

WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL

Annual report 2016

Our report to ISAF in 2015 mentioned about the forthcoming Around the World attempts by two 100 foot Trimarans and I can now report that both were unsuccessful. Both campaigns were lodged by very well prepared, proven yachts and crewed by skilled dedicated sailors so this indicates that the bar has been raised for this premier of all record routes.. Some of us well remember the excitement in 1993 when the target of "Around the World in 80 days" was achieved - now it is just over 45 days. However there was some compensation for the teams as the WSSRC has recognised Intermediate records to be challenged during the circumnavigation, and the "North Atlantic" and "Indian Ocean" records were both broken.

As the attached list demonstrates, the last 12 months has been a very active year for offshore record attempts with some notable achievements much of it dominated by the MOD 70 Phaedo 3 (Thornburg/Thompson USA/GBR) which has collected 6 world records since this time last year. Attracting mention is the 24 hour singlehanded record by MACIF (Gabart FRA) covering 784 NM at an average speed of 32 knots in 24 hours and the TransAtlantic monohull record of 5 days 14 hours by Comanche (Clark/Smith USA) - navigated by WSSR Vice Chairman, Stan Honey. It is also worthy of mention that the 40 ft category is becoming of increasing interest, especially for singlehanded attempts. During the current year there were 3 singlehanded Around the World attempts (one of which was Westabout) regrettably unsuccessful. However that does not seem to have deterred them, as one is already on a repeat attempt.

For the first time, there were no 500 metre organised events under the WSSR rules. The reason seems to be that the only presently known venue offering an opportunity to break National and World speed records is Luderitz in Namibia and the promoters of this event decided to spend 2016 improving the facilities and postponed the event until 2017. However this year saw the first serious attempt on an offshore record by kitesurfers when a family of kitesurfers - mother and two sons - mounted a serious attempt fully under the WSSR rules on the Around the Isle of Wight record. To great interest the Bridge family GBR captured the Singlehanded and Women's records for this world record course at average speeds of 19 kts and 16 kts respectively. For this project, the WSSR developed a small waterproof battery operated Black Box carried by each sailor.

With the advent of GPS trackers. the progress of an attempt can be easily and continuously followed, nevertheless the WSSR Council still rules that both the start and finish of an attempt are visually monitored. Nowadays to be in any shape to claim a world record it is very necessary to monitor weather conditions to capture the optimum conditions - the days of a celebratory start at an announced date and time are long gone. This puts an extra load on our Commissioners who may have to be on stand-by for 6 weeks awaiting the departure and I wish to record the Council's appreciation of the dedication of our worldwide list of Commissioners.

Claude Breton
Chairman WSSR Council

LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE THE LAST LIST PRESENTED IN 2015

241`	10/07/15	Cowes to Dinard Monohull	"Leopard" Mike Slade. GBR	World Record 11h 57m 53s
242	16/09/15	Murmansk to Bering Strait	"Qingdao" Guo Chuan. CHN	Performance Certificate 12d 3h 8m 15s
243	17/09/15	Fastnet course	"Phaedo 3" USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	World Record 27h 42m 26s
244	17/09/15	Plymouth to La Rochelle	"Phaedo 3" USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	World Record 14h 5m 20s
245	04/04/16	RTW. 40 ft Singlehanded	"Katherine Ann" Bill Hatfield. AUS	Unsuccessful
246	22/09/15	Cowes to Dinard	"Phaedo 3" USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	World Record 4h 48m 57s
247	25/10/15	Sydney to Lord Howe Island	"Woteva" David Pescud. AUS	Unsuccessful
248	20/12/15	RTW. 40 ft Singlehanded	"Croix du Sud" Henrik Masekowitz GER	Abandoned
249	05/05/16	RTW. 40 ft Singlehanded	"Gryphon Solo" Joe Harris USA	Unsuccessful
250	08/01/16 27/11/15 12/12/15	RTW. Outright North Atlantic. Intermediate Indian Ocean Intermediate	"Spindrift 2" FRA/SUI Guichard/Bertarelli	Unsuccessful World Record 4d 21h 45m World Record 8d 4h 45m
251	08/01/16 12/12/15	RTW Outright Indian Ocean Intermediate	"IDEC" Francis Joyon FRA	Unsuccessful World Record 7 days
252	05/05/16	Bermuda to Plymouth	"Phaedo3" USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	World Record 5d 11h 57m 17s
253	15/05/16	TransAtlantic 6.5 Mini	"Solidaires" Olivier Jehl FRA	Abandoned
254	10/06/16 08/06/16	TransAtlantic Singlehanded 24 Hour Singlehanded	"Sodebo4" Thomas Coville FRA	Unsuccessful World Record. 718 NM
255	19/06/16	Newport to Bermuda Monohull Rule 21.c	"Comanche" Clark/Read/Honey USA	World record 1d 10h 42m 56s
256	30/06/16	Around Isle of Wight Singlehanded	"Kitesurfer" Guy Bridge GBR	World Record 2h 32m 25s
257	30/07/16	Around Isle of Wight Singlehanded	"Kitesurfer" Oliver Bridge GBR	Unsuccessful
258	30/07/16	Around Isle of Wight. Women	"Kitesurfer" Steph Bridge GBR	World Record 3h 3m 24s
259	05/07/16 03/07/16	TransAtlantic Singlehanded 24 Hour Singlehanded	"MACIF" Francois Gabart FRA	Unsuccessful World Record 784 NM
260	28/07/16	TransAtlantic Monohull	"Comanche" Clark/Smith/Honey USA	World Record 5d 14h 21m 25s
261	06/08/16	Marseille to Carthage. 20 ft Cat	"Feelgood" Vittorio Malingri ITA	Awaiting ratification
262	29/08/16	RTW Westabout	"LeauCommotion" Bill Hatfield AUS	In progress
263	03/08/16	Around Ireland	"Phaedo 3" USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	Awaiting ratification
264	19/08/16	Around Isle of Wight	"Phaedo 3 USA/GBR Thornburg/Thompson	Awaiting ratification