

Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy 3 - 8 june



Mini Fastnet 10 - 22 june

Press pack 2019

15TH MARIE-AGNÈS PÉRON TROPHY

International solo race of 220 nautical miles
French Championship Challenge in Solo Offshore Racing – Mini 6.50
In the Iroise sea and South Brittany
(race departs on 6 June)

34TH MINI-FASTNET

International doubles race of 600 nautical miles
Douarnenez – Fastnet Island – Douarnenez
(prologue on 15th June race departure on 16th June)



THE MINI CLASS



On 8th October 1977, Penzance (United Kingdom), 24 sailing boats of 6.50 m took to the open sea with a solo sailor on board heading towards Antigua in the Caribbean, via Tenerife (Canaries islands). The smallest boats in offshore racing were launched ! Their characteristics : their favourite place is the Atlantic and their favourite race : the Mini-Transat.

Organised every two years, the Mini-Transat is this year !

Rendez-vous for the start on 22nd September 2019 in La Rochelle, towards Le Marin in Martinique, with a stop in Las Palmas in Gran Canaria.

The Mini-Fastnet

Since the French have become more numerous in the flotilla over the years it's natural that the organisation crossed over the Channel . In 1984, Jean-Luc Garnier, journalist and enthusiast of the « Mini » took over from Briton Bob Salmon who, after the organisation of 4 editions (1977, 1979, 1981 and 1983), wished to pass on the role. Voiles 6.50, the association regulated by the law of 1901 and a club affiliated to the French Sailing Association was created and organises the Mini-Fastnet, an annual race looping between Brittany and the Irish lighthouse situated on the south-west extremity of Ireland (51°23.'3" N and 009°36.'1" W) in the county of Cork.

A springboard and a passion

The Mini concept reunites the sailor, the boat and the sea. That's it ! No contact with the land ! As doubles or solo, this concept has launched many of the greatest offshore racing sailors of today.

Never before has an offshore racing school which is the Mini included so many of the great skilled names in the big prestigious races : Isabelle Autissier, Catherine Chabaud, Ellen MacArthur, Thierry Dubois, Laurent Bourgnon, Bruno Peyron, Michel Desjoyaux, Bernard Stamm, Jean-Luc Van den Heede... Let's add that there are many from the Mini circuit to have participated in the Transat Jacques Vabre, the Vendée Globe, the Route du Rhum or the AG2R.

THE WORLD OF THE MINI'S TODAY

Today, the Mini class unites about 300 members, mainly racers, from all professional horizons, from the carpenter to the engineer, from the sailing instructor to the banker, from the journalist to the professional skipper. It is above all an association of enthusiasts, for lovers of these great little boats, who want to share the huge waves, the budget nightmares, the caprices of the weather and every moment of excitement that the sea offers !

The "Minists" skim across the Atlantic as well as the Mediterranean, thanks to the race organisers who, setting the bar high, have interwoven nautical and friendly links of the highest quality between the racers and the association.

The Board of Directors contributes to the dynamism of the Class in France and abroad. Each year, the race programme is enriched to form a coherent calendar, to mix things up a bit and attract new racers.

The boat

Laboratory of offshore racing for more than 25 years, the Mini have two categories: « PROTO » and « SERIE ». They measure 6 metres 50.

The Mini Class : today there are more than 1000 boats built since 1985. Since 1995, the successor of the emblematic *Muscadet* (Harlé design) is mainly for the *Pogo 1 series* (Pierre Rolland design), joined by the *Pogo 2* (Group Finot-Conq design), the *Zéro* (Marc Lombard design), the *Super-Calin* (J.P. Magnan design), the *Tip-Top* (Sam Manuard design), the *Naus* (Disegnocontrario design), the *Dingo and Dingo 2* (Pierre Rolland designs), the *Ginto* (S. Magnen design), the *Mistral* (Bernard Nivelte design), the *Nacira* (Nacira Design), the *RG 6.50* (N. Goldenberg design), the *Argo 6.50* (Marc Lombard), the *Pogo 3* (Guillaume Verdier), the *Ofcet 6.50* (Etienne Bertrand design)...

