



LOGBOOK

Tuesday 4th January 2011

RANKING: 3RD

WEATHER: Sunny

WIND: NE, 3 knots

SPEED: 5 knots

MENU:

Breakfast: Buns & pastries

Lunch: Game stew and chocolate mousse

Diner: Pepper steak

MIRABAUD IN THE GROOVE AND OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AFTER FOUR DAYS OF RACING

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR DOMINIQUE AND MICHÈLE!

MIRABAUD IN THE GROOVE AND OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Dominique Wavre and Michèle Paret passed through the Straits of Gibraltar last night in third place (provisional results). They are around 30 nautical miles behind the leaders, Jean-Pierre Dick and Loïck Peyron on 'Paprec Virbac'. This equates to only around 3 hours after 4 days of racing.

"We are happy with our position, even if our passage off the coast of Morocco was coloured with some experiences that have nothing to do with racing," explains Dominique, referring to the search that Mirabaud was subjected to by Moroccan customs officials yesterday. "The boat is going well and we're settled into a rhythm we're comfortable with. We're not going to let this setback beat us."

The first four days of the race have been full of twists. It all started with an off-par start due to the difficulty getting the boat up to speed in the very light airs after disembarking the technical team. "We were really not happy!" Michèle remarked shortly afterwards. "It was a frustrating moment but fortunately it didn't affect us too badly."

New Years Eve passed without any great celebrations on board Mirabaud. "We were in contact with the other yachts via

the VHF to wish each other Happy New Year", explained Michèle, "and we managed a short sandwich break!" On the other hand, the co-skippers did a great job of picking their way through the tricky wind conditions to bring them back in touch with the leaders, where they've stayed ever since.

They dealt with successive difficulties as they made their way down the Mediterranean but the worst was never in any of the contingency plans! On Monday afternoon, Mirabaud was boarded by an aggressive Moroccan customs patrol unit who carried out a full search of the racing yacht, causing considerable upheaval. Bags were

thrown onto the floor, freeze dried food sachets were torn apart and the vacuum packed rations, so carefully prepared over the previous weeks, were opened. Bags containing fragile electronics were trampled under foot and the cabin generally turned upside down. The custom officials finally left half an hour later after receiving a radio call.

Speaking by satellite telephone shortly after the incident, Dominique somehow managed to keep a philosophical frame of mind. "We're keeping our chins up and tidying the boat up at the moment, trying to get everything back into place. We're trying not to let it get us down." You can

read Michèle's commentary on the web: www.dominiquewavre.com.

Five days out of Barcelona, Dominique and Michèle are finally sailing in the Atlantic. The next key stages for the team will be passing the Canaries, the Doldrums, the South Atlantic High (St. Helena) before hitting the Roaring Forties, where approximately 40 days of cold and stormy winds await them...but that's another story.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS AFTER FOUR DAYS OF RACING.

A lot can happen in four days: Up until now the team on board Mirabaud have had no way of measuring their performance against their rivals. The boat was completely reconditioned last spring and summer, so this has been the first opportunity to see how the boat performs against the competition.



"We have been in close contact with several other boats over the course of the last few days and we can safely say that the boat is going well. On the other hand we haven't had a chance to race in a wide range of weather conditions so far: up until now, we have been sailing in light to medium wind ranges, and in these conditions we are up with the best of them."

In terms of pure boat speed, things seem to be going well at this stage in the race

and the differences in position are more to do with the various strategic choices of the crews. "Of course, we could always have done more, given more time to prepare", says Dom. "We decided to focus on performance and on that front, everything is fine. On the other hand, it seems some of our competitors have been working on ways to speed up the transfer of the moveable ballast. This seems to be paying off for them particularly in the Mediterranean where the conditions have been shifty and

you have to constantly adapt the trim of the boat. It's extremely physical and we have to assume the consequences!"

Dominique has also been able to confirm that Mirabaud is a particularly technical and sensitive boat. "She needs a lot of attention," he explains. "She's fast but the price we have to pay for that is that we need to be on the helm almost permanently and constantly trimming. But, we're more than happy to do it!"

Mirabaud's co-skippers haven't yet cast off their thermals even if the temperature is rising as they approach Africa. "The lack of sleep and irregular meals make you much more susceptible to the cold," explains Dominique. "We're staying wrapped up for the moment but it should quickly get much warmer over the next few days."



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR DOMINIQUE AND MICHÈLE!

The official team posters, postcards and stickers are available from MaxComm Communication, 42 Quai Gustave Ador in Geneva as well as all good chandleries and Yacht Clubs in the Geneva region.

RANKING: THE 4TH JANUAR AT 11PM

- 1) VIRBAC-PAPREC 3
- 2) FONCIA (+18.1 MILLES)
- 3) MIRABAUD (+38.8)
- 4) ESTRELLA DAMM (+54.6)
- 5) NEUTROGENA (+70.8)
- 6) GAES (+72.6)
- 7) GROUPE BEL (+108.8)
- 8) PRÉSIDENT (+109.6)
- 9) MAPFRE (+116.0)
- 10) WE ARE WATER (+144.0)
- 11) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+144.0)
- 12) RENAULT Z.E. SAILING TEAM (+146.0)
- 13) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+151.2)
- 14) HUGO BOSS (+179.4)



DOMINIQUEWAVRE

www.dominiquewavre.com

Mirabaud & Cie, banquiers privés

Laurent Koutaïsoff
29, boulevard Georges-Favon
1204 Genève
T: +41 58 816 23 90
M: +41 79 786 78 93

MaxComm Communication

Bernard Schopfer
T: +41 22 735 55 30
M: +41 79 332 11 76
bernard.schopfer@maxcomm.ch

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