

BUSINESS DAY

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All-women US crew complete the first leg

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay — US yacht Women's Challenge, the only entry with an all-woman crew in the Whitbread round-the-world race, became on Saturday the 11th vessel to complete the first leg of the competition.

The yacht, skippered by Nance Frank, sailed into this South Atlantic resort 27 days 19 hrs 23 mins 45 secs after leaving Southampton.

At that point Uruguay Natural and Ukrainian vessels Hetman Sahaidachni and Odessa were the last of the 14 entries that have yet to complete the first leg.

British yacht Dolphin and Youth, led by the youngest skipper in the history of the race, on Thursday became the ninth vessel to complete the first leg.

Half of the crew under Matthew Humphries, 22, suffers some form of physical disability.

The first boat to finish was Grant Dalton's New Zealand Endeavour. Dalton's yacht, which arrived on Tuesday, shaved 1½ days off the record for the first leg of the six-leg race.