



2026 IACH Cape Horn Hall of Fame Awards

Friday 4th September – Les Sables d'Olonne

2026 Inductees

Commodore George Anson – GBR

Born circa 1697, died 1762

Nominated by Ian Worley

We all admire those who have 'gone before', broken records and achieved such greatness in the Southern Ocean, but there is one name from the past whose exploits around Cape Horn have so far not been honoured on the

Cape Horn Hall of Fame Board - That of the British Naval Officer
Commodore George Anson, later 1st Lord of the British Admiralty.

Born in 1697, he joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15 and quickly rose through the ranks. In 1737 he was promoted to Commodore and took command of the 60-gun *HMS Centurion* to lead an 8-strong squadron of ships around the Horn and into the Pacific to harass Spanish treasure galleons

Setting out later than planned, Anson's squadron encountered successive disasters. Wracked by malnutrition, scurvy, failing equipment and rigging, the small squadron was hit by the most violent of weather. Strong easterly currents and violent westerly storms quickly swept them well east of Cape Horn. Yet they continued, with men dying almost every day, some swept overboard, as they fought to conquer the horrific conditions and somehow obey Admiralty orders to reach the Pacific Ocean.

They were forced down to 62 degrees south as they fought to sail west, before eventually sailing north-west, hoping to reach the Pacific. By the time Anson found the Juan Fernandez Islands in June 1741, two of his vessels had failed to round Cape Horn and turned for home, and another had been wrecked off the coast of Chile. The worn-out state of his remaining ships led him to take the remaining survivors on board *Centurion* before continuing to Macau in November 1742.

After considerable difficulties with the Chinese, Anson sailed again with his one remaining vessel in search of the Manila galleons conducting trade between Mexico and the Chinese merchants in the Philippines, where he captured the *Nuestra Señora de Covadonga* carrying a huge treasure horde in June 1743. This is believed to be the largest treasure ever captured at sea. Indeed, 1/3 of the bullion in the Bank of England today came from Anson's voyage - 14 wagon loads!

The charts captured with the ship added many islands to the British knowledge of the Pacific, including what became known as the Anson

Archipelago. Returning via the Cape of Good Hope, *HMS Centurion* used the cover of fog to evade a French fleet to reach England on 15 June 1744.

George Anson was later promoted to 1st Lord of the Admiralty and is recognised as the 'Father' of the Royal Navy, instigating many reforms. These include the removal of corrupt defence contractors, improved medical care, the tightening of discipline throughout the Navy, the issue of uniforms to commissioned officers and the transfer of the Royal Marines from Army to Navy authority

Web links

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Anson,_1st_Baron_Anson

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Anson-Baron-Anson>

Alexia Barrier – FRA

DoB: 1979

Nominated by: Dee Caffari, Ashley Manton, Debbie Hadwen and Andrew Pindar

A 2-time circumnavigator via Cape Horn, Alexia Barrier, grew up in Nice, where she discovered sailing at the age of three aboard her family's yacht. A natural athlete, she tried her hand at basketball and freediving before turning wholeheartedly to the sea while pursuing studies in sports management (STAPS) at the University of Nice.

In 2005, she received support from Roxy for her first Mini Transat, which marked the beginning of a high-level sailing career, both solo and in double-handed or crewed races. She has competed in Figaro, Class40, IMOCA, Maxi yachts, and multihulls, sailing alongside renowned skippers including Florence Arthaud, Peter Holmberg, Andy Beadsworth and Dennis Connor.

At 25, Alexia realised her future lay offshore. She began a series of major transatlantic crossings and ocean races: the Transat AG2R with Samantha Davies in 2006, the Route de l'Équateur with Florence Arthaud in 2007, the Maxi Transatlantic in 2011, and the Route du Rhum in 2018.

Alexia founded the programme 4myplanet in 2009, becoming the first woman to attempt a solo round-the-world voyage in the name of science aboard an IMOCA 60. Covering 20,000 miles in five months, she collected more than 1-million data points on surface water for European ocean observation programmes. 10,000 children — the kids 4myplanet — followed her adventure in France, Monaco, South Africa, Brazil, and New York.

