



Monday 9th May 2011

NEWSLETTER #8

NEXT ON THE AGENDA: THE TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE!

Dominique Wavre and Michèle Paret gave a final account of their Barcelona World Race at a press conference last Tuesday at the Mirabaud Bank in Geneva. The following day, they attended the official awards ceremony in Barcelona that concludes the event.

“Naturally we are disappointed not to have made the finish line,” said Dominique. “After rounding Cape Horn, Michèle was feeling better and our boat was sound. We knew that our closest rivals were having technical issues, so we were determined to fight for third place. Our disappointment was all the more cruel.

With hindsight, we have nonetheless been able to draw many positives from the experience. Michèle and I were on the same wave length throughout the race; we supported one another, especially during the tough times and the feeling of solidarity onboard was very strong. I am delighted to be setting of again with her for the Transat Jaques Vabre.”

Michèle Paret also gave her insight: “The second half of the race was very tough, especially from a ‘state of mind’ point of view. I felt really guilty when I became anaemic and could no longer work alongside Dominique, but he set my mind at rest, he raised my spirits and helped me regain my physical and mental strength.”

“I told her over and over again that it wasn’t her fault,” said Dom. “I insisted on the fact that her illness should be likened to gear failure, that is was no different to a piece of hardware giving out, and that there was therefore nothing to feel guilty about.”

Despite these setbacks, the Mirabaud duo have good memories of a great race: “It was very exciting, the boat was going well and we were 100% dialled in to the race. Having said that, we think that the race was started too late in the season. Because of the timing, we had icebergs on what would have been our usual course and the race organisers had to restrict us to a more northerly heading which limited our strategy. This is something that should be reviewed for the future.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER



Dominique and Michèle attended the Barcelona World Race awards ceremony on Wednesday 4 May in the company of their greatest rivals; fellow sailors with whom they shared their fate at sea for weeks on end.

“Jean-Pierre Dick and Loïck Peyron had a superb race on a very good boat,” said Dominique. “They deserve their victory. They also had quite a boost from a weather stand point after their technical stopover in Brazil. As they left, they hooked into a downwind system – something that you would never normally find there. They established a healthy lead and it proved decisive. In my mind, in addition to Dick and Peyron’s fantastic performance, the other “winners” of this Barcelona World Race are the Spanish team Mapfre, they did not stop and they had a remarkable race.”

“WE ARE COMPLETELY HOOKED!”

Antonio Palma, partner and CEO of Mirabaud, followed the Barcelona World Race and Mirabaud’s journey very closely. “The length of the event was a new experience for us,” he explained. “In the past we have had long term partnerships, Mike Horn the explorer is one example, but nothing compares to the round the world race with Dominique and Michèle. We were party to some strong feelings and varied emotions that ranged from enthusiasm and joy when the team was successful to fear when Michèle became ill. We are competitors at heart, but I

would like to emphasise that our principal concern has always been the safety and health of the crew. In some circumstances, the result must take a back seat.

In conclusion: it was a very rewarding experience. We are completely hooked and we are very much looking forward to the Transat Jacques Vabre.”



TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE: A RACE AGAINST TIME

Next on the agenda is the Transat Jacques Vabre which starts on Sunday 30 October in Le Havre. "It is already a race against the clock to be ready on time," said Dominique. "We are currently finalising the design of the new mast with the help of our New Zealand engineers with whom we have worked since 2006. They have a lot of experience and are at the cutting edge, so we are developing a lighter, more efficient mast of the same height. However, because production time is quite long, we will have very little time to get up to speed before the start of the Transat Jacques Vabre. And of course, a new mast means a new set up and a new suit of sails, so needless to say that our race preparations will be in a constant state of flux."



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



> <http://www.facebook.com/dominiquewavre>



DOMINIQUEWAVRE

www.dominiquewavre.com

Mirabaud & Cie, banquiers privés

Laurent Koutaïssoff
29, boulevard Georges-Favon
1204 Genève
T: +41 58 816 23 90
M: +41 79 786 78 93

MaxComm Communication

Bernard Schopfer
T: +41 22 735 55 30
M: +41 79 332 11 76
bernard.schopfer@maxcomm.ch

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