2024 OLYMPIC MIXED KEELBOAT OFFSHORE EQUIPMENT RFI
FIGARO BENETEAU 3 PROPOSAL
• 8 to 11m offshore capable sailboat, suitable to be raced by a two person crew
• OSR Category 2 (scantling and stability)
• Accessible
• Media-friendly (modern look and equipment)
• Logistics friendly (transport, etc...)
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- History of the Figaro Bénéteau
- Classe Figaro Bénéteau
- Figaro Bénéteau 3
- We do have foils, why?
- VPP
- Rating certificates
- Race results
- Offshore capabilities
- Mixed double handed
- Distribution & Groupe Beneteau
- Awards
- Testimonials
- 2019 season video
For 30 years now, Bénéteau have been building 3 generations of Figaro Beneteaus for the Figaro class. They originally approached us at the end of the 80s to stop the arms race that was happening with half-tonners and to introduce the first ever one-design offshore boat: The First Class Figaro Solo aka Figaro 1.
HISTORY OF THE FIGARO BENETEAU

Figaro 1: 140 boats built, used by the class between 1990 and 2002 – 156000 nautical miles
Figaro 2: 96 boats built, used by the class between 2002 and 2018 – 180000 nautical miles
HISTORY OF THE FIGARO BENETEAU

Figaro 3: 90 boats built, been used by the class since 2019, the plan is to keep her 10 years at least
• Professional racing class run by sailors for sailors
• Created in 1989 to handle the new one-design boat (FB1) and get sailors to work better together
• 90 members
• Runs the annual championship together with FFVoile
• Introduced the “boat passport” in 2019 to actually track the boats for their entire life. Every piece of equipment is registered and every work done on the boat has to be declared and can be checked by class members/measurers any time
5 class events in 2019:

- Sardinha Cup – 34 boats – winners Yann Eliès / Sam Davies
- Solo Maître CoQ – 47 boats – winner Xavier Macaire
- La Solitaire URGO LE FIGARO – 47 boats – winner Yoann Richomme
- Douarnenez Courses Solo Gijon – 16 boats – winner Xavier Macaire
- Tour de Bretagne à la Voile – 37 boats – winners Alexis Loison / Fred Duthil
Exciting race calendar in 2020 including the first double-handed transat on the Figaro Bénéteau 3: Transat AG2R LA MONDIALE starting from Concarneau (Brittany) to St Barts on April 19th
FIGARO BENETEAU 3

Project initiated in 2015 by the class & Bénéteau in order to have a new boat ready for the 50th edition of La Solitaire race in 2019
FIGARO BENETEAU 3

Original design brief from the class

- Boat length 8.5 to 10 m
- Max draft 2.5 m
- Designed for shorthanded sailing
- Can cross the Atlantic
- Strict one-design
- Deck-stepped carbon rig
- Square top main, non-overlapping jibs, A-sails
- Bowsprit
- Fixed or canting keel
- Twin rudders
- Large cockpit
- Minimum speed with engine 7 knots on flat water
3 renowned design teams (Mer Forte, Finot / Conq + Manuard & VPLP) ended up in the final. VPLP design won thanks to a very innovative « chistera » foil concept. Note that systems that could add complications in the long term like canting or lifting keel and rotating bowsprits were eliminated as reliability is key offshore.
## FIGARO BENETEAU 3

### SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architects</td>
<td>VPLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull length</td>
<td>9.75 m (32’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall length (incl. bowsprit)</td>
<td>10.89 m (35’ 9”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max beam</td>
<td>3.48 m (11’ 5”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft</td>
<td>2.50 m (8’ 2”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>3175 kg (7000 lbs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE Category</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upwind sail area</td>
<td>73 m² (786 Sq.ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downwind sail area</td>
<td>162 m² (1755 Sq.ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>19.6 HP (14.6 kW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water capacity</td>
<td>No fixed tank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel capacity</td>
<td>40 L (10.5 US gal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery capacity</td>
<td>240 Ah</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WE DO HAVE FOILS - WHY

For VPLP it was obvious to have modern appendages on a boat designed to last.

The FB3 is however not fully foiling but foil-assisted: contrary to IMOCA’s, the FB3 foils have an inward-facing profile and the way they operate is different. They are versatile foils that create drift reduction and improve the boat’s righting moment, without increasing the displacement, which improves the boat performance. VPLP originally thought they would be in and out but both of them are actually out all the time with no incident in 1 year of racing.
Common belief is that foils are difficult to operate/trim and add complexity. The FB3 foils are just the opposite: you totally forget them while sailing. They are handled with ropes and winches (just like daggeboards) and as they are out all the time, the only adjustment possible is rake and this done by pulling a rope too. Plus they are built in carbon/glass and are therefore very strong and safe. Finally the foil slots in the topsides are well above the waterline to avoid any issue.
• Strict one-design
• Innovative but designed to last
• 10 years use at least to protect the owners’ investment
• New features introduced to open up the field of play, mostly new sails and foils; as you will see next page we had splits and gaps never seen before!
A WHOLE NEW GAME!