The category PROTO is a real testing ground for offshore racing.

Security is the goal

One of the main ideas of the Class is to make the Mini's evolve in the direction of security, whilst retaining their sporty and innovative appeal. This idea, marked by raw memories of sea's dangers, has ended up by creating a boat/racer partnership which is among the safest of the circuit. Responsibility, design, materials, security checks, sea sense : on a Mini, everything is Maxi.



THE 2019 SEASON OF THE MINIS IN DOUARNENEZ

From 3rd June, the Mini 6.50, these mini offshore boats with a reduced crew, will assemble in Douarnenez for the two big races of 2019 : the *Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy*, a challenge of the « French Championships of Solo Offshore Racing – Mini 6.50 » and the Mini-Fastnet.

For the Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy, the skippers will take part in a solo race of 220 nautical miles between Douarnenez, the Iroise sea, the south of Brittany and then return to Douarnenez. Departure on 6th June and prize-giving on 8th June 2019.

For the Mini-Fastnet, it's a week later, after the Prologue on Saturday 15th June, that the sailors will cast off anew from the Finisterian port on Sunday 16th June for a return trip in doubles towards the mythic Fastnet lighthouse in Ireland.

Before the start, on the pontoons of Treboul, it's pure anticipation. Even if the preparations are time-consuming, it's all done in a great atmosphere specific to the Mini's and the skippers remain approachable ; visitors are welcome.

Foreigners are faithful to the Mini circuit. Outside France, not less than 13 nationalities have lined up at the start of the MAP Trophy and the Mini-Fastnet in the last two years: Germany, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Spain, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

During the races, we can follow the flotilla's progress on maps.

Every year, in June, Douarnenez will be the key destination of the Mini 6.50 Class. For 3 weeks, more than a hundred skippers will tread the pontoons of Treboul. The two races organised by the Winches Club represent two very different profiles.

The Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy, solo over 220 nautical miles, is framed by the competitive structure which roughly includes the second stage of the French Championships of Solo Offshore Racing – 6,50, the preparation of the Mini Transat of October, the classification in international ranking of the Class, and of course, a race entirely apart.

The Mini-Fastnet is uncontestedly the jewel of the double races of the Class. Just look at the winners of the of the thirty one preceding editions since 1987 – a good number of the current competitors weren't even born then. The Mini Fastnet and its mythic race of 600 nautical miles represents a Grail in itself.

A high level year

Last year, many sailors took their first steps in the offshore race and the goal of many of them was limited to participating and finishing the race on time. It's completely different this year. The former beginners arrive with a knife in between their teeth, they are freed from the obligatory qualifying miles to participate in the Mini Transat and line up at the start, ready to take off and overcome all challenges.

The opposing sides who will be present before the start of this new 2019 season

In Proto, four leaders are ready to start :

François JAMBOU, Erwann LE MENE, Joerg RIECHERS, Axel TREHIN

In Série :

Ambrogio BECCARIA and Amélie GRASSI dominated the classification of 2018



THE 15TH MARIE-AGNÈS PÉRON TROPHY

This solo race created by the Winches Club in 2005, which honours the memory of sailor Marie-Agnès Péron, lost at sea during the Mini-Transat 1991, has been on the Class calendar since 2006.

Since 2012, it is the second challenge of the *French Championships Offshore Solo Race – Mini 6,50*.

The course (220 nautical miles) : Douarnenez – Iroise sea – South Brittany – Douarnenez



The programme :

From Saturday 25th May : Free mooring period for boats in Tréboul marina.

Monday 3rd June at 09.00 : Start of security checks and registration confirmation.

Wednesday 5rd June :

18.00 : End of security checks.

19.00 : Skipper's reception – Buffet.

Thursday 6rd June :

08.00 : Registration closes.

10.30 : Security and weather briefing.

