

ISAF/WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL

Chairman: Claude Breton

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To the ISAF Sailing Committee.

It is with the greatest sadness that we have to tell you that Sir Peter Johnson, Chairman of the WSSRC until April this year, died in May 2003. Peter was largely instrumental in channelling the ISAF/WSSR responsibilities into the area of ocean sailing records in 1989. He was a prominent journalist and yachting historian, and his knowledge formed the basis on which the WSSR built the ratification of the current World Records. His initial draft of the WSSR Rules has remained largely unchanged to the present day.

The ISAF/WSSR Council is fortunate that the very experienced Claude Breton, from Brest, France has accepted the position of Chairman. Claude is an expert with the French Hydrographic Department and has been responsible for the route verification of WSSR records for many years. The membership of the Council is as follows:

Claude Breton, FRA	Chairman. (Commissioner at Brest. Route verification)
Jean-Louis Fabry, FRA	Vice Chairman (Commissioner. UNCL liaison)
John Brooks, AUS	(Commissioner for Australia 500m/Ocean records)
Michael Ellison, GBR	(Principal Commissioner for 500 metre attempts)
Christian Fevrier, FRA	(Yachting Journalist/Commissioner for 24 hour records)
Janet Hellman, USA	(Commissioner for New York)
Nicolas Hurel, FRA	(Expert on timing 500 metre attempts)
David Pelly, GBR	(UK Commissioner. WSSR historian)
Robert Shiels, USA	(WSSR Technical expert)
Michel Rousselet, FRA	(500 metre Commissioner South of France)

Michel Barbier, FRA	Member of Honour.
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John Reed.	Secretary to the Council.
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The attached “activity list” indicates the continued interest in attempting world records under sail, with some excellent performances being posted. The Performance Certificate, for voyages that are not world record routes, continues to be popular.

After several years of low activity, there has been a marked upsurge in record attempts by windsurfers. Partly this is due to kite boards and officially we have been

able to recognise a best speed of 38.47 kts. (subject to final ratification) for a windsurfer using a kite sail. The recognition of a World Record category for kite sails is currently under consideration by the WSSR Council.

Interestingly, in addition, we have had a claim for a nautical mile record. This category has been in the record rulebook for many years, but there have been few attempts. Now, however, we have a respectable claim of 33.96 kts and this may generate some increased interest, especially as the rules permit recording by GPS.

Finally, Peter Johnson finished his report to you last year with the following words and we feel it appropriate to repeat them. They might be considered as our unofficial mission statement:

“The report ends by recording our enthusiasm for the job of administering speed records under sail. We believe we carry this out with efficiency and economy and are pleased that this is achieved at no cost to ISAF or the Member National Authorities.”

By order of the Council,

John Reed.
Secretary to the Council.