



# LOGBOOK

Friday 4th February 2011

## STRANGE SAILING CONDITIONS

"WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOMETHING ELSE MADAME?"

## AT THE FRONT OF THE PACK

RANKING: 6<sup>th</sup>

WEATHER: Overcast with isolated showers, some sunny spells

WIND: South-easterly 12-25 knots

BOAT SPEED: 14 knots

### MENU:

Breakfast: Grape porridge

Meal n°1: Mediterranean pasta and chocolate cream

Meal n°2: Chicken Korma and Chocolate rice pudding

# STRANGE SAILING CONDITIONS

*Along with her fellow competitors, Mirabaud is currently sailing in very unusual conditions, and a little slower than planned for this stage of the race.*



"We are fetching in very messy seas," explains Michèle Paret. "The wind is very erratic and varies from 12 to 25 knots. We can't change sails constantly so we have to settle on something in the middle and work the sail trim and sailing angle as the wind eases or increases. On the other hand, the temperature is still relatively comfortable: it's around 10 degrees inside the boat, the same as the water temperature. We're

well wrapped up but we're not yet wearing all our heavy weather gear and at least we're not suffering from the cold."

Sailing at around 80 degrees true wind angle, the boat is hammering the waves, sending a considerable amount of water along the decks and into the cockpit. "It's pretty tough going," Michèle confirms. "The shock of hitting the waves really

reverberates through the whole boat and you feel it particularly when you're on deck; you have to be so careful. We're not taking any risks, so we bear away slightly to try and stabilize the boat when we have to carry out a manoeuvre and we make sure we're strapped on if it's a complex job."

Mirabaud is currently lying in sixth position, around 1300 nautical miles from the leader. They are now into their 34th day of racing and are roughly a third of the way around the world.



# "WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOMETHING ELSE MADAME?"



Before they hit the new stronger winds that have finally allowed them to take off again, Michèle Paret sent us this message: "A night becalmed, but with big, uncomfortable swells; we've gybed 12 times with no wind so together all the ingredients to dampen the hardest spirit!"

But what a wake-up call this morning! Groggy and chilled out after another night of high pressure, we were rudely woken by 20 knots of

wind on the nose and a nice Breton drizzle! Two tacks and a reef later, we're becalmed again... no chance of going back to bed yet! Looks like our old friend Aeolus is trying to keep us on our toes! Finally we're back into some decent wind with around 15-18 knots of breeze. The sun has been replaced by a constant drizzle, but at least we're moving in the right direction."

# AT THE FRONT OF THE PACK

*Jean-Pierre Dick and Loïck Peyron have maintained their successful form and now have a relatively comfortable lead. However, they are still far from on a cruise!*



The unlikely duo of Olympic Champions Iker Martinez and Xabi Fernandez on board Mapfre are keeping up the pressure, beating the 24 hour speed record last Wednesday with a staggering average of 26.8 knots. The gap separating them from the leaders is now a little over 400 nautical miles or the equivalent of a days sailing. The other Spanish team, Alex Pella and Pepe Ribes,

are also hanging in there, along with Sébastien Audigane and Kito de Pavant on board Groupe Bel, at around 600 miles from the leaders. Together with Pachi Rivero and Toni Piris' Renault ZE, the group of 5 front runners approximately 500 miles ahead of Mirabaud is well positioned to make the most of any new opportunities that arise.

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## RANKING THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 11 PM

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) VIRBAC PAPREC 3 (+0.0) | 7) NEUTROGENA (+1380.1)                 |
| 2) MAPFRE (+416.6)        | 8) GAES (+2032.2)                       |
| 3) ESTRELLA DAMM (+551.5) | 9) HUGO BOSS (+2259.5)                  |
| 4) GROUPE BEL (+577.2)    | 10) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+2610.0) |
| 5) RENAULT Z.E. (+774.3)  | 11) WE ARE WATER (+2734.6)              |
| 6) MIRABAUD (+1368.6)     | 12) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (--)           |



**DOMINIQUEWAVRE**

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