



Class40 press released – Monday 18th February

Class40 confirmed its choice

Seven boats being built for the 2013 season, Class40 of the first-generation being sold, Route du Rhum projects, the races calendar is intense but recurring ... Despite a slight decline in the number of members in 2012, the Class40 association is still attractive and continues its structuring.

Annual General Meeting is synonymous of assessment, prospects and key figures. Class40's AGM took place last month in Caen (Normandy): 2012 assessment is good and the 2013 outlook still shows that the class still attracts skippers with very different background and has even served as a springboard for Tanguy de Lamotte and Jörg Riechers and their sponsors to access the Imoca circuit.

7 Class40 currently being built

Despite an economic environment that does not facilitate the prospection for partners, seven skippers are having a Class40 built for the upcoming season: 1 Mach 40 (Sébastien Rogues), 5 Akilaria RC3 (including MacKenzie Davies, Mike Dreese and Damien Seguin), 1 Tyler Evolution 3. The Class40 President, François Angoulvant, has also a new boat project for the Route du Rhum 2014 ...



Popular « vintage » Class40 !

Norman sailor Louis Duc as bought, as co-ownership, Akilaria prototype (launched in 2008) of Spanish Gonzalo Botin (double winner of Class40 Worlds in 2010 and 2012). Damien Seguin Rogers sold his Class40 No. 52 to British Roderick Knowles. Some "vintage" category boats are also being sold: Bertrand Guillonneau Tyler sold No. 25 to the U.S. sailor Kyle Hubley, and Philippe Vallée his Pogo40 No. 10 to Eric Darni. Class40 number 18, 20, 50 and 71 are also sold, but they should not participate of the Class40 circuit.

A calendar stabilized

Between 15 to 20 Class40 yachts are expected in Le Havre, in November (there were 16 of them in 2011) on the main race of the 2013 season: the Transat Jacques Vabre.

The other races of the calendar is built around events now

The rest of the schedule is structured around perennial events, such as Les Sables-Horta-Les Sables every odd years, the Normandy Channel Race every year, the Solidaire du Chocolat every four years ... with, of course, the famous Route du Rhum, the Transat Jacques Vabre and Quebec St Malo each turn.

Moreover, no round the world event on a Class40 is in the official calendar.

Cutting waste

This 2012 Class40 AGM was also an opportunity for debating about reducing costs. A specific committee had been put in place last October to work on this subject and has presented its project: Prohibit hollow battens, reduce the number of sails allowed, ban some materials, etc. All this will be discussed by the Board of Directors and voted next summer at an extraordinary general meeting.

However, Class40 remain open to off-shore races, affordable, significantly less expensive than 50 feet or Imoca.

About new projects, Damien Seguin presented his request for a 100% electric engine for his new Class40. The Directors agreed that a special exemption is given to carry out the experiment on this boat.

News as well in the Board of Directors itself with the election of 6 new directors : Catherine Pourre, Stéphane Le Diraison, Ned Collier-Wakefield, Halvard Mabire, Frédéric Meunier, Damien Seguin.



François Angoulvant continues its two-year term and was re-elected as President of the new Board of Directors.

2012 FIGURES

Members

- slight decrease : 110 members in 2012, there were 124 of them in 2011.
- 16 countries are represented (among them 6 outside Europe)
- 66 French members, 7 Americans, 6 Italians, 6 English, the rest is spread over different countries.

Boats: 9 Class40 have been launched in 2012 (from no. 115 to no. 124) – 10 planned in en 2013.

Measurement certificate : 43 issued in 2012 (52 in 2011).

WORKING GROUP FOR REDUCING COST

Stéphane Le Diraison, referent and Jacques Fournier, Pierre-Yves Lautrou, Pascal Cong, François Lucas and Alain Bujeaud. The group has presented 12 proposals, they are currently being analysed.

RENEWAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- François Angoulvant, Jacques Fournier and Michael Hennessy continue their two-year term
- 6 new members : Catherine Pourre, Ned Collier-Wakefield, Halvard Mabire, Damien Seguin, Stéphane Le Diraison, Frédéric Meunier.

Photo: Muriel Robin / Class40

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