

WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL

Annual Report 2018-08-20

I am pleased to report much increased activity concerning speed sailing events. After a number of years there was a drop off in attendance, as mentioned in previous reports, due to the very high speed benchmarks coupled with the very large costs of organising events in suitable conditions. I mentioned last year that there had been a start in interest in setting National Speed Records and it is gratifying to report that this has increased during the period under review. Firstly the new promoter for Luderitz, although rather inexperienced, ultimately ran a successful event during October/November 2017 where the World Women's Windsurf Record was broken by Zara Davis GBR; 4 National Speed Records were also broken. Then in July 2018 another new promoter organised a new event at La Palme in France to specialise in Nautical Mile attempts. The NM records have been largely ignored in the past, due to the difficulty of organising the much longer course and finding correspondingly a suitable venue. The new promoter indeed discovered these difficulties but, after a rather shaky start, a successful event was eventually constructed shown by the record tally of 5 World Nautical Mile records and no less than 12 National Nautical Mile records.

Where the Ocean Records are concerned, we ratified the astonishing singlehanded Around the World record of Francois Gabart in MACIF at a time of 42 days 16 hours 40 minutes and 35 seconds. This time is the second fastest of any yacht around the world, regardless of crew numbers. We await with keen interest any further attempt to lower this timing even further, and this might be achieved by the new "Flying Ultims" which will be seen competing during 2019. Any new record needs a brave experienced sailor, a remarkably effective yacht and, perhaps overall a weather router of great skill, whether onboard or, in the case of the singlehanders, at the end of a telephone call ashore.

As the records in the outright classes rises almost out of reach and the relative costs increase, so increased interest in record breaking is shifting towards the smaller classes, perhaps in particular the Class 40s, with a recent very fast time Around Great Britain and Ireland by Phil Sharp GBR. Whilst there has always been interest in the open 20 ft catamaran attempts – the Dakar/Guadeloupe route has traditionally been the preserve of this type of craft – there is now increased interest in attempting some of the shorter courses, such as Marseilles to Carthage and Cowes to Dinard and we have been able to ratify record times on both.

We hope that we succeed in providing an important service to sailing in an efficient and cost effective manner and, as such, I have pleasure in submitting my 2018 report to World Sailing.

Claude Breton.
Chairman, WSSRC

LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE THE LAST LIST PRESENTED IN 2017.

287	20/11/17	RTW Singlehanded	"Schouten" Alain Maignan. FRA	Abandoned
288	17/10/17	Chicago to Mackinac	"Il Mostro"	World Record. 17h 59m 19s
289	14/11/17	24 Hours Singlehanded	"MACIF Francois Gabart. FRA"	World Record. 850.68 NM
290	10/12/17	RTW Singlehanded	"MACIF" Francois Gabart, FRA	World Record 42d 16h 40m 35s 2 Intermediate Records.
291	14/12/17	RTW Singlehanded	"Actual" Yves le Blevec FRA	Abandoned
2922	23/02/18	Hong Kong to London	"Maserati" Giovanni Soldini. ITA	World Record. 36d 2h 37m 12s
293	05/04/18	Around Antarctica	"Katharsis II" Mariusz Koper POL	Performance Cert 102d 22h 59m 5s
294	02/05/18	Marseilles to Carthage Monohull	"Malizia" Boris Hermann GER	Unsuccessful
295	11/07/18	Marseille to Carthage 20 ft	20ft Catamaran Yves Bourgnon FRA	Record time 1d 18h 56m 14s
296	04/08/18	Cowes to Dinard 20 ft	20 ft Catamaran Yves Bourgnon FRA	Record time 19h 42m 2s
297	10/08/18	Northwest Passage	"Sedna" Clara Dumard FRA	In progress
298	20/08/18	Around GB & I 40 ft	"Imerys Clean Energy" Phil Sharp GBR	World Record 8d 4h 14m 49s

Note: attempt No 285 by Bill Hatfield in the 2017 listing has now been completed

285	10/09/18	RTW Singlehanded 40ft	"l'Eau Commotion" Bill Hatfield AUS	Performance Certificate
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500 Metre and Nautical Mile Outright Speed Events

290	July 2018	La Palme. FRA	5 World NM records 12 National NM records
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