

LOGBOOK

Tuesday 18th January 2011

FOUR SEASONS IN THREE WEEKS

PLAYING YOUR CARDS RIGHT

MICHÈLE'S BLOG

CHECK OUT THE LATEST VIDEO DIARY FROM
ONBOARD MIRABAUD

RANKING: 3rd

WEATHER: Sunny with cloudy spells. High temperatures.

WIND: Established SE trade winds, 15 knots

BOAT SPEED: 11 knots, heading south

MENU:

Breakfast: Brioche/pastries

Meal n° 1: 'Tartiflette' + crème caramel

Meal n° 2: Chicken



FOUR SEASONS IN THREE WEEKS

Having left Barcelona on the 31st December in wintry conditions, Mirabaud has since passed through Spring-like temperatures off Madeira, intense heat off the coast of Senegal, stormy and oppressive conditions crossing the Equator in the direction of Brazil and now fierce tropical heat. Soon the mercury will be dropping again though, as they sail further south, meeting autumnal conditions off the coast of Chile before hitting the freezing conditions of the Southern Atlantic.



"For once, the going is fairly easy", smiles Dominique. "The trades are stable and we're sailing close-hauled under the full main and genoa. The autopilot is handling the conditions perfectly, so we've been able to make the most of things, recharge our batteries and catch up on some sleep!"

This time tomorrow, Mirabaud will be crossing the 20th parallel south and the weather condi-

tions look like they will get considerably more complicated. To the West, a storm system is turning on itself, bringing with it strong northerly winds. Foncia and Virbac-Paprec 3 briefly managed to take advantage of this system before hitting a new zone of high-pressure that could considerably slow them down.

Estrella Damm, Groupe Bel and Mirabaud have all opted for a fairly direct route, but a small

area of high pressure in their path could make life difficult for the teams. "We have to try and slip through the high pressure systems lying in front of us. We could well see a few calm patches and it's going to be a tricky zone to navigate through."

PLAYING YOUR CARDS RIGHT



The rules for the Barcelona World race allow the teams to sail in 'stealth mode' for a period of up to 24 hours – but only once for the entire duration of the race. In practice, this means they literally disappear from the radar and are undetectable by their opponents. The Race Committee is the only one to maintain contact for safety reasons.

Last Sunday, the Spanish team onboard Mapfre played their hand, disappearing from the system for a full day. But, could it all have been just a bluff? Did the Spaniards want their adversaries to think they had opted for the most direct, yet riskiest route to the East? This would have been a gamble with high-stakes: an outside chance of making it ahead of the pack but with the likelihood of stalling in lighter, heading winds.

"I haven't really thought about it to be honest", admits Dominique, who is not too keen on a rule he considers to be a bit of a gimmick. "We've

been planning our route without any consideration to theirs, whichever way they chose to go. I think the concept of stealth mode is interesting for the spectators, but for us it doesn't really change anything. Having said that, we may use it if the occasion arises. It's a bit of fun and we all like a game of poker from time to time!"

MICHÈLE'S BLOG



On the morning before the start, you wouldn't believe my surprise when I came across a small creature with big ears onboard (thankfully, not what you're thinking as they are really not welcome whilst sailing round the world!). This strange little friend has grown accustomed to his spot on



what we call the 'veranda', and sits opposite me during all my watches. He hasn't missed a single one since the start in Barcelona! So far, obedience is not his strong point, but he's a good listener. Who know, with a bit of time, more sleep deprivation and possibly a bit of Southern Ocean magic, he may yet reply!

Yesterday, I finally took off the bandage protecting my thumb, and I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the doctors at the Teknon Clinic. Thanks to them, I'm fully operational again!

CHECK OUT THE LATEST VIDEO DIARY FROM ONBOARD MIRABAUD

Don't miss the latest film clips on Dominique and Michèle's website, including their weekly video diary:
> <http://www.dominiquewavre.org/fr/gallery/videos>

RANKING THE 18th JANUARY 11 PM

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|------------------------|--|
| 1) ESTRELLA DAMM (0.0) | 8) RENAULT Z.E. SAILING TEAM (+297.2) |
| 2) GROUPE BEL (+108.1) | 9) FONCIA (+307.0 MILLES) |
| 3) MIRABAUD (+170.2) | 10) HUGO BOSS (+417.0) |
| 4) MAPFRE (+171.1) | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+449.0) |
| 5) VIRBAC-PAPREC (--) | 12) WE ARE WATER (+521.1) |
| 6) NEUTROGENA (+276.4) | 13) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+641.4) |
| 7) GAES (+281.4) | |



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