



Source: The News (Portsmouth) {Main}  
 Edition:  
 Country: UK  
 Date: Saturday 14, November 2009  
 Page: 50  
 Area: 146 sq. cm  
 Circulation: ABC 48191 Daily  
 BRAD info: page rate £2,787.66, scc rate £9.11  
 Phone: 023 9266 4488  
 Keyword: Artemis Ocean Racing

> durrants

# No luck for Sam and Sidney on Friday 13th

## SAILING

HAYLING ISLAND'S Sam Davies and co-skipper Sidney Gavignet were glad to see the back of Friday the 13th.

The duo, competing in the two-handed Transat Jacques Vabre race to Costa Rica, endured storm-force conditions (55 knots overnight) which inflicted further damage to Artemis Ocean Racing.

Opting for a more southerly route, Davies called the Artemis shore team to report: 'We have lost a mainsail batten (third down from the top) which flew out of the sail.



Sam Davies

'The third reef pin on the boom has gone and our main Iridium handset is broken, either water-logged or from the shock of the boat pounding through the waves.'

None of the damage is terminal but the loss of the mainsail batten will compromise their race performance.

And with 75-per-cent of the race remaining, Davis and Gavignet are considering a pit stop either at the Azores – which is 300nm upwind, or Madeira 400nm south-west, which is a more comfortable course but is further from the optimum race route.

It has also been confirmed that Veolia Environment

(Roland Joursain and Jean-Luc Nelias) are also heading to the Azores to try to repair damage to their mast track – the same damage incurred by Brit Air in the opening stages of the race that resulted in their retirement.

Davis added: 'Sidney and I are dressed in our oil skins and ready to jump on deck but we'd rather not have to, and for now, Artemis is doing a sterling job hanging in there.

'Staying in the bunk is impossible due to the giant wave-jumping action going on and I am actually quite proud of myself for managing to write this.

'Cat naps on the floor (where you can't fall any further) are the only rest tonight for now.

'And even then you find yourself airborne on regular occasions.

'I can hear our Transat Jacques Vabre flag trying to escape its tape on the backstay and it sounds like it is clapping its hands in joy!

'Not sure why it is so happy!

'Bring on the dawn.... although I'm not sure I want to see the size of the waves!'