15.00 : Start

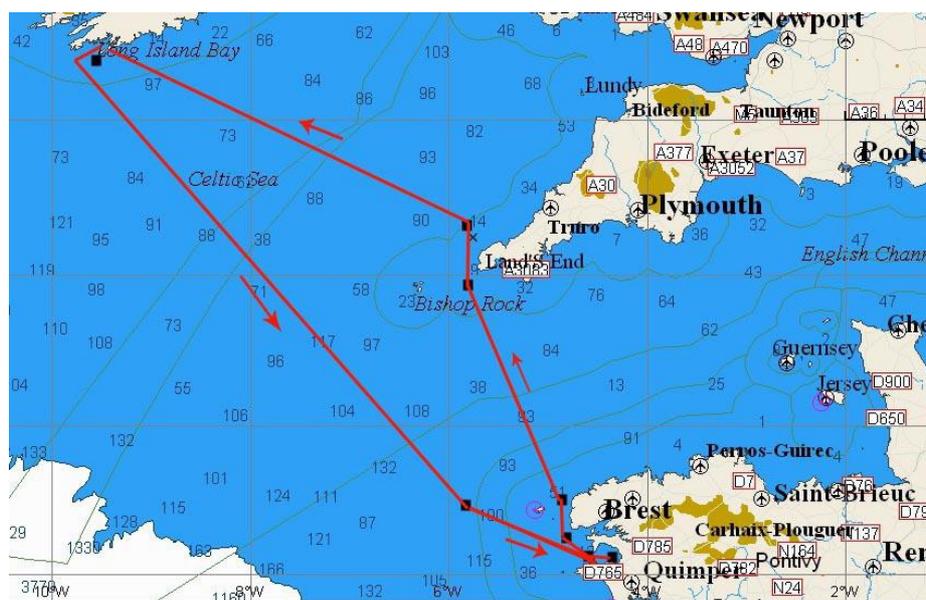
Saturday 8rd June at 19.00 : Announcement of results and prizegiving.

Sunday 16th June : End of the free mooring period for boats.

THE 34TH ÉDITION OF THE MINI-FASTNET

The Mini-Fastnet has been organised since 2002 by the Winches Club and will take place, as always, the following week, from 11th to 22nd June. The Mini-Fastnet... 600 nautical miles to enter into the history of the Mini Class. 4 days and 4 unforgettable nights to search out the legendary light of the Fastnet : this is a race which is a challenge shared. In short, impossible to join the Mini circuit without spending time with the « Mini-Fastnet ».

The race (about 600 nautical miles) : Douarnenez – Chenal du Four – Wolf Rock – Racon Buoy northern extremity DST East of the Scilly – Stags Buoy - Fastnet Lighthouse – Douarnenez.



The accompanying boats : Three boats will accompany the race.

The programme :

Saturday 1st June : Start of the free mooring period for boats in Tréboul marina.

Monday 10th June at 09 :00 : Start of security checks and registration confirmation.

Friday 14th June :

17.00 : Closure of registration

18.00 : End of security checks.

Saturday 15th June : Obligatory Prologue in Douarnenez Bay (tests of beacons and checking VHF)

19.00 : Official reception of racers and buffet.

Sunday 16th June : Start of the race. Timetable of briefing and start, to be confirmed

Saturday 22nd June at 19.00 : Announcement of results, prizegiving and dinner.

Saturday 29nd June : End of the free mooring period for boats.

DOUARNENEZ, THE TOWN OF THREE PORTS, MEETING PLACE OF THE MINI'S

Like other ports with a strong character, the sea remains, of course, inseparable from the image of the « Sardine Head » town. The past reinforces the strength of these roots which have created the three ports of the town.

- The Port-Rhu : The Port-Museum, an exceptional site of conservation and maritime heritage, with its floating boats and its museum which hosts interesting exhibitions.
- The fishing port of Rosmeur : the sea's riches have made the town flourish and made Douarnenez the capital of tinned fish.
- The marina of Tréboul, sailing mecca and rendezvous of sailors all over the world, has just hosted the Grand Prix Guyader. This is the starting point for the Mini's who have come to challenge the Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy and the Mini-Fastnet, two of the major races of the circuit.



Marie-Agnès Péron Trophy & Mini-Fastnet

Organised by



In partnership with :



www.map.winchesclub.org

www.minifastnet.winchesclub.org

www.classemini.com

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