



Ambition Racing – the story so far.

For over a year now I have been involved in a very special sailing project that is about to come to fruition.

On October 12th, Jeremy Salvesen and Victoria Sanders-Perrin will cross the start line of the Portimao Global Ocean Race as they set off racing 5 legs around the world (Portimao - Cape Town, Cape Town - Wellington, Wellington to Ilhabela, Brazil, Ilhabela - Charleston and Charleston back to Portimao). Andrew Longmore began the synopsis for the book of this adventure by saying:

“Not since the Owl and the Pussycat set to sea in their beautiful pea green boat has a more audacious attempt been made to conquer the high seas.”

There are many ‘round the world’ sailing races, indeed the “Volvo Ocean Race” and “Vende Globe” set off in close proximity, but Jeremy & Victoria are not hardened, seasoned professional sailors, but newcomers to the sport who have sacrificed security, luxury and all that we take for granted in a ‘normal’ life to challenge and push themselves. They are two people who have ambition. Not only did they dare to dream and to have a vision, they have had the courage and conviction to overcome all the hurdles and make their dreams come true.

They have set themselves a massive challenge and they have already achieved great things just by getting to the start line, please support them by e-mailing messages to team@ambitionracing.com or following their progress through www.ambitionracing.com

To bring you up to date, here is their story so far:

The background

Jeremy and Victoria started sailing in August 2005 having signed up to do Chay Blyth’s 2008/9 Global Challenge – never having set foot on a boat in their lives before. They were both inspired by each other’s dreams and ambition and continued to do further training together.

Being an ambitious pair it wasn’t long before they decided just being crew was not going to satisfy their dreams. They set themselves the challenge of gaining wider experience and some proper RYA qualifications. During their first year of sailing they managed nearly two months on the water and completed their Day Skipper exams. These were followed in the next few months with Coastal Skipper, Yachtmaster theory and practical exams and successful participation in several inshore and offshore races.

In June 2007 Sir Chay Blyth’s Challenge Business went into administration and the race of their dreams was cancelled.

Having made a life changing commitment to the sea and their dream of racing in the Southern Ocean, Jeremy and Victoria started looking for a new race. It wasn’t long before they found the Portimao Global Ocean Race and made an approach to race

organisers, veteran offshore sailors Brian Hancock and Josh Hall. Ambition Racing was born.



It is a big change. Previously they would have been one of 18 crew with a professional skipper on a 72', 45 tonne boat. Now they are sailing a Class 40 design. Only 40' long, 4.5 tonnes and with just the pair of them as co-skippers.

Commenting on their entry Josh Hall said, "We welcome this ambitious entry from Jeremy and Victoria - they are exactly the sort of people we had hoped to be able to attract into our new race. They are at the cross-over point between amateur and professional and this race should provide them with the ideal platform to establish themselves on the world sailing stage."

The Programme so far:

I first met and sailed with Jeremy and Victoria in May 2007 at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series and, although their sailing knowledge and experience was limited, I was impressed by their focus, open minded-ness, commitment and concentration. It was obvious that they had drive, determination and potential, but it is also fair to say they had a considerable amount of work to put in before their skills would allow them to realise their dreams. Early in the summer, their plans for the Challenge Race ended and their attention became focused on the Class 40 and the Portimao Global Ocean Race, a campaign that would lead to their being the first amateurs to race a 40 ft boat double-handed around the world and the first mixed crew to race double-handed around the world.

Once this goal was identified, it was apparent to me that we needed to go back to the beginning. My coaching philosophies are based on doing the basics well, so Jeremy and Victoria started from the beginning again, learning to sail in Laser 2000's at Port Edgar in Scotland. The initial focus was steering, tacking and asymmetric spinnaker work. But it was not long before we went into greater depth looking at the '5 essentials' and the specific skills they would



need

Every weekend from August 24th 2007 was spent on the water sailing and their application to the programme certainly accelerated their development. Come the autumn we were ready to make the transition from the dinghies into a sportsboat, in preparation for the arrival of their Class 40 in the spring. Again, every weekend was spent on the water, this time in a Cork 1720, training and preparing to compete in the Sportsboat class at the Hamble Winter Series. A result of 3rd overall was great reward for the time and effort they had put into the programme so far.

The focus was to continue deepening the skills that had been developed in the dinghies. Basic helming skills, sailing fast with the asymmetric spinnaker, simple tacking & gybing and the mechanics of the spinnaker hoist and drop. The racing also gave us the opportunity to start looking at focus and the intensity of racing, strategy and tactics, performance monitoring and close quartered boat handling.

Time off the water was important through the winter as this was an opportunity for both Jeremy and Victoria to organise their lives in preparation for going full time in the spring and setting off around the world.

They returned to the Cork 1720 for the Warsash Spring Series and picked up their training where they left off coming 2nd overall in the series.



The purchase of 'Mowgli' was completed in early May and she was delivered back from La Trinite-sur-Mer in time for some 'settling in' sails before the programme racked up in intensity again from the beginning of June. Learning how to sail the Class 40 was another big learning curve that Jeremy & Victoria embraced with their usual focus, determination and humour. And after much day sailing, learning new systems, they started venturing out into the Channel for

longer passages and to test their preferred watch system, culminating in their setting off on August 4th for their qualifying sail for the PGOR.

The 1,700 nm they sailed in a storm bound Atlantic, the constant force 6 to gale force 9 winds and the problems with the generator, all prove that they are now ready to take on the world. Here is an extract from their log:

Sunday 10th Aug: "Hell of a night, like living your worst nightmare - helming 2 hours at a time, waves crashing relentlessly, up to 40 knots. J recorded 17.8 knts, I recorded 14.8 knts and just held to the tiller for dear life the rest of the time. Dolphins popped up to say hello in a moment of tears after the wave hit me from behind and nearly took my arm off.



Took away some of the pain. Absolutely everything and everywhere soaked.”

They have come a long way in a year since getting tangled up in the Laser 2000 on the Firth of Forth! The learning curve has been steep and continuous.

16 months ago Jeremy & Victoria had a dream to race around the world, every day they take big, brave steps towards achieve their dream. The first major goal of “reaching the start of the PGOR” is about to be realized, they are an inspiration to what can be achieved with vision, drive and determination.

Think of them as they race around the world, they deserve all our support for having the strength to fulfil their ambitions.

Good luck, Ambition Racing, on the next stage of your journey.

Good Winds.

Jaz Lamb
Coach to Ambition Racing