This is leg one of the 2019 Solitaire; there was a huge split at the Ushant TSS and the middle group ultimately won with the top 5 within 11’ and the top 10 in less than 1 hour after 4 days at sea.
Here you can see the original VPP supplied by VPLP. Normal upwind speed 6.5 kts+, top speeds more than 20 kts, some even mention > 25 kts! Current dock talk is that the boats exceeds the polars and predictions.
The Figaro Bénéteau 3 has been rated and raced in IRC, ORC, PHRF, ORR and SRS so far.
Race results (handicap racing)

- USA
  Line honours 2018 Pacific Cup (San Francisco to Hawaii, PHRF) – doublehanded
  Line honours and 1st in class Annapolis to Newport Race (PHRF) – doublehanded
  4th Around-the-Island race, Newport RI (PHRF) – doublehanded

- Sweden
  1st in class ÅF Offshore Race (SRS) – doublehanded
  1st Åland Offshore Race (SRS) – doublehanded
  1st Visbypokalen Regatta (SRS) – doublehanded

- Italy
  1st doublehanded Regata Palermo Montecarlo (ORC)
  4th 151 Miglia – Trofeo Cetilar (ORC) – doublehanded
  2nd line honors Roma per Due (IRC) - doublehanded
Offshore capabilities:

- Unique Bénéteau experience, **30 years** developing offshore one-design for and with the top skippers in the sport
- Focused on shorthanded use
- The best designers in the business: VPLP, designers of the best Ultims (MACIF, IDEC) and Imocas (CHARAL, HUGO BOSS)
- ISO category A, OSR Cat 2 compliant
- Modern and versatile sailplan
- Optimised deck layout
Mixed double handed:

• Work for two: manoeuvres will be faster with four arms, but the boat can easily be sailed single handed, allowing one of the crew to concentrate on the strategy and navigation while the other one drives the boat.

• Reasonable sail area and properly sized deck hardware to minimise the physical efforts and required strength.

• Real ergonomic spaces for two crew in the cockpit.
Distribution:

- Worldwide network: more than 400 Bénéteau dealers, in 90 countries on 5 continents...
- Nearly 70 boats delivered in one year on 3 continents (Europe, America, Asia)!
- Support: Bénéteau is much more than a boatbuilder and offer service, after-sales, financing services etc. all over the world.
The #1 boatbuilder in the world, with 12 boating brands including Bénéteau & Jeanneau
19 boatbuilding site on 2 continents, 8,300 employees worldwide
Awards:

• 2019 Sailing World Boat of the Year (USA)
• 2018 European Yacht of the Year (EU)
• 2018 Yacht of the Year (UK)
• World Sailing 2018 Boat of the Year Award (nominee)
Testimonials:

- Michel Desjoyeaux, owner and skipper FB3 #47 François Gabart
  “I have been racing professionally for 30 years and I won La Solitaire on both the Figaro 1 and Figaro 2. I also sailed La Solitaire in 2019 on the Figaro Bénéteau 3. With this new boat we are very well equipped for many years to come: she is fast, fun and very challenging! And clearly the result of the work we have been doing with Bénéteau for 3 decades to develop strict one-design offshore boats. If I was a bit younger and less busy I would love to try to qualify for Paris 2024...”

- Justine Mettraux, owner and skipper FB3 #21
  “The Figaro 3 is fast and powerful and really opens the game with the new sails and the foils, she is therefore perfect for a 3-4 days Olympic event. Double handed you can sail her 100% which is even better! Moreover the Figaro class and Bénéteau have done a great job to make sure she is a real one-design boat, and this can go even further with one-design sails for example”.

FIGARO BENETEAU 3
Testimonials:

• Alberto Bona, owner and skipper FB3 #51
  “In my opinion the Figaro 3 is a really interesting platform for Paris 2024. She is robust and offers a good combination performances + logistics + price; she already proved to be perfect for double handed racing. But more importantly she is a real one-design boat which is hard to achieve. Moreover there is a large existing fleet, an active circuit and therefore opportunities for everyone to join now. In 2021 we will have more races in Southern Europe, what else can you ask to start training for 2024?”

• Etienne Saïz, Team Vendée (race organiser & coach)
  “We have been the 1st organiser to have Figaro 3s on a starting line with 34 double handed teams racing the Sardinha Cup in 2019. Logistically we handled them like a “normal” fleet, no issue with the foils at all. She proved perfect for 2-handed too, and we have had spectacular images from day one. The one-design aspect is also key, making it easier to understand for the general public: 1st boat across the line wins and the difference comes from talent not from the machines…”
Testimonials:

• Marcus Hutchinson, coach, team manager, owner FB3 #20 & 38
  Marcus sent us a 5 page testimonial that we are happy to share. Here is his conclusion:
  “The Figaro Beneteau 3 class is without question the most legitimate shorthanded offshore racing One Design class today. It is modern, it looks the part, it is fun and exciting to race, it is great value and is supported by the most important actor in the production yacht building industry, Beneteau.”

• Alan Roberts, skipper FB3 #42
  “The Figaro 3 is a boat designed especially for short handed offshore sailors. With the boat being built by Beneteau – as the previous 2 generations of Figaro - the boats are extremely well matched; with the introduction of the Boat passport the one design element has been well controlled, possibly the most rigorous of all the one design I have sailed in. The boats are sensitive and the crew makes a huge difference, punishing any small mistake, the gains can only be made by the sailors and losses are easy to make.”
FIGARO BENETEAU 3 – RECAP OF THE 2019 RACING SEASON
THANK YOU FOR OFFERING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE THE FB3

WE ARE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER INFO