



TROPHÉE
Clairefontaine

XXII^e TROPHÉE CLAIREFONTAINE

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La Grande Motte - 8 au 11 septembre 2011

Look out for Michel Desjoyeaux!



La Grande Motte, Wednesday 24 August - For the third consecutive year, the sailing champions are returning to La Grande Motte on the occasion of the twenty-second *Trophée Clairefontaine des Champions* to be held from Thursday the eighth to Sunday the eleventh of September 2011. The favourite by far is four-time winner Michel Desjoyeaux.

Michel Desjoyeaux's skills are sharp: with two *Vendée Globe* under his belt, the "Champion of Champions" of 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2007 took up intensive competition once again at the beginning of the season in a D35 catamaran.

Pascal Bidégorry currently holds the crewed transatlantic crossing record and the 24 Hour Distance record earned on the *Banque Populaire V* giant trimaran. He placed third at La Grande Motte in 2010 and is also aiming for victory this year

Loïck Peyron and Franck Cammas will not be competing this year. Peyron is currently in England on the new AC45 competition circuit preparing for the America's Cup, while Cammas is preparing for the Volvo Ocean Race, an around-the-world race for crewed yachts setting out from Spain at the end of October.

Australian Darren Bundock arrives at La Grande Motte with two Olympic silver medals under his belt won aboard Tornado (an Olympic catamaran), and no fewer than fourteen world championship titles won on catamarans.

Nicolas Charbonnier, bronze medalist in the Men's 470 class at the Beijing Summer Olympics, will be competing in the *Trophée Clairefontaine* for the fourth time.

Armel Le Cléac'h, two-time winner of the *Solitaire du Figaro* (2003 and 2010) and runner-up at the last *Vendée Globe*, has sailed the *Trophée Clairefontaine* several times as a crew member, and last year as a champion. Placing seventh in 2010, he's eager for a comeback in 2011.

François Gabart was a member of Michel Desjoyeaux's crew last year. This season, he's taking part as the French Solo Offshore Racing Champion. He raced in the Tornado early in his career.

Jean-Pierre-Dick is making his comeback to the *Trophée Clairefontaine* this year, thanks to his second victory at the *Barcelona World Race* and his 2010 IMOCA Championship title. Jérémie Beyou, two-time winner of the *Solitaire du Figaro* (2005 and 2011), will lend support as an elite crew member.

Finally, Roland Jourdain arrives at La Grande Motte thanks to his two placing performances in the *Route du Rhum* in the IMOCA monohull open 60 class (2006 and 2010).

For twenty-two consecutive years since its inception in 1990, *Trophée Clairefontaine* has been the world's only event bringing together champions from such varied disciplines of international sailing to compete on strictly equal terms: in spectacular, identical 7.65 meter catamarans exclusively designed and solely used for this sailing show.

Media contact: Eve Laforest / +33 (0)6 03 94 34 44 / media@sailingone.com



Midi Libre



6 place de la République
14000 Caen
Tél. : 02 31 15 51 60
Fax : 01 73 79 11 90
media@sailingone.com