On November 8, 2020, Alexia set off on the 2020/1 Vendée Globe aboard her IMOCA *4myplanet*. Despite suffering a fractured vertebrae, she completed this solo circumnavigation in 111 days at sea to finish in 24th place.

Alexia then began to dream even bigger. She launched *The Famous Project*, later named *The Famous Project CIC* to bring together an international crew

of exceptional women sailors, determined to break the Jules Verne Trophy record aboard the maxi-trimaran *IDEC SPORT*. They did that, setting an all-female record of 57 days 21 hours and 20 minutes and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Career highlights

2026 - Jules Verne all female Record - Skipper *The Famous Project CIC* (ex *IDEC Sport*)

2021 – Transat Jacques Vabre – 18th (*Groupe Sétin*)

2021 – Défi Azimut – Lorient Agglomération – RET (*Groupe Sétin*)

2020–21 – Vendée Globe – 24th (111d 17h 03m 44s)

2019 – Transat Jacques Vabre – 25th

2019 – Bermudes 1000 Race – 14th

2019 – Voiles de St Barth aboard *SOJANA* (Maxi 2)

2018 – Route du Rhum – Destination Guadeloupe – 15th

2018 – Monaco Globe Series – 9th

2017 – Tour Voile – *Pink Lady*

2017 – Solitaire du Figaro – Rookie

2016 – Vice-European Champion – 6mJl Class

2015 – Tour Voile – Skipper 30 Corsaires

2014 – Transat AG2R-La Mondiale – 3rd

2013 – Voiles de St-Tropez – 4th

2013 – Voiles d’Antibes – 1st (8mJl *Helen*)

2012 – Yacht Club de France Trophy – 1st

2011 – Maxi Transatlantic, Farr 115 *Sojana* – 1st

2007 – Route de l’Équateur with Florence Arthaud – 2nd

2007 – Round Britain and Ireland Record – All-female crew

2006 – Transat AG2R – 12th with Sam Davies

2005 – Transat 6.50 – Proto *ROXY*

2003 – Women’s Match Racing Worlds – 3rd

2003 – European Women’s Match Racing Championship – 5th

Web Links

<https://www.tropheejulesverne.org/en/skipper/alexia-barrier/>

<https://thefamousproject.io/>

<https://4myplanet.fr/>

Thomas Coville FRA

DoB: 1968

Nominated by Ashley Manton & Roger Nilson

A **nine-time** circumnavigator with **eleven voyages** around Cape Horn, French sailor Thomas Coville capped a remarkable career in January 2026 by skippering the trimaran *Sodebo Ultim 3* to win the Jules Verne trophy, breaking the outright circumnavigation record that had stood for 9 years, by a 12-hour margin.

Returning to Ushant at 07:49 on 25th January, Coville and his 6-man crew of Frédéric Denis, Pierre Leboucher, Léonard Legrand, Guillaume Pirouelle, Benjamin Schwartz, and Nicolas Troussel, completed their 28,315-mile circumnavigation in 40 days 10 hours 45 minutes 50 seconds – an average of 29.17 knots!

Thomas has competed at the highest level since his teenage years. From Mini 6.50s to record-breaking trimarans, he has also won the Volvo Ocean Race 2011/12 aboard *Groupama 4* skippered by Franck Cammas and competed in the America's Cup to become one of the most versatile skippers of his generation.

Cammas, and before him, French pioneer Olivier de Kersauson, with whom Coville first won the Jules Verne trophy in 1997, both had a considerable impact on his career, along with Sodebo, his long-term sponsor since 1999 when he won the Transat Jacques Vabre with Hervé Jan.

In 2005, Thomas chalked up another circumnavigation success, winning the Oryx Quest race aboard *Doha 2006* skippered by fellow Cape Horn Hall of Fame inductee Brian Thompson.

