

ISAF/WORLD SAILING SPEED RECORD COUNCIL
Chairman: Claude Breton

ANNUAL REPORT to ISAF 2012

It is remarkable that the WSSR Council can look back on 40 years of speed sailing and record breaking, to the project established in Portland Harbour UK, designed finally to establish how fast a sailing yacht could travel. The initial committee was chaired by Peter Scott, a previous President of the International Yacht Racing Union – now known as ISAF - and this committee established a set of rules under which speeds recorded over a measured distance of 500 metres could make claims for the World Sailing Speed Record. These rules in their basic format have remained unchanged over these 40 years, although the methods of measurement and timing have been constantly reviewed by the Council to take advantage of subsequent technical developments.

The early techniques of floating buoys marking the course and observers with hand stop watches sighting across the transits have been replaced with video and GPS timings and measurement – the original margin of a 1/25th second has been updated to a much more demanding 1/100th second and as a result the initial World Sailing Speed record of 26.3 knots in 1972 has now more than doubled to 55.65 knots.

Optimum speed sailing conditions are now found in Namibia where the top speedsailing competitors will gather in November and December this year, with the sole objective of raising the world record to new heights. Kitesurfing, the new Olympic discipline which has grown up and developed on the speedsailing scene, is the most likely candidate for any new record.

On the offshore record section, the most noteworthy achievement is the Around the World record of just over 45 days by Loick Peyron FRA with Banque Populaire 5. It seems not long ago that the seemingly impossible goal was to circumnavigate the globe in under the Jules Verne mythical 80 days. I thought last year in my report that the time of 48 days would be impossible to surpass, so I am not going to make any predictions for you this year.

To choose the right conditions in which to make an attempt is now the most important of decisions and this is reflected in the stand-by times waiting for the right winds. A glance at our list of attempts for 2012 might give the impression of reduced activity – however, as I write, there are 8 yachts waiting that ideal moment for a world record attempt. Perhaps several of them will be in the statistics for 2013.

I end with recording my thanks and appreciation to the members of Council and the world-wide group of Commissioners without whom we would surely be unable to operate.

Claude Breton

Chairman; World Sailing Speed Record Council

**LIST OF RECORDS AND ATTEMPTS SINCE THE LAST LIST PRESENTED TO
ISAF IN 2011**

15/10/11	Around the World Singlehanded	“Full Circle” Morris Contessi AUS	Abandoned
15/10/11	Around the World	“Banque Populaire 5” Loick Peyron FRA	World Record 45d 13h 42m 53s
09/01/12	Around the World	“Race Team 2000” Roman Paske POL	Abandoned
13/02/12	Monohull Cadiz to San Salvador	“Maserati” Giovanni Soldini ITA	World Record 10d 23h 9m 39s
26/03/12	Monohull Miami to New York	“Maserati” Giovanni Soldini ITA	Abandoned
09/05/12	Monohull TransAtlantic	“Maserati” Giovanni Soldini ITA	Unsuccessful
08/06/12	Around Britain and Ireland	“Safran” Marc Guillemot FRA	Abandoned
26/07/12	TransAtlantic 60ft Monohull Singlehanded	“Hugo Boss” Alex Thomson GBR	World Record 8d 21h 8m 31s
31/07/12	24 hours Singlehanded	“Idec” Francis Joyon FRA	World Record 666.2 NM
16/08/12	Around the Isle of Wight	“Foncia” Michel Desjoyeaux FRA	World Record 2h 21m 25s
26/08/12	Monaco to Porto Cervo. Rule 21c.	“Esimit Europa 2” Jochen Schumann GER	World Record 10h 13m 42s

500 metre Outright Speed Events

30/11/11	Walvis Bay. NAM	Private Event	The B Division World Sailing Speed Record was broken by SailRocket 2, Paul Larsen AUS 49.19 kts
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