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FRANCE'S FIRST NON-STOP TRANSATLANTIC RACE FOR AMATEURS

Aspirations have been high and finally it's here! France's first non-stop transatlantic race for amateurs will set sail from a port in southern Brittany in April 2021, bound for the West Indies. Coloured by accessibility, safety, conviviality and lasting commitment, this new event on the IRC race schedule is all set to become an unmissable and unifying meeting.

Created under the aegis of the UNCL (National Offshore Racing Union in France), this new race has been initiated by two of its members, who are now in charge of the organisation. They are two experienced sailors: Jean-Philippe Cau, President of the UNCL and a well-informed racer, as well as Thibaut Derville, an offshore racer and sponsor, who has been involved in the sailing world for the past 20 years. These two experts and friends intend to offer participants a simple formula, perfectly tailored to their needs, and a level of organisation that is on a par with that of events dedicated to professional racers.

Though the event name is yet to be decided, the latter is geared towards IRC boats such as the A35, Figaro Bénéteau 2, J99, Sun Fast 3200/3300/3600, Ofcet 32, JPK 10.10/10.30/10.80, etc. It will set sail every two years to coincide with the Rolex Fastnet Race years and can be contested in solo or double format. Everyone shall qualify according to a rule that is currently being drafted and comply with the safety requirements imposed by the OSR.

Several potential start venues have applied to host the race start in ports right across southern Brittany and a decision will be made shortly. For the race finish, an island in the French West Indies is the most likely candidate. The organisers will put forward a package to return to Europe via cargo ship for those wishing to take up this option, whilst providing impeccable logistics on both sides of the Atlantic.

"The Transquadra has really whetted the appetite of all these singlehanded and double-handed sailors. The start lines for races in this category fill up fast and attract a stellar line-up, with ever younger sailors as well as mixed crews. It's such a great feeling to witness this infatuation! Whether it's a snowball effect or just a logical progression is anyone's guess. In any case, everyone is quite taken with it and wants more of the same. Our non-stop transatlantic race echoes this sentiment and is perfectly timed to satisfy this growing passion," Jean-Philippe Cau, President of the UNCL, co-founder of the Transat IRC.

A personal and philanthropic journey!

Fulfilling a dream and taking your nearest and dearest on the adventure of a lifetime, such is the fabulous motivation behind a journey like this for a lot of people. Conveying a collective message to give voice to a cause defended by others year-round on land, adds yet another layer to the challenge taken on. Every boat shall promote and support, in addition to a possible sponsor, a societal cause and/or a project centred on sustainable development.

"Sustainable development is no longer an option, rather it is a necessity. Those of us who set sail across the ocean are all too aware of this fact! We're fighting fit but not everyone is lucky enough to be in this situation! Using this race and each of the boats and their sailors as a showcase will enable a spotlight to be shone on these causes. It's also a great opportunity for sponsors already committed to such actions to remind the public about their endeavours," Thibaut Derville, co-founder of the Transat IRC.

Contact:

Transatirc@gmail.com