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Ambition Racing, the only UK team qualify for The Portimão Global Ocean Race

August 14, 2008

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The amateur, double handed sailing team of Jeremy Salvesen and Victoria Sanders-Perrin arrived back home in their Class 40 boat, MOWGLI after grueling 10-day trial

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After months of preparation and restoration, the sailing team **Ambition Racing** have completed a 2,000 mile compulsory qualify for their place in **The Portimão Global Ocean Race** and been accepted onto the starting line-up.

Nothing has been easy in helping Jeremy Salvesen and Victoria Sanders-Perrin achieve their dream of sailing around the world, and the qualification is no exception.

Upon arriving in Portsmouth in the early hours of Wednesday 13th August 2008, Victoria Sanders-Perrin said, "It has only been 10 days but it seems like much longer. The experience has been invaluable and my emotions have been on a rollercoaster ride – excited, scared, miserable, cold and wet! Coming back into The Solent was an amazing feeling. Now I'm all guns blazing for the race in October."

Jeremy Salvesen said, "I feel exhausted, battered & bruised – the bad weather and strong winds never stopped. It was wild but we are fired up for the next race. We have learnt a lot about the boat, how to cope with certain situations and howling Force 8 winds. It has been the longest trip we have done to date and quite an eye opener. Victoria and I make a great team and have learnt to work well together although we were like ships passing through the night; only actually spending time on the deck together when we needed to do a sail change."

They only started sailing back in August 2005 but within months had set their hearts on circumnavigating the globe and signed up to take part in Chay Blyth's Global Challenge, giving up high-powered jobs and leaving their old lives behind.

When Global Challenge went into liquidation, Salvesen and Sanders-Perrin were determined not to let go of their dream and newly acquired experience, so, on hearing of the launch of The Portimão Global Ocean Race, they wasted no time in signing up.

They had originally hoped to qualify by completing a circuit of the British Isles but the winds were against them. Forecasts showed that they would be facing the wind all the way up the west coast of Ireland and Scotland, not only taking them longer but it would not be good training for what is essentially a downwind race.

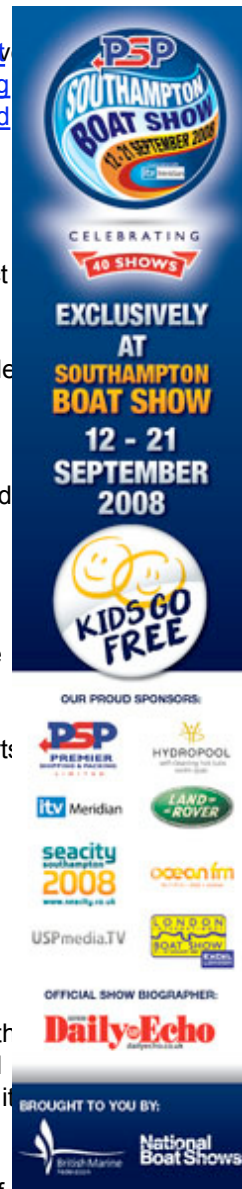
On Tuesday 4th August, Mowgli headed out into the Atlantic passing, well south of Ireland, and tracked down the exciting weather systems that had been forecast.

Salvesen and Sanders-Perrin have spent the last 3 months making sure that their Akilaria Class 40 yacht, Mowgli is up to the challenges of Ocean Racing and, whilst Mowgli withstood all that the Atlantic threw at it, the two sailors got more than a taster of what could be in store for them when the race starts in October.

Strong coffee helped them through the adjustment to the grueling, '3 hours on, 3 hours off' schedule, but they relished the strong winds and high seas and were euphemistically, 'learning by the minute'.

Engine failure and a split outhaul line cover were only a couple of the challenges they faced but as they headed home on the last leg of their journey Victoria said, "We're homeward bound, we're sailing, we're happy and team Mowgli are ready for it."

It appears that Team Ambition are living up to their name and will be a force to be reckoned with come the Autumn.



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