



LOGBOOK

Friday 4th March 2011

CAPE HORN IN SIGHT

A SPECIAL RADIO LINK-UP

CLASSEMENT: 5th

WEATHER: A series of low pressure systems from the West. Rough seas, heavy skies.

WIND: South-westerly 25 knots

BOAT SPEED: 15 knots

BREAKFAST: Raspberry Porridge

MEAL N°1: Spaghetti Bolognese + apple rice pudding

MEAL N°2: 4 cheese fondue + chocolate rice pudding

CAPE HORN IN SIGHT

Mirabaud is currently heading for Cape Horn, slightly off the pace with co-skipper Michèle bed-bound (or cot-bound) due to anaemia. Dominique is single-handedly helming the boat, making as fast as possible towards the Cape with heavy seas and more than 40 knots of wind.

"Everything is under control," assures Dominique. "Obviously it's not an ideal situation with Michèle out of action, but we have to deal with it. Safety is obviously a priority."

Dominique has already rounded the Cape seven times, compared to Michele who has experienced this rite of passage twice. "Rounding the Horn for the first time was an emotional moment for me," she explains. "I was sailing onboard Maiden, Pierre Fehlmann's old Disque d'Or III. We passed very close inshore, with about 15 knots of breeze and beautiful sunshine. We drank champagne and sang; it was really incredible. We were the first all-female team to round the Cape. The second time was less fun...I was sailing with Dominique in the last Barcelona World Race and we rounded at night, so didn't see a thing!"

It's an area shrouded in myth and mystery. Conditions at the Horn can be wild and to even get here you have to cross an expanse of hostile water. We really get the feeling that we don't belong here, we just have a right of passage and nothing more. It will be a huge psychological release when we get round and know that the most dangerous part is behind us.

The Cape can also be deadly and is a graveyard for many ships and their crew. Clearly, sailing in these waters makes us reflect a little on life. We love the savage beauty of the Southern Ocean but we will also be very glad to put it behind us."



> Dominique has already rounded Cape Horn seven times, including onboard Disque d'Or III in 1981 and Merit Cup in 1989.

A SPECIAL RADIO LINK-UP



At the start of this week, Dominique and Michèle took part in a special radio link-up with the Spanish media gathered at the headquarters of the Barcelona World Race organisers, the FNOB (the Barcelona Foundation for Ocean Sailing).

They faced questions from a dozen journalists and representatives from Mirabaud and we have selected a few of their answers below:

"Life in the Southern Ocean takes some getting used to. There is a huge amount of wind and huge waves; it's extremely noisy. We're being bashed about constantly and it's stressful to have to put up with the cold and the physical abuse. We're always afraid of being knocked down by a wave and there is also the risk of icebergs.

It's a wild place to be and we are under constant pressure, both physically and psychologically.

There is no heating on board and we're wrapped up to the eyeballs in several layers of thermals.

We are suffering a little bit from the cold, but we are eating hot meals and wearing hats to try and get as warm as possible.

Yesterday we had a problem with the wind vane, when it decided to suddenly stop working. As the vane is linked to the autopilot, the boat suddenly went haywire and broached! We set up the spare vane, which is a little less accurate, but at least everything is in one piece and we didn't damage the sails. The boat is starting to feel the strain too but luckily for the moment we don't have any major problems."

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ONBOARD VIDEO

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

RANKING

THE 4TH MARCH 08:30 AM GMT

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) VIRBAC PAPREC 2 (+0.0) | 7) ESTRELLA DAMM (+2022.9) |
| 2) MAPFRE (+270.9) | 8) HUGO BOSS (+2444.2) |
| 3) RENAULT Z.E. (+1602.9) | 9) GAES (+2689.5) |
| 4) NEUTROGENA (+1704.8) | 10) FORUM MARITIM CATALA (+4748.1) |
| 5) MIRABAUD (+1845.4) | 11) CENTRAL LECHERA ASTURIANA (+5031.3) |
| 6) GROUPE BEL (+1949.8) | 12) WE ARE WATER (+5325.6) |



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