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**Ambition Racing, only UK team in Portimao Global Ocean Race**

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

After months of preparation and restoration, the sailing team Ambition Racing have completed a 2,000 mile compulsory qualifier for their place in The Portimão Global Ocean Race and have 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 qualifier has been no exception. Upon arriving in Portsmouth in the early hours of Wednesday, 13 August, 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 roller coaster 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 and 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 in 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, 4 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 three 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.

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."

The Portimão Global Ocean Race is the first ever solo-double around the world yacht race lasting nine months. The event, open to 40 and 50 foot monohull sailboats only, will start from Portimão, Portugal in October 2008 and circumnavigate the world stopping in South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil, and the United States before finishing in Europe in June 2009.

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The Ambition Racing team will be the first ever male/female team and only UK team to take on the challenge to race around the world in a 40 foot boat in the Southern Ocean and, as if the experience in itself won't be challenging enough, a camera crew will be following the team every step of the way.

Once the domain of the super rich, around the world yacht racing is becoming more and more accessible and by sharing their experiences, Ambition Racing hope to inspire and motivate sailors who may feel that a global circumnavigation is out of their reach both financially and practically.

For further information on Ambition Racing and the Portimão Global Ocean Race 2008/2009 go to the websites listed below.

**Resources:**



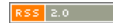
[www.ambitionracing.com](http://www.ambitionracing.com) Ambition Racing website



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