Incident Reports

A summary of press reports of known Offshore-related incidents that have occurred (generally during races) since the last meeting.

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1. **La Route du Rhum - Banque Populaire – 103’ trimaran – structural failure**
   November – Banque Populaire suffered structural failure and was abandoned, later towed into Vigo as a loss. Armel le Cleach: “All of a sudden, the boat is rocking to one side. In a few seconds, it is completely stopped, I realize that we are capsizing. I see the lee float that is detached from the boat.”

2. **La Route du Rhum - Arkema - 50’ trimaran – capsize – boat recovered**
   November - Capsized in a violent squall about 1,000 nautical miles east of Guadeloupe. The Multi50 skipper Lalou Roucayrol, who is sailing his fourth Route du Rhum-Destination Guadeloupe and has been on the podium three times already, was caught out by a sudden and violent spike in the easterly breeze during the hours of darkness on Arkema.
   The 54-year-old skipper, who is based in Port Médoc near Bordeaux, was unable to prevent the boat flipping over at around 0630hrs UTC/0730 CET while he was racing in fourth place in the class. Fortunately Roucayrol is safe and well inside the main hull of his boat and was able to alert both his shore team and the race director and a rescue plan is under way.

3. **Golden Globe DHL – 36’ Rustler monohull - Susie Goodall – abandoned**
   British yachtswoman Susie Goodall, participating in the Golden Globe Race, was pitch poled and dismasted in the Southern Ocean some 2,000 miles west of Cape Horn today. A distress signal was first picked up from her yacht by Falmouth Coastguard at 11:00 UTC, who then alerted Race Control and the Chilean Maritime Search and Rescue authorities responsible for this sector of the South Pacific.
Goodall, (29) from Falmouth UK, and the youngest competitor in the Golden Globe Race, was lying in 4th place at the time, riding out a ferocious storm with 60 knot winds and massive seas aboard her Rustler 36 yacht DHL Starlight.

Susie Goodall’s position 2,000 miles West of Cape Horn when the storm struck, and those of her nearest rivals in this solo non-stop round the world race.

In her last text message to Race Control received before the dismasting at 08:29 UTC, she reported, “TAKING A HAMMERING! WONDERING WHAT ON EARTH I’M DOING OUT HERE.”

In a subsequent message, received at 12:23 UTC, she wrote: DISMASTED. HULL OK. NO FORM OF JURY RIG, TOTAL LOSS Position: 45° 27.787 S 122° 23.537 W.

After 3 attempts, Race HQ was able to raise Goodall on her emergency satellite phone when she confirmed: “I have been dismasted. Thought I had holed the hull because the boat filled with water, but the hull is NOT holed. The hull is OK.

“The boat is destroyed. I can’t make up a jury rig. The only thing left is the hull and deck which remain intact. We were pitch poled [rolled end over end] and I was thrown across the cabin and knocked out for a while.”

Speaking with emotion, but sounding very much in control of her situation, Susie also confirmed that she had secured all hatches, portholes and safety equipment, and did NOT need immediate assistance. She said that before the incident, she had been enjoying the conditions and felt in control.

But then the safety tube on her Monitor self-steering broke and she was forced to trail a drogue anchor astern and take down the mainsail. She was below decks when the boat was pitch poled, and when she returned on deck to assess the damage, found that the line attached to the drogue had parted.

Susie also reported that she ‘has been beaten up and badly bruised’ with cuts and scratches and a big bump on her head. MSOS, the GGR’s 24 hour medical telecenter has been advised and doctors are now monitoring her symptoms and providing direct medical advice.

The winds have since dropped down to 45 knots and conditions are likely to improve further as the storm continues to head east.

The nearest GGR competitor is Estonian Uku Randmaa 400 miles ahead of Goodall and about to face the same storm conditions, so it is impractical for him to turn about. It is far safer for American/Hungarian Istvan Kopar, 780 miles to the west to continue his downwind course and intercept DHL Starlight. The GGR fleet has now been alerted to Susie’s situation and Kopar expects to reach her position in six days time.

