



# LOGBOOK

Friday 14th January 2011

NOW IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE!

THE BOAT SINGS!

WATCH OUT FOR ST. HELENA!

RANKING: 6<sup>th</sup>

WEATHER: Heavy skies, intermittent showers

WIND: South-easterly trade winds not well established. 3-5 knots

BOAT SPEED: 3 knots

MENU:

Breakfast: Brioche/pastries

Lunch: Sauted chicken & blueberry yoghurt

Diner: Fried potatoes with onions



# NOW IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE!



*Having finally passed through the notorious Doldrums, Mirabaud crossed the Equator yesterday and is now sailing in the Southern Hemisphere. The Doldrums is the zone that separates the north-easterly trade winds of the Northern Hemisphere with the south-easterly winds of the Southern Hemisphere.*

"We got through the Doldrums pretty unscathed until this morning," explains Dominique Wavre. "We had really heavy, leaden skies for a couple of days and there were a few patches of light winds during the showers, but luckily the wind never totally died; however now the sea is flat..."

The two leading yachts, Virbac Paprec and Foncia, were the first to put the brakes on as the

wind died crossing the Doldrums, meaning the distances between the yachts were considerably lower early this week. They were also the first to pick up the new trade winds and logically this has seen them stretch out their lead again as of yesterday evening.

"The race is thrilling," enthuses Dominique. "The leading group of about seven yachts is

very tightly packed. This is a big group given the number of days we've been sailing but I'm not really that surprised when you look at the high standards in this competition. Clearly this makes the game all the more interesting."

# THE BOAT SINGS!



*A round-the-world race like the Barcelona World Race requires the best strategy and boat speed, but also careful management of the equipment and effectively coping with the inevitable damage.*

Unfortunately one competitor (Jean Le Cam's 'Président') has already been forced to abandon the race, whilst Michel Desjoyeaux and François Gabart will be forced to stop over in Brazil to repair damage to their bow. Other competitors have also experienced major and minor problems: sometimes admitted but others a jealously guarded secret!

Unfortunately Mirabaud hasn't been spared her share of problems: in the lighter wind ranges the boat hums, whilst in heavier conditions it screams! "We have a vibration in the rudder," explains Dominique. "It's a real problem and is difficult to cope with physically: the helm vibrates a lot and the sound is at times really hard to bear. The vibrations also mean a loss of energy, and therefore efficiency. Unfortunately

we weren't able to fully fix the problem before the start and there is nothing we can do now at sea. We just have to put up with it!"

In addition, earlier this week, the strop attaching the gennaker (one of the sails at the front of the boat) broke, resulting in the sail going overboard and being damaged. "It's a really important sail," sighs Dominique. "We use it in a wide range of wind conditions and angles, so not having it is a real handicap. It is a real priority for us to repair it, but we need flat seas to be able to spread it out on the deck. But at the same time, we are going everything we can to avoid flat seas!"

# WATCH OUT FOR ST. HELENA!

*The next hurdle Mirabaud will have to overcome is getting round the South Atlantic High (St Helena High).*



This weather system has been the bane of sailors from the 19th century tea-clippers to today's Barcelona World Race and requires a huge detour; meaning Mirabaud is now heading for Brazil rather than in the direction of Cape Town.

High pressure systems, or anti-cyclones, turn in an anti-clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere (whereas in theory your bathwater goes down the plughole clockwise). In order to avoid this trouble spot of light winds, the boats will dive as far south as the 30th parallel or in some cases as far as the Roaring Forties before continuing their easterly route. The teams are already working on their strategy for getting round this obstacle and will be putting them into practice over the next few days.

## RANKING: THE 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 11 PM

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- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) VIRBAC-PAPREC 3       | 8) RENAULT Z.E. SAILING TEAM (+246.1)  |
| 2) FONCIA (+19.5 MILLES) | 9) GAES (+252.6)                       |
| 3) ESTRELLA DAMM (+41.7) | 10) HUGO BOSS (+454.4)                 |
| 4) MAPFRE (+109.5)       | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+483.0) |
| 5) GROUPE BEL (+125.6)   | 12) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+492.4)      |
| 6) MIRABAUD (+128.2)     | 13) WE ARE WATER (+601.3)              |
| 7) NEUTROGENA (+192.7)   |  |





# DOMINIQUEWAVRE

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