



LOGBOOK

Friday 25th February 2011

JUST LIKE 2010!

DOMINIQUE AND MICHÈLE ARE CUTTING BACK ON THE CALORIES!

DOMMAGE COLLATÉRAL

RANKING: 5th

MÉTÉO: At the centre of a high pressure system but close to tropical storm 'Atu'. Cloudy with isolated storms.

WIND: North-westerly 10 knots

BOAT SPEED: 8 knots

BREAKFAST: Cereal with mango

MEAL N° 1: Shepherd's pie and raspberry vanilla pudding

MEAL N° 2: Pork and vanilla rice pudding

JUST LIKE 2010!



The passage through the Cook Strait has bunched the fleet up again, creating a situation similar to the start back in Barcelona. With the exception of the two leading yachts, who have stretched out a lead of more than 1000 nautical miles, the following pack are now battling it out at close quarters (all within an area of 600 nautical miles).

> Dominique observes the course of the tropical cyclone Atu on his weather program

"It doesn't change our game plan too much," explains Dominique. "We're flat out anyway, doing our best with the conditions we have."

From her side, Michèle Paret has made a good recovery following the health problems experienced during the Indian Ocean passage. "For once I find myself in front of the computer without my head torch on, as it's daytime," she explained whilst blogging from Mirabaud. "Maybe my body clock is out now that we are further east! We've crossed the International Date Line

and this always comes with a certain amount of deep reflection and a bit of disorganization (of the organized variety, I can assure you!) as we try and figure out which day it is and reset all the various clocks and instruments on board before we lag behind the rest of the world!

If our brains are too tired and befuddled, and we've lost the ability to think logically, then we have to use the back up solution: the GPS! It's always worth checking that we haven't got things the wrong way round and that we are

in fact 12 hours ahead of Barcelona and not 12 hours behind

If I was to send you a postcard for today, the 25th of February, it would be a pretty grey and uninteresting one. We're sitting in a dying south-westerly breeze with the autopilot pretty much taking care of everything. We give it a poke now and again. I think you've got the picture: it's not exactly the most stressful or tiring situation, except maybe for my finger! So, we're getting the chance for a well-needed rest mid-way round the

world. We can catch up on some sleep without being violently woken, which is something we really need at this stage."

We're constantly keeping an eye on this storm 'Atu' though, which is moving southwards. We should just pass in front of it which will mean strong winds but nothing unmanageable. On the other hand, there is another area of high pressure in our path...we hope it won't slow us down too much, in which case we will have to rethink our strategy."

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“Paid a little visit to our larder this morning to count the stocks left,” explains Michèle. “It didn’t take too long as there are only five bags left...in other words, enough for five more weeks.”



We’ve eaten over half our supplies so we are into ‘waste not, want not’ mode. It takes me back to childhood meal times and my mother’s constant pleas for clean plates, although I’m trying not to think of the delicious smells of her home cooking! That would be torture!

There were rumours abounding that we were planning to stop in Wellington to stock up on food, but in fact this was never our intention.

Our rations are very generous so we can squirrel away any spares just in case. I also happen to know that there is an ‘emergency rations’ bag on board. It’s pretty light but it should be enough to get us home if needed, as long as these high pressure systems give us a bit of a break before we’re forced to start eating seaweed! Having said that, maybe seaweed is a good source of iron??”

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The plan was to get as much film and photo material of Mirabaud as possible as she passed through the Cook Strait. The helicopter was ready to go, with a specialised photographer on board, when the earth quake that hit southern New Zealand changed the plans somewhat.



The helicopter was requisitioned for the rescue effort in Christchurch and the only photo taken of Mirabaud sailing past Wellington was taken by helicopter pilot Dave Greenberg on his way down to pick up the injured and bring them back to Wellington. Thankfully Dave very kindly sent us the photo. There’ll be another opportunity for a photo, but not until Cape Horn, assuming Mirabaud’s route and the time of day they round allows for good photographic conditions.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST VIDEO DIARY

<http://www.youtube.com/user/dominiquewavre>

RANKING

THE 25TH FEBRUARY 08:30 AM GMT

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) VIRBAC PAPREC 2 (+0.0) | 7) ESTRELLA DAMM (+1642.1) |
| 2) MAPFRE (+8.2) | 8) HUGO BOSS (+1194.0) |
| 3) RENAULT Z.E. (+1173.6) | 9) GAES (+1799.1) |
| 4) NEUTROGENA (+1263.5) | 10) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+3185.7) |
| 5) MIRABAUD (+1359.4) | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+3561.8) |
| 6) GROUPE BEL (+1602.8) | 12) WE ARE WATER (+4290.3) |



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