



LOGBOOK

Tuesday 15th February 2011

A TRICKY PASSAGE

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE PACIFIC?

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

RANKING: 6th

WEATHER: Grey skies, Moderate seas.
Currently skirting a high pressure system.

WIND: North-westerly, 20 knots

BOAT SPEED: 16 nœuds

BREAKFAST: Bircher muesli

MEAL N°1: Pasta with ratatouille

MEAL N°2: Chicken curry, chocolate mousse

A TRICKY PASSAGE

Dominique Wavre and Michèle Paret have now made it through the 'Australian barrier' ice gate and are finally free to choose their own route, at least until the Cook Strait which they should reach around the 23rd or 24th of February.



"Michele is getting some sleep at the moment as she's been on the helm for the past few hours. The temperature has really plummeted over the last few days and the cold makes any time spent on deck a punishing task," explains Dominique. However, even in the icy conditions of the Southern Ocean there is room for a little romance and Dominique admits to having offered Michèle a little St. Valentines Day kiss yesterday.

"The autopilot is now handling the helming and I'm working on our route. We're sailing under spinnaker, with around 20 knots of wind. We're roaring along and it's so liberating not to be limited by the ice gates. Having said that, last night we passed around 20 miles to the north of a large iceberg, a poignant reminder of the reason why the gates have been put in place."

Thanks to conditions that have favoured them, 'Neutrogena' with Boris Herrmann and Ryan

Breymair onboard have caught Mirabaud up again. "Our match race with them is on again, and is just as intense as before," explains Dom. "They're around 20 miles to the north of us, sailing a parallel route and at the same speed as us. It's definitely bringing a little spice to the racing."

It's now been three weeks since the Barcelona World Race competitors first made it into the Southern Ocean. Three weeks of endless grey horizons, rain, squalls, rough seas and the inces-

sant noise inside their carbon racing hulls. As soon as they make it through the Indian Ocean, they will be plunged into yet another three weeks of the same hostile conditions in the Pacific, with only a short respite in the form of the Tasman Sea in between.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Several teams taking part in the Barcelona World Race have lamented the amount of detritus they have come across since the start of the race, including plastic bags, PET bottles and oil drums.



Before losing their mast, Michel Desjoyeaux and François Gabart onboard 'Foncia', collided with an unidentified object, whilst the Spanish boat 'Mapfre' suffered a broken board following a collision. "We also saw a lot of flotsam in the Atlantic, but here in the Southern Ocean, things are happily a bit better," explains Michèle Paret. "We were also surprised to find massive rafts of seaweed off the Kerguelen Islands. They got wrapped around the keel and we were forced

to heel the boat over as far as possible to get the keel out of the water so we could remove them." Mirabaud is now heading for land again, South Australia at first, and then New Zealand at the end of the week. As they approach land and come into contact with new areas of pollution, the sailors will be constantly reminded of man's impact on the planet...an impact they would happily go without.

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE PACIFIC?

At the end of last week, the Race Organisation published an amendment regarding the ice gates in the Pacific (after New Zealand).



Gate number 2 has been moved 120 nautical miles to the north and a third gate added, meaning that the sailors now have a virtual 250 nautical miles long wall, which they must leave to starboard. The reason behind these emergency 'roadworks' in the middle of the course is the presence of several large icebergs pushed northwards by the powerful low pressure systems. Many of them are over 500m long and

some reach up to a kilometre in length. At times, whole sections collapse creating smaller bergs and the 'growlers' that strike fear into the heart of any yachtsman. Over the next few days, Dominique and Michèle will alter course for New Zealand and the Cook Strait. At this point, the icebergs should be just a memory...at least for the moment!

RANKING THE 15TH FEBRUARY 11 PM

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1) VIRBAC PAPREC 3 (+0.0) | 7) NEUTROGENA (+1737.2) |
| 2) MAPFRE (+500.3) | 8) HUGO BOSS (+1969.0) |
| 3) ESTRELLA DAMM (+656.6) | 9) GAES (+2104.1) |
| 4) GROUPE BEL (+873.2) | 10) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+3899.8) |
| 5) RENAULT Z.E. (+1367.1) | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+4154.6) |
| 6) MIRABAUD (+1714.1) | 12) WE ARE WATER (+4367.5) |



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