



TROPHÉE  
Clairefontaine

# XXI<sup>e</sup> TROPHÉE CLAIREFONTAINE

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**La Grande Motte - 9 au 12 septembre 2010**

## Twenty years and 66 different champions



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La Grande Motte, Thursday 26 August - **In the twenty events, before the 21<sup>st</sup> Trophée Clairefontaine des Champions de Voile programmed for Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 September begins in La Grande Motte, 66 different champions have followed each other on the 7.65 metre catamarans (25 foot) especially designed and used exclusively for this sailing event. Among them, 25 represent ten countries from abroad. All the international sailing disciplines have been represented in it and will be so again this year in La Grande Motte.**

Since it began in 1990, the *Trophée Clairefontaine* is the only event in the world to bring together champions from so many varied international sailing disciplines, and on top of this, with strictly equal opportunity. This event was created at La Trinité-sur-Mer, where it was raced for five years running. It matured in Cap d'Agde for six years, then returned to Morbihan for the seventh. In 2008, for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Papeteries de Clairefontaine (Clairefontaine Stationery), it was exported to the America's Cup port in Valencia (Spain). It has been organized in La Grande Motte since 2009.

Oceanic racing experts were on the line-up for the first years of the *Trophée Clairefontaine*, whether for victories in transatlantic races (Eric Loizeau, Jean Maurel, Loïck Peyron), in the crew-manned round the world race (*Whitbread* later to become the *Volvo Ocean Race*), with Lionel Péan, single-handed round-the-world race (BOC Challenge), with Philippe Jeantot and Alain Gautier, or records, with Serge Madec and Bruno Peyron.

Since then, all the winners of the important ocean races are invited to the *Trophée Clairefontaine* among whom all the winners of the *Vendée Globe* between 1993 and the present. Olympic sailing was given credit from the 1992 Olympic Games with Yves Loday, the French Tornado (Olympic catamaran) gold medallist.

The *Trophée Clairefontaine* first opened up internationally to countries "close" to France: the Swiss, Laurent Bourgnon (winner in 1991 and 1994) and the Canadians Mike Birch and Gerry Roufs. From 1993, stars of international sailing followed on in this record of achievements, beginning by the most famous: the American Dennis Conner, four times winner of the *America's Cup*. The tone was set and some of the sailors with the finest sailing records in the world came to the *Trophée Clairefontaine*, including the New Zealanders, Chris Dickson, Dean Barker and Mike Sanderson, the Americans, Randy Smyth and Ed Baird, the Spanish, Theresa Zabell, Fernando Leon and Fernando Echavarri and a few more still, including Ellen Mac Arthur (GB).

**Armel Le Cléac'h**, invited for his victory in the *Transat AG2R - La Mondiale 2010* on *Brit Air* and with a recent second victory in the *Solitaire du Figaro*, following the one in 2003, will therefore be the sixty-sixth champion to have his name entered in the *Trophée Clairefontaine* record of achievements. Armel Le Cléac'h will join: **Pascal Bidégorry, Franck Cammas, Nicolas Charbonnier, Michel Desjoyeaux, Luc Dubois - Team Alinghi (CH.), Serge Madec**, first winner of the *Trophée Clairefontaine* (1990) and **Loïck Peyron**, who will be competing this year in his twentieth *Trophée Clairefontaine* in 21 years and who has won seven times.

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