



## ORACLE Racing Sailing Team Bios

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## **James Spithill**

**Date of Birth:** June 28, 1979

**Nationality:** Australia

**Position:** Skipper, ORACLE Racing Spithill

When James Spithill debuted on the America's Cup scene in 1999 as a fresh-faced 19-year-old many believed he would one day win the America's Cup.

He did on Feb. 14, 2010, at the helm of the most extreme yacht the competition has ever seen; the 90-foot long by 90-foot wide trimaran *USA 17*. In winning the 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup as skipper of ORACLE Racing at the age of 30, he became the youngest skipper to ever win the revered trophy.

Spithill was also the youngest to ever helm an America's Cup yacht when he skippered Young Australia in the 1999-2000 Louis Vuitton Cup challenger series in New Zealand.

Twice he's been named the Australian Male Yachtsman of the Year (2005-06 and 2009-10). Upon accepting the award a second time Spithill said,

"This might be an individual award, but there's no way I could've achieved what I have without the help of ORACLE Racing team and my family. It was an incredible feeling to pull it all together and pull off the America's Cup victory."

Spithill also has a number of world titles to his credit, including the 2005 match racing worlds, 2005 Melges 24 championship, 2010 RC 44 Match Racing championship and the 2010 RC 44 World Championship.

Spithill leads one of two entries by ORACLE Racing in the America's Cup World Series. The ORACLE Racing Spithill crew includes wingsail trimmer Dirk de Ridder, tactician John Kosteki, trimmer Joe Newton and bowman Piet van Nieuwenhuijzen.

"The AC45 is a high-adrenaline machine. It's the coolest boat in the world today," says Jimmy, who was test pilot of the prototype yacht. "The boats are physically demanding and it takes a lot to get them around the race track. But we've

prepared in both light winds and heavy, and we feel extra motivation to win the first event of the America's Cup World Series."

### **Career Highlights**

- 2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
Australian Male Sailor of the Year (2009-'10)  
International C Class Catamaran Championship, runner-up  
RC 44 2011 World Championship, Yacht 17, winner  
RC 44 2001 Match Racing World Championship, Yacht 17, winner
- 2009:** International A Class Catamaran World Championship, 6th place
- 2007:** Louis Vuitton Cup, Luna Rossa Challenge, finalist
- 2006:** Australian Male Sailor of the Year (2005-06)
- 2005:** ISAF Match Race World Championship, winner  
Melges 24 World Championship, winner  
Bermuda Gold Cup, winner
- 2003:** Louis Vuitton Cup, OneWorld, semifinalist
- 2000:** Louis Vuitton Cup, Young Australia



## **Dirk de Ridder**

**Date of Birth:** December 29, 1972

**Nationality:** Dutch

**Position:** Wingsail trimmer

Dirk is the answer to the trivia question, “Who is the only Dutch athlete to have visited the White House?” Such are the spoils for winning the America’s Cup.

As the main trimmer aboard USA 17, “Cheese” was responsible for harnessing the power of the towering 223-foot wingsail during BMW ORACLE Racing’s successful campaign for the 33<sup>rd</sup> America’s Cup.

Dirk holds the same position for skipper James Spithill on the ORACLE Racing Spithill AC45 crew, and was one of the sailing team members who contributed design input to the AC45.

“The AC45 came out of the box working pretty much instantly. Even with the wingsail, everything worked as it was designed,” said Dirk. “Huge credit goes to the design team, who were designing the boat as it was being built.”

Before developing into perhaps the foremost wingsail trimmer in the world, Cheese found remarkable success in the Volvo Ocean Race. He was aboard the 2001-02 race winner *illbruck*, skippered by his brother-in-law and fellow team member John Kosteki. He also placed fourth in the Soling Class at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

### **Career Highlights**

- 2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America’s Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
RC 44 Season Championship, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
RC 44 World Championship, BMW ORACLE Racing, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- 2005-06:** Volvo Ocean Race, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- 2003-05:** BMW ORACLE Racing
- 2002:** Volvo Ocean Race, *illbruck*, winner
- 2000:** Sydney Olympic Regatta, Soling Class, 4<sup>th</sup> place
- 1998:** Whitbread Round the World Race, *Merit Cup*, 2<sup>nd</sup> place



## John Kostecki

**Date of Birth:** June 7, 1964

**Nationality:** USA

**Position:** Tactician

By adding an America's Cup title to his résumé, "JK" became the first sailor in the world to collect the sport's "Grand Slam." In addition to winning the America's Cup, he previously skippered illbruck Challenge to a win in the round-the-world 2001-02 Volvo Ocean Race and won an Olympic silver medal at the 1988 Games, helming the three-man Soling class.

