

ECO 60 CLASS TO HOST DISCUSSION FORUM FOR SKIPPERS, EVENT ORGANISERS, BOAT OWNERS, SPONSORS AND DESIGNERS Key stakeholders to gather in La Rochelle on June 3 2011 to discuss the future development of the Eco 60 Class

The Eco 60 is an exciting new concept for a singlehanded sailing class which was successfully premiered in the VELUX 5 OCEANS 2010–11, ultimately witnessing some incredibly tight racing between the five competing skippers from five different nations. Despite a small field of entries, the VELUX 5 OCEANS 2010–11 has proven that the Eco 60 Class can produce exciting and fast top–level racing, as well as a sustainable and attractive race completion rate.

The Eco 60 Class, for Open 60s built before 2003, was devised as an affordable, more sustainable alternative to the high–end campaigns of late which have seen solo ocean racing become accessible only to those with multi–million pound budgets. The four finishing skippers of the latest edition of the solo round the world race were so convinced of the boat’s potential they have since formed the Eco 60 Class Association and elected American ocean racer Brad Van Liew as Interim President of the Class.

Following the completion of the VELUX 5 OCEANS 2010–11, the Class is hosting an inaugural discussion forum on Friday June 3rd in La Rochelle (France) ahead of the prize giving celebrations. The Class has invited interested parties and stakeholders to attend from all over the world, including skippers, boat owners, event organisers, sponsors and designers. The objective of the forum is to formalise an independent Class and define the future development of the Eco 60 racing circuit.

President of the Eco 60 Class Brad Van Liew stated, “The morning before the VELUX 5 OCEANS prize giving on June 3rd in La Rochelle, the Eco 60 Class will host a discussion forum for all interested parties related to the development of what has the potential to be a fantastic second competitive life for some of offshore racing’s most storied and pedigreed racing machines. Chris Stanmore–Major, who has been chosen as secretary of communications for the Eco 60 Class, and I will lead the meeting and discussions.”

British ocean racer and secretary of communications for the Eco 60 Class, Chris Stanmore–Major added, “As the final leg of the VELUX 5 OCEANS comes to an end, the development of the Eco 60 Class into a separate standalone entity becomes the focus of those who have successfully proven that age does not dull the capability of these incredible boats to provide close, competitive racing with the added certainty of proven, robust design.

“The VELUX 5 OCEANS race has lost only one competitor in 30,000 miles crossing the wildest stretch of water on the planet the notorious Southern Ocean. This represents only a 20 percent dropout rate. For those lucky enough to compete in this inaugural Eco 60 event, one of the most important aspects of their campaigns was the affordability of boats, creating a stepping stone into serious ocean racing that has never existed before.

“For the sponsors of these boats, the environmental awareness that is a founding part of the ethos of the Eco 60 Class has created positive feedback with both shareholders and customers. With its requirement for each competitor to utilize at least two different forms of sustainable energy, the Eco 60 Class has already contributed to the development of cutting edge technology such as the hydro generators installed on Operon and Le Penguin.”

To attend the Forum, please contact; csmoffshore@gmail.com

To learn more about the Eco 60 Class, please visit www.eco60.org