



LOGBOOK

Tuesday 11th January 2011

DAMAGE ON BOARD MIRABAUD OFF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

“WATCH OUT FOR FLYING FISH!”

THE ‘THUMBS UP’ FROM MICHÈLE

RANKING: 5TH

WEATHER: Sun with isolated showers. High temperatures

WIND: North-easterly trade winds, 23 knots

BOAT SPEED: 15-18 knots

MENU:

Breakfast: Brioche/pastries

Lunch: Indian style, wholemeal bulgur wheat + creme caramel

Diner: Tandoori chicken

DAMAGE ON BOARD MIRABAUD OFF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS



Very impressive since the start of the Barcelona World Race, the Mirabaud has suffered damage this morning when the top of the gennaker let go, leading to the massive sail falling in the water and trailing behind the boat.

"We were sailing full on by 25 knots of wind when suddenly the sail fell in the water", said Dominique Wavre later on during a phone call. "It took us two hours to get it back onboard; it's been a terrible fight and we are exhausted."

Mirabaud is now back on track; however with a light spinnaker whilst the wind still blows at 25 knots, which is a big source of concern for the two co-skippers.

"We will reach the doldrums in two days. If the wind drops as planned, it will give us the opportunity to repair the sail, host it and roll it again, which is very important but not evident at all."

The Mirabaud is sailing back at full speed since

the incident. "Estrella Damm and Mapfre passed quite close to us, but unfortunately we didn't have any visual contact with them. Our only view is the horizon...it seems so close, yet there is an eternity of ocean around us."

Most of the Barcelona World Race competitors are now benefitting from established north-east trade winds of around 20-25 knots, more at times. The boat speeds have been impressive with an average of around 18 knots in the pack. However, lighter conditions beyond the Cape Verde Islands have made their presence felt among the leading boats. As of Monday evening, the speeds for the teams further down the fleet have been higher than those ahead.

The doldrums are nearly in sight now and as the wind dies at the front of the fleet, the pack should compress as the trailing boats start catching up the leaders. This effect will only be short-lived though as the front runners should pick up the southern hemisphere trades and re-establish their lead.

Other boats have suffered damage due to the hard conditions: Jean Le Cam's boat President broke its mast whilst Michel Desjoyeaux and François Gabart (Foncia) will have to stop in Brasil and change their boat's bow following a crash with an unknown object.

"WATCH OUT FOR FLYING FISH!"



Entering warmer waters usually also means the arrival of a wide and fascinating variety of wildlife, and this is particularly evident around the Cape Verde Islands.

"We'll be meeting more and more animals," enthuses Michèle. "Over the last few days we've seen several pods of dolphins, but no whales as yet."

On the other hand, the co-skippers need to keep their eyes well-peeled in case of attack...by flying fish! "They are extremely common at this latitude," explains Michèle. "They can fly extremely high and fast, and can be a real danger if you get hit in the head by one! We need to be on constant look-out."

In addition to the new wildlife, the weather will radically change over the next few days as Mirabaud enters the Intertropical Convergence Zone

(The Doldrums). This is an area around the equator where there north-easterly trade winds of the Northern Hemisphere meet the south-easterlies of the Southern Hemisphere and tend to cancel each other out, creating a calm zone. This zone can move from day to day and is usually accompanied by heavy skies, thunder and lightening. The Doldrums also mark the transition from the northern to the southern hemisphere...an event that won't be marked with much ceremony on board Mirabaud as the two sailors have already crossed it many times before.

THE 'THUMBS UP' FROM MICHÈLE

Michele received surgery for an injured thumb just before the start of the race, but is now well on her way to recovery.



"Dominique took the stitches out as we got into the Atlantic and I'm happy with the way it's healing. The cut is now closed but I'm still wearing a bandage as a precautionary measure. It doesn't hurt anymore and seems like it's healing as it should. In any case, I've no problems helming or manoeuvring onboard."

RANKING: THE 11th JANUARY 11 PM

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1) VIRBAC-PAPREC 3 | 9) RENAULT Z.E. SAILING TEAM (+519.2) |
| 2) FONCIA (+75.9 MILLES) | 10) GAES (+520.4) |
| 3) ESTRELLA DAMM (+222.4) | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+676.9) |
| 4) MAPFRE (+255.3) | 12) WE ARE WATER (+694.2) |
| 5) MIRABAUD (+256.0) | 13) HUGO BOSS (+724.5) |
| 6) GROUPE BEL (+312.2) | 14) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+764.0) |
| 7) NEUTROGENA (+333.3) | |
| 8) PRÉSIDENT (+503.4) | |



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