

**ISAF/WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Claude Breton**

***ANNUAL REPORT to ISAF 2009***

It is one of my aims in making this annual report to you that the activities of the preceding years are closely linked into the current report. So, it is with much pleasure that I can report to you that the 50 knot barrier has been breached at last. Most interestingly it was by a kitesurfer – a sailing discipline that was only formally recognized by ISAF at the last November conference. Once this decision was publicised the way was clear to ratify Sebastien Cattelan as the first man to sail over 50 knots, his speed being subsequently bettered by Alex Caizaigues at 50.57 kts, the current World Sailing Speed Record. The final paragraph in the 50 knot story was written by the Macquarie team, who after many years of patient dedication and development posted 50.07 kts – the new World C class record.

The report last year that we were in the process of developing a “Black Box” for installing on yachts attempting an ocean passage record has come to fruition. The unit is small – less than the size of a bar of soap – and can be attached to the yachts electrics, from which it takes only 15mA, via a cigar lighter socket. The unit is pre-programmed to store time/position every 50 metres for transoceanic attempts or every 300 metres for round the world voyages. The information cannot be accessed by the competitor but when returned and downloaded at the WSSRC office it provides a very accurate source of information for the verification of record claims. And so it proved for the most outstanding offshore claim of 2009 when the Council ratified the Transatlantic record of 3 days 15 hours 25 minutes and 48 seconds for the 2880M course at an average speed of 32.94 kts by Pascal Bidegorry FRA and 11 crewmembers sailing the Banque Populaire 5. During the voyage the yacht also broke the 24-hour record with a distance of 908.17 M at an average speed of 37.84 kts.

I would like to finish by clarifying the WSSR Council's position on the recent claims to have been the “youngest person to circumnavigate the world”. The situation is that the WSSR Council does not have a category for “youngest” attempts and in consequence we do not monitor voyages to claim such a distinction. In 1999, Jesse Martin made an around the world voyage which at that time we accepted for a Performance Certificate and from this he was able to say that at 18 he was the youngest to have achieved the circumnavigation. However since then we have a policy of not ratifying “youngest or oldest” claims or attempts, and our rules do not include such categories. We concentrate on speed record attempts and claims, and no longer recognise “human condition” categories, which can expand to such an extent that almost anyone would be able to claim a record of some sort. The other issue is that whilst we can clearly monitor and ratify “speed/time” records - at which we have become rather expert - the verification of age/ disability/marital status etc is a less exact science.

Claude Breton.  
Chairman of the WSSR Council

**LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE  
THE LAST LIST PRESENTED TO ISAF IN 2008**

25/09/08	Hong Kong to London	"Gitana 13" Lionel Lemonchois FRA	Initial Record 41d 21h 26m 34s
07/11/08	Cadiz to San Salvador Singlehanded	"Idec" Francis Joyon FRA	World Record 9d 20h 32m 23s
29/10/08	24 Hours Monohull	"Ericsson 4" Torben Grael BRA	World Record 596 M
07/12/08	24 Hours Singlehanded	"Sodebo" Thomas Coville FRA	World Record 628.5 M
19/12/08	Indian Ocean	"Foncia" Michel Desjoyeaz FRA	World Record 13d 5h 16m
16/05/09	Marseilles to Carthage	"Groupama 3" Franck Cammas FRA	World Record 17h 8m 23s
04/06/09	Marseilles to Carthage Monohull Singlehanded	"Group Bel" Kito de Pavant FRA	World Record 45h 20m 29s
22/06/09	Around Britain and Ireland. Monohull and Women	"Aviva" Dee Caffari GBR	World Record 6d 11h 30m 53s
02/08/09	Transatlantic	"Groupama 3" Franck Cammas FRA	Unsuccessful
01/08/09	Outright 24 hours	"Banque Populaire 5" Pascal Bidegorry FRA	World Record 908.17 M
02/08/09	Transatlantic	"Banque Populaire 5" Pascal Bidegorry FRA	World Record 3d 15h 25m 48s

## 500 Metre and Nautical Mile Outright Speed Events

15/09/08 to 12/10/09	Luderitz NAM	Open Event	Outright World Records Robert Douglas USA 49.84 kts. Sebastien Cattelan FRA 50.26 kts Alex Caizergues FRA 50.57 kts
01/10/08 to 24/11/08	Port St Louis FRA	Private Event	D class World Record at 46.15 kts and World Nautical Mile Record at 43.09 kts. "Hydroptere". Alain Thebault FRA
10/10/08 to 21/12/09	Sandy Bay AUS	Private Event	C class World Record at 48.14 kts "Macquarie Innovation" Simon McKeon AUS
23/11/08 to 20/12/08	Walvis Bay NAM	Private Event	B class World Record at 47.36 kts "Vestas SailRocket". Paul Larsen AUS
10/03/09 to 07/04/09	Sandy Bay AUS	Private Event	C class World Record at 50.07 kts "Macquarie Innovation" Simon McKeon AUS
20/02/09 to 16/04/09	Walvis Bay NAM	Private Event	"Vestas SailRocket" Unsuccessful
11/07/09 to 07/08/09	Port St Louis FRA	Private Event	"Hydroptere" unsuccessful