

NEWSLETTER

April 2022



LATEST NEWS:

We have a boat!

We have now officially taken ownership of our IMOCA 60, and begin our campaign to the Vendée Globe 2024!

Designed by Farr Yacht Design and launched in 2007, the Gitana 80 Imoca has a solid reputation and has proven to be a reliable boat competing in four previous Vendée Globes between 2008 and 2021, with previous skippers Loick Peyron, Jean Le Cam, Fabrice Amedeo and Romain Attanasi. It is now Oliver Heer's turn to see this boat through to the 2024 edition of the Vendée Globe!

In April the team spent over three weeks in Port La Foret, with Gitana 80 getting to know her, doing a small rebrand, testing all the systems and taking her sailing for the very first time. Despite the light breeze, it was a very successful few days and the size of skipper Ollie's smile speaks for itself!

Milestone 1. - Get boat - Completed

HIGHLIGHTS

- We have a boat!
- Joining the IMOCA class
- Technical update
- Campaign/race calendar
- Upcoming events
- Partnerships



TEAM UPDATE:

Joining the IMOCA class association as Skipper!

In mid-April, Ollie attended his first IMOCA Class AGM in Lorient with around sixty other skippers and guests, including regulars and new teams to the IMOCA class.

With new boats and teams, and the continuous improvements within existing campaigns, this is the best time to be involved in the IMOCA class. Major brands worldwide are becoming IMOCA sponsors, proving that IMOCA sailing is reaching further and more people than ever before.

"It seems there could be more than 35 IMOCAs at the start in St Malo [for the Route du Rhum]. Four years ago, there were 20, so this is another indication of the dynamism of our Class." - Antoine Mermod, President of IMOCA, speaking at the IMOCA Annual Assembly.

Core Topics discussed at the IMOCA Class AGM

- Encouraging the use of renewable energy for IMOCAs
- Ongoing discussions with the Ocean Race to encourage participation
- More efficient radars to reduce the risk of collision



“ It was great attending the IMOCA meeting alongside fellow skippers and class officials. The sustainability workshop was one of the highlights, and I'm glad that the IMOCA class is sharing values that are close to my heart. ”
- Oliver Heer.

TECHNICAL UPDATE:

Annual NDT rig scan

In May, the team will lift the boat out of the water and remove the mast in order to conduct the annual NDT scan of the rig, a standard requirement for the IMOCA Class measurements certificate needed to compete in this year's races.

TECHNICAL INSIGHT

NDT reliably scans for failure of complex composite materials, such as a 29 metre carbon IMOCA mast. Ultrasound is used to assess the condition of any composite structure without affecting its condition.

OUR PARTNERS:

Soon to be announced

In the coming months, we will be able to announce the exciting work we will be doing with our Partners and Swiss Universities to collect significant environmental data while sailing, including air and water particles, which will help us play our part in understanding climate change and discovering ways to protect our planet.

#RaceForChange



RACE NEWS:

Campaign and Race Calendar, 2022

7th Aug 2022



Sevenstar Round Britain and Ireland Race

Held every four years, the 1,805nm race around Britain and Ireland is arguably the toughest pro-am race in the world. Three times longer than the Rolex Fastnet Race, the course sends the competing teams around a myriad of headlands with various tidal strategies dealing with the notorious British and Irish weather. You sail further north than Cape Horn is south.

Although Ollie has already competed in two previous editions of the race, with an overall win in 2018 on Giles Redpath's Lombard 46 Pata Negra, the 2022 edition will be Ollie's debut race in the team's newly acquired IMOCA 60. He will sail with three other crew members to be announced in the coming weeks and onboard reporter Patrick Condy - PKC Media.

"There will definitely be some challenges on the racecourse. For an up-and-coming IMOCA team, this is the perfect race; we can't wait to hit the start line." - Oliver Heer.

13th - 18th
Sept 2022



Défi Azimut

The Défi Azimut is an atypical event in the offshore racing world that brings together new boats and already experienced IMOCA's with the Lorient-based company Azimut to compete in five days of racing in Lorient.

6th Nov 2022



Route du Rhum - Destination Guadeloupe

The Route du Rhum - Destination Guadeloupe entrants were announced on April 6. This year the race had a record 150 teams entered but only 120 places were available. After the initial disappointment of not being accepted, the Oliver Heer Ocean Racing team applied for one of 18 Wild Cards available.

This week we were pleased to finally receive confirmation that our registration for the 12th edition of the Route du Rhum - Destination Guadeloupe, had been accepted.

We are now looking forward to being on the start line with the other 138 competitors on Sunday 6th November, when the vast fleet sets off from Saint-Malo in France on the 3,542nm passage across the Atlantic to Guadeloupe.

INTERESTING
FACT:

The Route Du Rhum takes place every 4 years. The race's inaugural edition in 1978 saw just 38 entries. This year, over 150 teams applied and 138 places granted, including 18 wildcard entries!





UPCOMING EVENTS:

May

- OHOR Campaign launch party - 30th May - Rapperswil
- Personality in Residence @ SQUARE in collaboration with the University of St Gallen.
 - The three-day event consists of workshops, keynotes and networking around the theme of "Navigating Challenging Environments".

June

- A full month of training, working towards Single-handed qualifying miles at the end of the month.

July

- Sailing and training in Cascais
- Preparation and race training in UK for the Sevenstar Round Britain and Ireland race taking place in August 2022

Please follow us on our social media channels:



For more information about our campaign and to sign up to our quarterly newsletter, please visit:

www.oliverheer.com

PARTNERSHIPS:

#JoinUsOnOurJourney - Make a difference!

We are very excited to have our Imoca 60 and start our campaign to sail the Vendee Globe and position ourselves as ambassadors in the race to conserve our planet, but we can't achieve this objective by ourselves.

We need to partner with amazing companies that want to #JoinUsOnOurJourney and make a difference!

If you like what you have read, or have contacts that may be interested in our project and want to know more about how you can join Oliver Heer Ocean Racing on our journey and offer support, we would love to hear from you.

Email: partnerships@oliverheer.com