

It's all NZ in Round the World yacht race

LONDON. — New Zealanders turned the final stages of the 32 000-mile Whitbread Round the World yacht race into a virtual Kiwi class reunion.

The maxi New Zealand Endeavour, skippered by Grant Dalton, set a race record in winning the IOR Maxi Class while fellow Kiwi Ross Field took out the Whitbread 60 Class in Yamaha.

And to complete New Zealand's domination, their compatriot Chris Dixon, at the helm of Tokio, won the sixth and final leg from Fort Lauderdale to Southampton.

New Zealand Endeavour's overall time of 120 days, five hours, nine minutes and 23 seconds was more than eight days faster than the record set by another New Zealand

boat, Steinlager 2, in 1989-90.

"We have achieved everything that we wanted to achieve," said Dalton.

"We have set a new record, we have won legs and we were faster around the world and it is all down to people.

"I have a great crew, good boat and we were pushed by fantastic competition." — Sapa-AFP.