

ISLAND SAILING CLUB

70 High Street, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7RE

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
18th January 2012

Brian Thompson to be made Honorary Member of the Island Sailing Club, Cowes.

On 4th February 2012 at 12.30pm Brian Thompson will be made an Honorary Member of the Island Sailing Club, Cowes in recognition of his outstanding and unrivalled ocean racing career to date.

At 23h 14m 35s - local time on Friday, 6 January 2012 with Brian Thompson aboard, the giant Trimaran, *Banque Populaire V* set a new world record for the Jules Verne Trophy of 45 days 13h 42 m 53s.

Rod Nicholls, Commodore of the Island Sailing Club said:

"When we heard that Brian and team BANQUE POPULAIRE V had smashed the record we knew that we had to recognise Brian's amazing achievement in the only way the club can, by making him an Honorary Member of the Island Sailing Club. Brian, a well known figure around Cowes has taken part in many Cowes based events over the years and his friendly and self effacing nature has made him many friends. We know it will not be long before he is off on another world girdling exploit, the Vendee Globe race starting this autumn. We will be following his progress with great interest and urging him on from the comfort of our sofas!"

Brian Thompson Commented: "I am so privileged to be made an Honorary Member of the Island Sailing Club. Cowes has a very special place in my heart and to be recognised for this achievement is fantastic. I have been so overwhelmed by the interest in my latest achievement, I can't wait for the next big challenge to begin!"

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Further information from:

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Notes for editors:

About Brian Thompson

At 49, Brian Thompson is the most experienced and successful offshore multihull sailor in the UK. He started sailing in Ruislip Lido, Middlesex, at the age of 3 and after doing his first single-handed transatlantic race in 1992, Brian started sailing with Steve Fosset.

A vastly experienced and successful offshore racer, with more multihull sailing miles than any other Briton today, Thompson has been racing the two and three-hulled speed yachts for twenty years, achieving 27 sailing records in that time.

Thompson is helmsman and trimmer onboard *Banque Populaire V* and the only British crew member.

Thompson is an Ambassador for the tri service initiative Toe in the Water and is actively involved with the charity when not competing. For more information on Brian, please visit www.brianthompsonsailing.com

- 4 non-stop laps of the world, the first Briton to achieve this
- 29 Offshore Race wins
- 22 Official World Sailing Speed Council records broken
- Over 220,000 Ocean Racing miles
- A combined 42 World and Race Records

About the Island Sailing Club: www.islandsc.org.uk

Probably best known as organisers of The **Round the Island Race** the club has been based in Cowes since 1889. The RIR is the fourth largest sporting event in the UK and one of the most popular fixtures on the Solent racing calendar, attracting competitors from far afield. The club also has an active racing calendar for IRC, ISCRS and keelboat classes, and hosts many class regattas and rallies each year. With over 2,250 members, the club is one of the largest sailing clubs in the UK.

The club is open 7 days a week, throughout the year. The Island Sailing Club extends a warm welcome to all visiting yachtsmen who have arrived into Cowes on their own vessel, be it sail or power and the dining room and bar are popular with members and visiting yachtsmen.

Previous recipients of honorary membership include:

Andy Cassell, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, Dame Ellen MacArthur, Michael Perham, Shirley Robertson, Sarah Ayton, Pippa Wilson.

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 brianthompsonsailing.com