John's sailing roots lie in the depths of San Francisco Bay. Growing up in San Rafael, he won his first world title, in the Sunfish class, right under the flight path to San Francisco International Airport. He knows the Bay's intricate windy and tidal conditions well. After a month of trialing the AC45 in the blustery conditions of June, he's sounding a cautious note as the build-up to the 2013 Cup presses on.

"We're gonna have our hands full," JK said. "All of the training we did in San Francisco is going to pay off at the Cascais America's Cup World Series. We're looking forward to a good regatta."

Now in his sixth America's Cup, John is an 11-time world champion in a range of one-design classes. His most recent championship came in February 2011 he won the Farr 40 World Championship as tactician aboard the Australian yacht *Transfusion*.

### Career Highlights

**2011:** Farr 40 World Championship, *Transfusion*, winner

**2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner

**2002:** Volvo Ocean Race, illbruck Challenge, winner

**2000:** Louis Vuitton Cup, AmericaOne, finalist

**1997-98:** Whitbread Round the World Race, Chessie Racing

**1995:** Louis Vuitton Cup Young America

**1988:** Seoul Olympics Regatta, Soling class, Silver medalist

**1986, 88:** Soling World Champion



## **Joe Newton**

**Date of Birth:** December 16, 1977

**Nationality:** Australia

**Position:** Trimmer

As a trimming assistant aboard the trimaran USA 17, Joe won the America's Cup in his fourth attempt.

Each of his previous Cup campaigns has been with fellow Australian James Spithill, the team's skipper. The two formed a tight bond in their early days with Young Australia in 2000. They then moved on to OneWorld Challenge in 2002-03 followed by the Luna Rossa Challenge for 2007.

In 2001, Joe won the Fastnet and the Round Island Race aboard the maxi yacht Stealth. In 2005, again with Spithill, Joe won the Match Racing World Championship and the Bermuda Gold Cup. He also teamed with the skipper to win the RC44 World Championship in October 2010.

### **Career Highlights**

- 2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
RC 44 World Championship, Yacht 17, winner  
RC 44 Match Racing World Championship, Yacht 17, winner
- 2007:** Louis Vuitton Cup, Luna Rossa, finalist
- 2005:** ISAF Match Race World Champion  
Bermuda Gold Cup, winner
- 2003:** Louis Vuitton Cup, OneWorld, semifinalist
- 2001:** Rolex Fastnet Race, *Stealth*, winner
- 2000:** Louis Vuitton Cup, *Young Australia*



## **Piet van Nieuwenhuijzen**

**Date of Birth:** June 9, 1971

**Nationality:** Dutch

**Position:** Bow

Piet's passion for sailing was a hand-me-down from his parents. They often took him sailing on weekends and for holidays as a child. By the age of 20 he decided that professional sailing would be his career.

His first major experience came in the 1992-93 Whitbread Round the World Race. Seven years later he would join the America's Cup fraternity as a member of the AmericaOne team.

He joined Russell Coutts in the Alinghi team for the 2003 Louis Vuitton Cup and America's Cup, both of which they won. Piet joined ORACLE Racing after the 33<sup>rd</sup> Cup Match, when he sailed for Alinghi.

Standing 6 feet, 4 inches, Piet might be the tallest bow man in the history of the sport, but his athleticism and strength are valued commodities on the foredeck.

### **Career Highlights**

**2010:** Joins ORACLE Racing (September)

RC 44 World Championship, Yacht 17, winner

RC 44 Match Racing World Championship, Yacht 17, winner

33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, finalist

**2007:** 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, winner

TP52 Med Cup Circuit, *Artemis*, winner

**2003:** 31<sup>st</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, winner

Louis Vuitton Cup, Alinghi, winner

**2000:** Louis Vuitton Cup, AmericaOne, finalist



## **Russell Coutts**

**Date of Birth:** March 1, 1962

**Nationality:** New Zealand

**Position:** CEO/Helmsman, ORACLE Racing Coutts

Every sport has its most recognizable athlete, and in sailing that man is Russell Coutts.

