

## Beer can to world class racing - a sneak peak at podium manners

**Ian Walker, Skipper of Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing celebrates third position on May 16 in the in Port Race, Newport – after shaking his crew hands to thank them.**  
**Photo Credit: Billie Weiss / Volvo Ocean Race**



One can hardly call inshore races at stopovers by visiting V65s "beer can racing". However, during interviews after the first inshore Pro-am and practice races during the recent Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Newport, one skipper quietly understated his arrival techniques despite the type of race.

During the skipper's press conference the day prior to departure for Leg 7, from Newport to Lisbon, Ian Walker, skipper of Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing, also former two time Olympian medal winner and as of now, a three time Volvo Ocean race veteran discussed his arrival manner of every race.

Whether racing inshore or fresh from the wilds of the southern ocean, he has the exact same actions upon the completion of any competition. The handsomely humorous skipper acknowledges each crew member by shaking their hand "for their efforts - and congratulating his navigator for getting them there".

As media folks sat around wide eyed in the international media center at the VOR race village, streams of video poured in for our experience. These professionally pleasing clips included one from the Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing on-board photographer filming the spoken skipper's action of conduct - there it was - the honorable hand shaking upon leg completion. The golden manners of a world class winner were portrayed and therefore, deemed official.

Next time when in a local "beer can", national or international race, regardless of the outcome or emotion, remember to acknowledge your crew through words or gestures of thanks.

That winning manner will set your crew apart and allow you to be a rightful member of the world class winning styles of sailing leaders.

Abu Dhabi Ocean Racing team was the overall winner the Volvo Ocean Race standings. More on Ian walker at

[http://www.volvoceanrace.com/en/people/292\\_Ian-Walker.html](http://www.volvoceanrace.com/en/people/292_Ian-Walker.html)

-Ellen MacPhail