His first success with Franck Cammas came in 2009 when *Groupama 3* broke the trans-Mediterranean **record** from Marseilles to Carthage before setting a new Jules Verne record aboard the same multihull the following year. They capped this with victory in the 2011/12 Volvo Ocean Race aboard *Groupama4*

Commented [VR1]: Ten time

Commented [VR2]: Twelve voyages

Commented [VR3]: Record

In 2016, Coville became the first sailor to smash through the 700-mile barrier, setting 24 hour singlehanded distance record of 714 nm (29,75 knots) on the trimaran *Sodebo Ultim* enroute to setting a solo circumnavigation record of 49 days 3 hours 7 minutes and 38 seconds - 7 days faster than the previous record

Commented [VR4]: >> and first sailor under 50 days in solo

In 2020, Coville and his *Sodebo Ultim 3* crew set a further 24-hour record during another attempt on the Jules Verne Trophy, covering 889.9 miles in 24 hours - A 37.1 knot average!

Career highlights

1985-1991: skipper of *Polytechnique* in the Tour de France Race

1997: 2nd of the Mini Transat

1997: Jules Verne Trophy with Olivier de Kersauson, skipper of *Sport-Élec*

1998: Winner of the Route du Rhum on monohull with Aquitaine Innovations

1999: Winner of the Transat Jacques Vabre with Hervé Jan on monohull *Sodeb'O*

2001: 6th in Vendee Globe 2000–2001 in 110 days and 7 hours

2004: 2nd of The Transat on trimaran *Sodeb'O*

2005: Winner of the Oryx Quest on *Doha 2006* with skipper Brian Thompson

2005: North Atlantic crossing (east to west) between Cadiz and San Salvador in 10 days 11 hours, 50 minutes and 46 seconds

2005: Record Miami – New York in 3 days 05 hours and 12 seconds.

2006: Record around Britain and Ireland in 6 days, 6 hours, 40 minutes and 31 seconds

2006: 3rd of the Route du Rhum on trimaran ORMA *Sodeb'O*.

2008: 24 hours distance record single-handed on *Sodeb'O* with 619,3 miles.

2008: North Atlantic crossing (west to east) (New York – Cape Lizard) single-handed.

2008-2009: Attempt on the around the world sailing record single-handed on the trimaran *Sodeb'O* in 59 days, 20 hours, 47 minutes and 43 seconds (2 days outside Francis Joyon's record)

2009: Trans-Mediterranean from Marseilles to Carthage (in 17 hours 8 minutes 23 seconds, with Franck Cammas skipper of *Groupama 3*).

2010: Jules Verne trophy winner with Franck Cammas, skipper of *Groupama 3*.

2010: 3rd of the Route du Rhum transatlantic on trimaran *Sodeb'O*

2011: Attempt on the around the world sailing record single-handed on the trimaran *Sodeb'O* in 6 days, 7 minutes, 32 seconds (3 days outside Francis Joyon's record).

2012: Volvo Ocean Race aboard *Groupama4* with skipper Frank Cammas

2016: 24 hour singlehanded distance record on the trimaran *Sodebo Ultim* with 714nm (29.75 knots) - the first sailor to beat the 700 nm barrier.

2016: Singlehanded Round the world sailing record on *Sodebo Ultim* in 49 days 3 hours 7 minutes and 38 seconds (7 days faster than Francis Joyon's previous record).

2017: North Atlantic record from New York –Lizard Point) single-handed on *Sodebo Ultim* in 4 days 11 hours 10 minutes and 23 seconds (28.35 knots, 15 hours faster than Francis Joyon's previous record).

2020: 24-hour record during his attempt for the Jules Verne Trophy, December 5, 2020, on *Sodebo Ultim 3* covered 889.9 miles in 24 hours (37.1 knots average).

2022: 3rd place in the Route du Rhum aboard *Sodebo Ultim 3*.

2024: 2nd place in the inaugural Arkea Ultim Challenge-Brest, solo around-the-world race, aboard *Sodebo Ultim 3*.

2025: 2nd place in the Transat Café L'Or, sailing double-handed with Benjamin Schwartz aboard *Sodebo Ultim 3*.