Subsequently, the Chilean Authorities have contacted a ship 480 miles SW of Goodall’s position and requested assistance. Her Captain expects to take 2 days to reach the area.

Race Chairman Don McIntyre said today: “We are monitoring the situation carefully, speaking to Susie every hour and working with the Chilean Search and rescue authorities on the best course of action to take. We have also informed her family and are keeping them informed.”

4. **Caribbean 600 – Argo MOD70 trimaran – capsise**

   A few days before the Caribbean 600, the MOD 70 trimaran Argo capsized. The boat was recovered and went on to finish second in the Caribbean 600 Race.
5. **Ran Tan II – Delivery Trip - Pacific**

30 May – ‘Ran Tan II’ was sailing up to Los Angeles to compete in the Transpac. The first part of the delivery was to the Marquesas, via Raiatea and Rangiroa Atoll. The delivery crew of three carried on and this morning were at 8 degrees North 128 West.

At 1515 hours they sent out a Mayday call, saying they were preparing to Abandon Ship, due to keel breakage. Currently they are still on board, all gear assembled in the cockpit ready to launch the raft if and when the keel lets go completely.

Ran Tan II is a canting keel Elliot 50 designed by Greg Elliott and built by Salthouse Boatbuilders in 2007.

6. **Transpac – Santa Cruz 70 OEX – Rudder failure - flooding**

Scuttlebutt(July 15, 2019) – The attrition count for the 50th Transpac Race increased today as two of the prominent teams in Division 2, which started on July 13, are now returning to the mainland.

At 0200 PDT this morning, the YB race tracking system activated an emergency signal from John Sangmeister's Santa Cruz 70 OEX, and one hour later, Roy Disney's Andrews 70 Pyewacket reported that they had picked up the crew of OEX and all were safe.

The trouble experienced by OEX, and cause to abandon ship, was a result of water ingress due to damage to their rudder post. At this stage the cause of that damage is not known, and currently OEX is still afloat as their tracker is still reporting the position of the vessel.

There are no reports of injuries, and all 9 crewmembers from OEX and 10 on Pyewacket are about 200 miles out and are proceeding back to port at about 10-11 knots of speed..

7. **July 2019 – Mini Transat qualifier – #975 boat found with no one aboard**

Departing Lorient on 22 July to undertake the solo 1000 mile qualification trip for the Mini Transat Race, aboard ‘Aelig’ Stephane Thomas disappeared at sea. Off Ushant the SNSM lifeboat found the boat under sail with no one aboard. The boat had left Lorient and headed towards Ireland, on his return trip, the AIS Transponder ceased working. Concerned, those close to Stephane alerted the French maritime authorities.

8. **2 September 2019 –Figaro III - NF Habitat – collision with buoy - sank**

Figaro 3 "NF habitat" has sunk off the entrance to the Aber-Wrac'h channel after hitting a low unlit Cardinal Buoy (Basse Paupian) at night.

This took place early on Monday morning and the two sailors were on their way in company with other Figaro 3 yachts to the start of the Tour de Bretagne.

Crew are ok and despite some efforts to tow the boat it sank pretty quickly. Plans are afoot to recover the boat - it is currently in 15m of water.
9. **2 September 2019 – ‘Ultim ‘Emotion’ 77ft trimaran capsize - Delivery**

Ultim Emotion, the trimaran skippered by Antoine Rabaste, capsized at around 5 am on Monday morning, September 2 off Portugal. The accident occurred 40 miles west of Porto. The crew of five sailors were hoisted by Portuguese rescuers, alerted by the Cross Gris-Nez, which receives distress beacons from all over the world. The sailors are safe and sound. The boat is none other than the former ‘Gitana 11.’

10. **October 2019 – Middle Sea Race -‘Ad Maiori’ – 60ft trimaran – structural damage**

During the Middle Sea Race, the 60ft trimaran suffered a crack in the port hull and the boat was abandoned. The trimaran is the former Fleury Michon built in 1988.