



**Yoann Richomme, Paprec-Arkea's skipper,  
wins the Route du Rhum in the Class40  
category for the second time**

*Having already scored a Class40 win in 2018, Yoann Richomme, Paprec-Arkea's skipper, made it a double by winning the 2022 Route du Rhum-Destination Guadeloupe. He has earned a place in the legend of this category with two back-to-back wins. He is now part of the highly exclusive club of sailors (four in total) who have recorded two consecutive wins in the Route du Rhum since its creation in 1978. He also set a new record for this crossing, completing it in 14 days, 3 hours and 8 minutes, which was two days less than in the previous race.*

Paris, 23 November,

Yoann Richomme is now part of the legend of the Route du Rhum, being the first sailor to win the race for the second time in a row in the Class40 category. He also smashed the time record, reaching the destination in 14 days, 3 hours and 8 minutes – two days less than in 2018 – after an epic race.

He didn't get off to the best start: Like several of his fellow sailors, in his enthusiasm, Yoann crossed the starting line slightly too early. This earned them a 4-hour penalty, which brought Paprec-Arkea's skipper back to 51<sup>st</sup> position. He decided to make up this deficit right from the start, by making the most of a light wind, and pressed ahead to make a legendary comeback. From the tip of Brittany to Cape Finisterre, he tirelessly fought to overtake his competitors. Yoann moved into 14<sup>th</sup> position on the second day, 8<sup>th</sup> position on the third, and pushed on in pursuit of the leader of the first few days, his rival and friend Corentin Douguet, finally getting past him on the 5<sup>th</sup> day.

**Leading the race for nine days**

Yoann Richomme never let up. The two-time winner of the solo race gave everything he had and maintained his lead for the nine following days. He doggedly increased the gap with the rest of the Class40 fleet and even managed to overtake some IMOCA boats! “*You can never be too far ahead!*” he said. During the first days, he braved a raging sea that damaged boats and led some to pull out. “*The conditions were very tough during the first week,*” confirmed Yoann Richomme. “*It was intense! And it was hard going right up to the end!*” stated Yoann Richomme at the finish.

The next stages were certainly no walk in the park, as he had to cross fronts, get past the Azores, and put up with discomfort and sleep deprivation before reaching the trade winds. Swept along by these favourable winds at last, Yoann continued to keep up a particularly fast pace at the head of the race, while some of his direct competitors were slowed down by technical problems.

“*I'm thrilled by this win! It's an incredible double! We put all the chances on our side; I have a rocket in my hands and I managed to play it the way I planned,*” said the skipper at the finish.

*“He already has a reputation for making wise sailing choices and, in this race, Yoann Richomme once again demonstrated his bravery and ability to excel himself, which are values that we share at Paprec,”* stated Sébastien Petithuguenin. The CEO of France’s leader in recycling and joint number-two in waste management is delighted with the choice of skipper made along with their partner Arkea last year.

### **A first solo victory for Paprec**

*“Paprec had already been on the list of winners in the Transat Jacques Vabre four times, and twice in the Barcelona World Race, with Jean-Pierre Dick. However, with this Route du Rhum, Yoann has brought us our first solo victory in a major race. It’s a great source of pride for the Group’s 12,500 employees and for the team supporting the skipper. This win bodes well for the upcoming Vendée Globe Paprec-Arkea project in 2024.”*

Around Yoann Richomme, Paprec and Arkea have built a team dedicated to ocean racing, with the aim of getting themselves in a position to earn a winning spot in the 2024 Vendée Globe. The new IMOCA boat will be launched in January, allowing Yoann and the team to be ready to sail it at the next Transat Jacques Vabre race.

### **Profile: Yoann Richomme earns a place in legend**

38-year-old Yoann is a qualified naval architect. He has already notched up some impressive victories in ocean racing, both as part of a crew and as a solo racer. Yoann’s feats include two wins in the La Solitaire du Figaro (2016 and 2019). This is a demanding race that Paprec is very familiar with and has been its main partner since last year. He is now the first sailor to have won the Route du Rhum twice in the Class40 category, in 2018 and 2022. The next goals: the Jacques Vabre transatlantic race and, above all, the 2024 Vendée Globe.

### **Paprec and sailing: a relationship built on loyalty**

With six major wins in the IMOCA circuit in 17 years and five participations in the Vendée Globe, the Paprec Group has become a key stakeholder in sailing sponsorship thanks to its long-term commitment. Last year, it pursued its adventure in the professional circuit by putting together a dedicated team with Arkea, around Yoann Richomme, with the 2024 Vendée Globe in its sights.

At the same time, the Group is taking part in the TP52 Super Series regattas, with a high-level amateur crew led successfully by Stéphane Névé, the Group’s skipper.

As a leading player in ocean racing circuits, Paprec became the main partner of La Solitaire du Figaro in 2022. It will be the eponymous partner of the Transat Paprec, between Concarneau (Brittany) and the island of Saint Barthélemy (St. Barts). A major first in ocean racing: mixed pairs will be battling it out in this race beginning on the 30th of April 2023.

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