

ISAF/WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL**Chairman: Claude Breton****ANNUAL REPORT to ISAF 2011**

In my report to you in 2010 I highlighted the outstanding World Sailing Speed Record of 51.36 kts achieved by l'Hydroptère, but went on to say that attention would be focussed on the Speed Sailing event due to be held at Luderitz, Namibia, during the ISAF Conference in October 2010 – an event largely populated by the Kite Surfers. This prediction turned out to be accurate as, on the 28th October, the l'Hydroptère record was broken 3 times, finally by Rob Douglas of the USA with a speed of 55.65 kts. On the following day, the World Women's Sailing Speed Record was broken at a speed of 50.43 kts by Charlotte Consorti from France.

This World Record of 55.65 kts – which is 64 mph or 103 kph – clearly indicates the remarkable progress in both technical design and athletic achievement since the first formal Speed Sailing event organised nearly 40 years ago, where the then remarkable speed of 26.3 kts was registered. Since that day, speed sailing has been enjoyed by many sailors in many parts of the world. Unhampered by traditional designs, by ratings, handicaps or racing rules, speed sailing has seen the development of many exciting projects, of which hydrofoils and kite sails are but two of the most notable. Kites are currently the most successful “engine” of speed sailing but I recall that it was in 1982, nearly 30 years ago, that the C Class World Record was held by a kite sail vessel – a foretaste of what was to come.

There have been a number of offshore record attempts during the year resulting in 4 new World Records and 5 personal bests. There are also a number of record claims in the pipeline, including a claim for a singlehanded Around Australia record. It is interesting that there has been increased interest in record breaking from Australian sailors and we are fortunate in having an Australian Vice President who can provide hands-on guidance for those wishing to make attempts. In fact we are indeed fortunate in having a dedicated team of WSSR Commissioners stationed around the world who are available to officiate on the WSSR Council's behalf to ensure the validity of sailing record claims.

For the future I look forward to reporting to you that the World Sailing Speed record has again been broken – as I have no doubt that it will, perhaps while you are sitting in the ISAF meetings in Puerto Rico. In the offshore categories arguably the most prestigious record is that of Around the World currently standing at 48 days at an average of over 18 kts. It is hard to believe that this record could be under threat but there are teams confident that it can be broken. It was in 1993 that the “Round the World in 80 days” by a sailing yacht was eventually achieved and that would now be considered as a slow time even for a singlehanded attempt.

Claude Breton.

Chairman of the WSSR Council

**LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE THE LAST LIST PRESENTED
TO ISAF IN 2010**

24/06/10	Bermuda to Newport Benchmark time	“il mostro” Brad Jackson NZL	Performance. 42h 3m 29s
02/09/10	Around Britain & Ireland. 40ft Cat.	“Concise 2” Ned Collier-Wakefield GBR	World Record 9d 13h 32m 20s
29/08/10	Around Britain & Ireland. Monohull	“Groupama 70” Franck Cammas. FRA	World Record 5d 21h 26m 55s
25/10/10	RTW Victoria to Victoria. Canada	“Nereida” Jeanne Socrates. CAN	Unsuccessful
15/11/10	Lorient, FRA to Lorient MAU. Mono	“Jolokia” Eric Bellion. FRA	Performance 68d 19h 6m 44s
15/01/11	Las Palmas to Guadeloupe. 90 ft	“Renault Eco 2” Roman Paske. POL	Performance 8d 2h 38m 11s
17/01/11	Dakar to Guadeloupe	“biondina near” Tullio Picciolini ITA	Unsuccessful
06/02/11	Around the World. Outright	“Banque Populaire 5” Pascal Bidegorry FRA	Unsuccessful
22/01/11	60ft Monohull 24 hour distance record	“Virbac-Paprec” Jean Pierre Dick FRA	World Record 506.3 M
31/03/11	RTW. Singlehanded. Personal best	“Sodeb’O” Thomas Coville FRA	Performance 61d 5m 5s
06/04/11	Transatlantic 40ft Singlehanded	“Terralia” Eric Deffert. FRA	Performance 11d 11h 30m 58s
12/06/11	Around the Isle of Wight	“Hydroptere”	Unsuccessful

		Alain Thebault FRA	
18/06/11	Around Britain & Ireland. Mono 60ft	“PRB” Vincent Riou. FRA	Unsuccessful
18/06/11	Around Britain & Ireland. Mono 60ft	“Safran” Marc Guillemot. FRA	World Record 6d 9h 49m 10s
21/06/11	Around Britain & Ireland. Outright	“Banque Populaire 5” Loick Peyron FRA	World Record 3d 3h 49m 14s
15/08/11	Fastnet course. Outright	“Banque Populaire 5” Loick Peyron FRA	World Record 1d 8h 48m 46s
16/08/11	Fastnet course Monohull	“Abu Dhabi” Ian Walker GBR	World Record 1d 18h 38m
18/08/11	Around Australia Singlehanded	“Big Wave Rider” Bruce Arms AUS	World Record 38d 21h 41m 42s
Started 01/07/11	Around the World Singlehanded	“Polska Miedz” Thomasz Cichocki POL	In progress
Started 05/09/11	Transatlantic Singlehanded	“IDEC” Francis Joyon FRA	Abandoned
Started 04/09/11	Transatlantic 40ft Category	“LeCoq Cuisine” Eric LeCoq FRA	Abandoned

500 metre Outright Speed Events

28/10/10	Luderitz. NAM	Private Event	The World Sailing Speed Record was broken 3 times. Finally by Rob Douglas USA at 55.65 Knots 10 national Records
29/10/10	Luderitz. NAM	Private Event	World Women’s Sailing Speed Record. Charlotte Consorti. FRA 50.43 Knots