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Transatlantic Schooner Record

Windrose Breaks 97-Year Drought



A classic view of a mighty majestic lady.

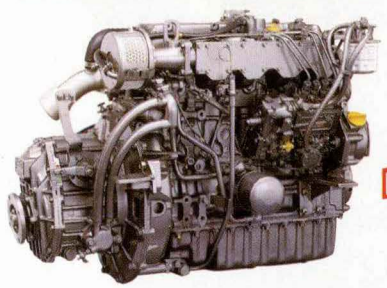
The 46.31-metre (152-foot) schooner *Windrose* has lived up to all the expectations of her Dutch designer, Gerard Dijkstra, and her Dutch builders, Holland Jachtbouw.

Launched late in 2001, *Windrose* recently beat the Transatlantic crossing time achieved way back in 1905 by the 57-metre (187-foot) schooner *Atlantic* by 17 hours, 36 minutes, and 9 seconds. *Atlantic*, sailed by the legendary Charlie Barr, crossed in 12 days, 4 hours, 1 minute, and 19 seconds. In sailing from Ambrose Tower, off New Jersey's Sandy Hook, to the Lizard, on England's southwest coast, *Windrose* crossed in just 11 days, 10 hours, 25 minutes, and 10 seconds, averaging 12.0 knots.

"We have put the ghost of Charlie Barr to rest!" said her designer.

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Conditions can be tough - especially when attempting to break records.



From the end of the bowspirit* Windrose *makes an awesome picture.

hulls have previously surpassed *Atlantic's* time. But *Windrose* and the 58-metre (190-foot) *Adix* - which competed in this unofficial match race using powered sails - are the first schooners to do so. Times of both yachts were taken by the World Sailing Speed Record Council.

The shortest route over the course is about 3,000 nautical miles. In setting her record in 1905, *Atlantic* sailed north to the ice limit and logged just 3,013 miles. *Windrose* and *Adix* both diverged south of the shortest (Great Circle) route, adding significant distance to their tracks in order to remain in more favourable westerly winds to maximize their speed.

Windrose, skippered by Simon Dierdorp, sailed about 3,294 miles, while *Adix*, commanded by Paul Goss, sailed some 3,400 miles. In mid-course, *Adix* was quite far north of *Windrose*, but she returned south and their tracks crossed north of the Azores. *Adix*, completely redesigned several years ago by Dijkstra, beat *Atlantic's* time by approximately 11 1/2 hours.

During the passage, the boats experienced some unfavourable winds from dead astern, which schooners do not appreciate, and periods of light winds. But they also experienced sufficient days of gale-force westerlies, up to Force 9, to make up for the slower days.

Dijkstra, aboard *Windrose* as navigator and sailing master, said: "We realize why *Atlantic* made such good time. She had heavy weather most of the way. You need a series of gales and depressions to keep a big boat moving. In the last five days that's what we had, and *Windrose* sailed over 300 miles each day. Our average speed in the heavy weather was a steady 14 to 15 knots, but at one point we were surfing at 26 knots." ⚓

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Antigua - Newport Record

Tracy Brings Maiden II to the Boil

Tracy Edwards' 110ft Maxi catamaran, *Maiden II*, has broken the four-day barrier and clocked over 40 knots to set a tough time to beat for the Antigua to Newport record. This record forms part of an extensive schedule of record attempts planned over the next three years.

Maiden II and her mixed crew of 16, skippered by Helena Darvelid and navigated by Adrienne Cahalan, arrived in Newport in a time of 94 hours, 31 minutes and 58 seconds (subject to World Sailing Speed Record Council ratification - WSSRC).

"I answered the phone to hear Helena (Darvelid) yelling at me 'We're doing 40.6 knots! We can see the finish and we will be in under four days - Awesome!' It was one of the many times I would rather have been on the boat than on shore," said Sailing Director Edwards

The Antigua to Newport record is the latest record to be added to the portfolio of passage records governed by the WSSRC. *Maiden II* was pushed to the absolute limit, topping the maximum speed the boat has ever achieved in its well documented past as *Club Med*.

Edwards paid tribute to her crew and looked forward to the Jules Verne Trophy. "The Antigua to Newport record is the first of many. The confidence within the team grows with every mile sailed and although they had no wind for 18 hours they still achieved an impressive average speed of 16.9 knots, which is almost three knots faster than Bruno Peyron achieved in his recent record-breaking attempt at the Jules Verne. This can only serve to drive us onwards in our quest for the Jules Verne Trophy.

"We would like to congratulate Bruno and his team for setting such a remarkable record of 64 days on our sister ship, *Orange*. It has given us a new target on which to set our sights and inspired us to raise our game!" Edwards added.

"After two weeks of small repairs and maintenance on the boat and crew, *Maiden II* will be on standby to break the 24-hour record. It's an extremely difficult record to achieve. It is held by Steve Fossett at 687.17nm on *PlayStation*, our main rivals for the Jules Verne Trophy. However, my team plan to be the fastest boat on the planet and if we get the right conditions we'll do it!" she said. ⚓

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