



Press-release No. 2 - Monday 23 February 2009

“The Solidaire du Chocolat”

25 skippers of 8 different nationalities have registered and €250,000 has been raised for associations !

Following the launch of the “Solidaire du Chocolat” last December, 25 skippers of 8 different nationalities have already registered to take part in the unique and only Competitive, Solidarity and Event driven transatlantic race between France and Mexico next October. The ball has started rolling for this first race which will dominate people’s minds from Nantes to Saint-Nazaire and as far as Yucatan, since the alchemy has worked beyond all expectations and the concept of this non-standard and ambitious solidarity event really stands out. Nearly €250,000 in funds has already been raised for Associations.

Competitive. It is true that the innovative and original concept of the “Solidaire du Chocolat” is attractive. The Class 40, which sees this event as a benchmark race with a real international opening, was not mistaken. To date, 25 skippers have registered, representing no less than eight nationalities, counting 14 French, 1 American, 1 Irishman, 1 Belgian, 3 Englishmen, 3 Italians, 1 Spaniard and 1 Chinese. Among these are: *Anne Liardet*, *Giovani Soldini*, *Damien Seguin* as well as *Bruno Jourden* etc., and this is only the beginning. Registrations to be on the Saint-Nazaire starting line on 18 October next will be taken up until 30 July 2009.

Solidarity. The skippers are not the only ones to show an interest in this event. The same enthusiasm can be found among the institutional partners of the race; topping the list are the Région des Pays de la Loire, Nantes Métropole, the city of Saint-Nazaire and the Conseil Général de Loire-Atlantique. Attracted by the concept, they quickly committed themselves to this adventure. In turn, the associations and sponsors who wish to support them have joined in to promote this cause. With their sponsors and events for the general public, some of them will create shows in the start and finish cities, giving a new meaning to these popular gatherings. In this way, to date, nearly 10 Association/sponsor twins have been identified, meaning that funds of nearly €250,000 have been raised (*Système U / « Action Contre la Faim » (Action against hunger)* ; *SCE / « Ingénieurs Sans Frontières » (Engineers with no frontiers)*, *Novédia Group / « Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque » (Cardiac Surgery Sponsor)*). Beyond the competitive transatlantic race, the “Solidaire du Chocolat” is also a great way for associations to make themselves known to the general public and to raise funds (€25,000) through a sponsor to finance a project in the field of economic development showing solidarity, the environment or of a social nature. For businesses, this is also an opportunity to confirm, during these difficult times, their solidarity and responsibility to society and the environment. Each project supported will be carried by a yacht and its team in the “Solidaire du Chocolat”. The way it works is simple and transparent. The association makes its application using a “project form”, on which it must describe its project and aims. The applications are then investigated by an ethical committee which decides on whether to approve them.

Events. Among the events programmed: the first “Nuit du Chocolat” (Chocolate Night) will take place in Île de Nantes, on Saturday, 10 October 2009. The next day will see a sail down the Loire from Nantes to Saint-Nazaire alongside the *Belem*, the three masted ship whose history is closely connected with the cocoa bean. There will also be the “Grand Choc” (Great shock); a cultural and educational space devoted to chocolate in Saint-Nazaire from 10 to 18 October 2009. The programme has been drawn up with the help of the associations taking part in the adventure, which have suggested events. It is still too early to give all the details; however, it will be full of surprises. The whole region will be getting involved.

Reminder of the “Solidaire du Chocolat” in three words :

COMPETITIVE : A non-stop two-handed transatlantic race with a new course between France and Yucatan in Mexico, exclusively for Class 4 yachts (12.9 m monohulls)

SOLIDARITY: Each team must suggest a project, a sponsor (boat sponsor or not) and the celebrity (symbol) which the association wishes to be supported by for the prologue and the rest of the race. The sponsor is committed to giving financial support to an association of €25,000 including tax, €15,000 of which can be deducted from the firm's tax. An ethical committee approves the projects. Many celebrities have already signed up: Eddy Mitchel, François Cluzet, Charles Berling, Sophie Davant, etc.

EVENTS: High points will be event driven operations concerning chocolate, solidarity and Mexico (exhibitions, lectures, films, tastings, large solidarity concerts, etc.) planned in Nantes, Saint-Nazaire and Yucatan.

List of the registered skippers :

BOTIN Gonzalo ; BOUCHARD Thierry ; BIBOT Gérald ; CARPENTIER Patrice ; CHARDONNAL Christian ; CLERTON Wilfrid ; CONSORTE David ; DE LA MOTTE Tanguy ; DEFERT Eric ; DOIN Pascal ; FOURNIER Jacques ; HARDING Peter ; JOURDREN Bruno ; LAZAT Denis ; LE DOYEN Loic ; LIARDET Anne ; MACKENZIE Davis ; MC CARTHY Cian ; NIGON Erik ; SEGUIN Damien ; SOLDINI Giovanni ; STELLA Tomaso ; TOLKIEN Richard ; VALLEE Philippe ; WRIGHT Tim...



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