A four-time winner, Russell is the most successful skipper in the history of the America's Cup. His 14-0 record in the 1995, 2000 and 2003 Cup matches is unmatched, lifting the trophy for each one of three different teams he has led.

Russell was a youth world champion in 1981, an Olympic Gold medalist in 1984 (in the physically demanding Finn singlehanded class), and won the first of his three match racing world championships in 1992. Twice he's been named World Sailor of the Year (1995, 2003) by the International Sailing Federation.

Russell's latest endeavor is his most challenging and demands more than just skill on the water. The team's success in the 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup has given him an opportunity to help transform the America's Cup into a fan-friendly, sustainable event with strong youth growth.

The most recognizable aspect of that transformation is the introduction of high-speed, wingsailed catamarans as the boat of choice for the 34<sup>th</sup> Cup, and the America's Cup World Series – Cascais will see the debut of the one-design AC45 in racing conditions.

"The AC45 is one of the central pieces in our effort to transform the Cup," says Russell. "It will be used in the America's Cup World Series through 2012, and will give new teams an important stepping stone in their development of wingsail, catamaran sailing."

Russell earned an engineering degree from Auckland University, which he has applied to good use in the development of a new America's Cup or grand-prix yacht. It also helped him conceive and co-design the RC 44, a one-design, monohull class that is raced throughout Europe.



## Career Highlights

- 2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
RC44 Season Championship, BMW ORACLE Racing, helmsman/tactician, winner  
RC44 World Championship, BMW ORACLE Racing, 2nd overall  
RC44 Copenhagen Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner  
RC44 Austria Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner
- 2009:** Extreme 40, Round the Island Race, 2nd place  
RC 44 Cagliari Cup, Fleet Race  
Louis Vuitton Pacific Series, Auckland, 3rd place
- 2008:** RC44 Championship Tour, *Banco Espirito Santo*, tactician, winner  
RC 44 Puerto Calero Gold Cup, Fleet Racing, 2nd  
TP 52 World Championship, Puerto Calero, 4th  
Winner Friuli Venezia Giulia RC 44 Cup, Fleet Racing  
Winner RC 44 Malcesine SLAM Cup Match Racing  
Malcesine SLAM Cup Fleet Race, 2nd  
TP 52 Med Cup, Marseille, 1st  
Winner RC 44 Cagliari Cup Match Racing  
RC 44 Cagliari Cup Fleet Racing, 2nd  
Dubai RC44 Cup, 3rd
- 2007:** TP52 Global Championship, Artemis, winner
- 2003:** 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, winner  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Alinghi, winner
- 2001:** 12-Meter World Championship, South Australia, winner
- 2000:** 30<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner
- 2000, 2006:** Farr 40 World Championship, winner
- 1995:** 29<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Team New Zealand, winner
- 1992, '93, '96:** Match Race World Champion
- 1984:** Los Angeles Olympics Regatta, Finn, gold medalist
- 1981:** ISAF Youth World Champion



## **Simon Daubney**

**Date of Birth:** July 17, 1959

**Nationality:** New Zealand

**Position:** Trimmer

Simon Daubney is one of the most experienced headsail trimmers in the world of grand-prix sailing.

Simon has won the Cup an impressive four times, many with fellow team members Russell Coutts, Murray Jones, Matt Mason and Piet van Nieuwenhuyzen.

“When I look around at this team and see many of the same people from previous America’s Cup campaigns, I see a lot of guys that are at the top of their game in their respective fields,” says Simon.

“Russell still has a great fire in him. And I’m impressed with the drive that Jimmy Spithill has. The whole group is impressive and familiar,” Simon says.

Simon’s accomplishments gained him nomination to the America’s Cup Hall of Fame in 2010, but the AC45 has renewed his thirst for development sailing.

“The AC45’s are such a new game,” says Simon. “It’s like the boat’s dominating you at first and you have to learn how to tame it, learn how to figure it out. And that’s the exciting part, that’s what keeps it fun.”

