind sent the yachts briskly on their way and, for the fourth day, defied the weather forecast, as if the race officer had a direct link to the wind gods. The two windward/leeward races were crucial to the overall IRC class results, so a lot of start line urging and blocking took place under the watchful eye of the international jury. The breeze topped out at 16 knots and faded towards the end of race 2, which heavily influenced the results.

Eric Jurado's Ultimate 20 *A/lexa* blitzed the course again, finishing 33 minutes ahead of the class, and raced away with the class title.