### **Career Highlights**

**2011:** Joins ORACLE Racing

**2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America’s Cup, Alinghi, finalist

**2007:** 32<sup>nd</sup> America’s Cup, Alinghi, winner

**2003:** 31<sup>st</sup> America’s Cup, Alinghi, winner  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Alinghi, winner

**2000:** 30<sup>th</sup> America’s Cup, Team New Zealand, winner

**1995:** 29<sup>th</sup> America’s Cup, Team New Zealand, winner  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Team New Zealand, winner



## **Murray Jones**

**Date of Birth:** October 4, 1957

**Nationality:** New Zealand

**Position:** Wingsail trimmer

One of the most respected and decorated keelboat sailors in the world, Murray Jones is also a member of the America's Cup Hall of Fame. The "Captain" was inducted in September 2010 for winning four consecutive America's Cup matches from 1995 to 2007, including 20 of 22 races.

Murray's sailing career began as a youngster when he competed in three Youth World championships in the 1970s. Murray campaigned one-designs such as the 470 and Flying Dutchman from the late 70s into the early 90s, and represented New Zealand at the Olympic Regatta in 1988 and '92.

Murray is one of the cleverest thinkers in professional yacht racing. Through the years he's helped develop revolutionary rigging techniques, while also pioneering the new position of wind spotter aloft in the rig.

Murray was one of the sailing team members who contributed design input to the AC45, the new catamaran developed for the America's Cup World Series beginning in July 2011.

"The wingsails look spectacular," says Murray. "They're different and give a lot more control than soft sails. It'll be interesting to see how people develop their starting and racing technique using the wingsail, because I think there's more flexibility using the wing."

### **Career Highlights**

**2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, finalist

**2007:** 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, winner

**2003:** 31<sup>st</sup> America's Cup, Alinghi, winner  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Alinghi, winner

**2000:** 30<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner

**1995:** 29<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner



## **Matthew Mason**

**Date of Birth:** December 23, 1964

**Nationality:** New Zealand

**Position:** Pit

Matthew joined ORACLE Racing Team during the lead-up to the 33rd America's Cup, but he made a tremendous impact. As boat director for *USA 17*, he was a key figure transforming the giant trimaran's performance from its launch configuration.

Matt first won the America's Cup with Team New Zealand in 1995 and was with the team for its successful defense in 2000.

He sailed with the OneWorld program in 2003 before returning to Team New Zealand for the 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup.

A regular on the grand-prix circuit and match racing tour, Matt also sailed in the 1993-94 Whitbread Round the World Race with Dennis Conner on *Winston*. In 1992 he won the ISAF Match Racing World Championship with team CEO Russell Coutts.

As a boatbuilder, Matt helped build the winning yachts for Team New Zealand in 1995 and 2000.

### **Career Highlights**

**2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America's Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner

**2007:** 32<sup>nd</sup> America's Cup, Emirates Team New Zealand, finalist  
Louis Vuitton Cup, Emirates Team New Zealand, winner

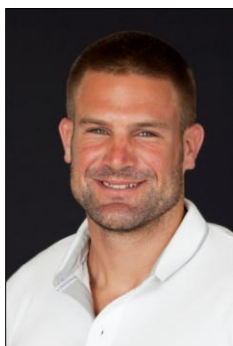
**2003:** Louis Vuitton Cup, OneWorld, semifinalist

**2000:** 30<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner

**1995:** 29<sup>th</sup> America's Cup, Team New Zealand, winner

**1993-94:** Whitbread Round the World Race

**1992:** Louis Vuitton Cup, New Zealand Challenge, finalist



## **Simeon Tienpont**

**Date of Birth:** January 20, 1982

**Nationality:** Dutch

**Position:** Bowman

Simeon was the only “first-timer” on the 2010 BMW ORACLE Racing America’s Cup winning team; a rare distinction of winning the Cup in his first attempt.

He is no stranger to high speed sailing.

Simeon was part of the record-setting 24-hour monohull run achieved by the ABN Amro Two crew in the Volvo Ocean Race 2005-06, clocking an impressive 563 nautical miles.

From a shipbuilding family, he has studied the design and construction of yachts and ships at university.

### **Career Highlights**

**2010:** 33<sup>rd</sup> America’s Cup, BMW ORACLE Racing, winner

**2009:** Extreme 40 circuit, *Gitana*

**2008:** Extreme 40 circuit with VOR and BMW ORACLE Racing

**2008:** TP52 MedCup circuit, *Mean Machine*, winner

**2005-06:** Volvo Ocean Race, *ABN Amro 2*, 4th overall and 24-hour speed record