2026: Winner of the Jules Verne trophy *Sodebo Ultim 3* in 40 days 10 hours 45 minutes 50 seconds – an average of 29.17 knots

Commented [VR5]: I have added these results to Thomas Coville's racing achievements.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Coville

<https://www.tropheejulesverne.org/en/skipper/thomas-coville/>

<https://www.northsails.com/en-uk/blogs/north-sails-blog/record-pace>

<https://www.giornaledellavela.com/2025/12/01/2012-thomas-coville-the-man-who-passed-cape-horn-eight-times/?lang=en>

Guirec Soudée FRA

DoB: 1992

Nominated by Jean-Luc van den Heede

Guirec Soudée was born to be an adventurer. At 18, he travelled to Australia with just 200 Euros in his pocket and unable to speak English. He slept on the streets in Sydney before buying a bicycle and travelling around the southwest in search of work, taking on the roles of an apple picker, sardine and shrimp fisherman before returning to France in 2012 to take on new challenges at sea. His latest was a solo, non-stop east-west circumnavigation against the prevailing wind and currents in March this year, setting a new record of 94 days, 21 hours, and 58 minutes.

Before this, Guirec was best known for his 5-year voyage around the world, accompanied by his hen Monique, and for two solo rows across the Atlantic. In 2021, he bought a second-hand IMOCA 60, which he renamed *Freelance.com*, to participate in the 2024 Vendée Globe race, completing the race in 89 days, 20 hours and 16 minutes.

His 5-year voyage around the world between 2013 and 2018 was in the 10.7m yacht *Yvinec*, named after the island in Cotes d'Armor where he was brought up. Setting out from Tréguier, Tenerife was his first port of call, where he befriended Monique, before crossing to the Caribbean. He then headed northwards to Greenland and through the Northwest Passage - the youngest to do so - where he was stranded in ice for 4 months. His course then took him and Monique south through the Pacific and onward to Deception Island in the Southern Ocean, before rounding Cape Horn in February 2017 and onward to Cape Town, then Fernando de Noronha. Guirec then returned for a pit stop in the Caribbean before re-crossing the Atlantic to finish his circumnavigation in Paimpol on December 15, 2018. During the voyage, Monique the chicken became as much a social media success as her owner.

On December 23, 2025, Guirec set out from Ushant aboard the trimaran *MACSF* (ex *Adagio*) intent on breaking fellow Frenchman Jean-Luc van den Heede's 22-year record for sailing East-West around the world via Cape Horn – a time of 122 days, 14 hours, 3 minutes, 49 seconds set in his monohull *Adrien* back in 2004

He rounded Cape Horn on 14 January 2026 in 21 days 18 hours, 44 minutes, already 2,000 miles ahead of the record. *MACSF* passed Cape

Leeuwin on February 18 after 57 days, 5 hours and 13 minutes, and the Cape of Good Hope on March 6 with a time of 72 days 22 hours, 58 minutes and returned to the finish line off Ushant in 94 days, 21 hours, and 58 minutes – almost a month ahead of the previous record - an average speed of 16.5 knots for the 37,681 mile circumnavigation.

Guirec returned to a hero's welcome, where Jean-Luc van den Heede was the first to congratulate him – and nominate the French circumnavigator for this award.

Web links https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guirec_Soud%C3%A9

<https://www.guirecsoudee.com/>

Brian Thompson GBR

DoB: 1962

Nominated by Mark Featherstone

By his own admission, Brian Thompson doesn't know how many offshore and ocean world records he's broken. His website suggests 25, but podcaster Shirley Robertson, one of the few journalists to interview this compulsive circumnavigator at length, discovered the number exceeds 40. He still has 6 current records in the books, undoubtedly with more to come!

Admin might not be Brian's strong suit, but put him on the helm of any monohull or multihull, and his brilliance stands out at getting the very best performance out of the boat. The faster it is, the better he is at doing this hour after hour.

The first British sailor with four non-stop circumnavigations to his credit, Brian set his earliest record aboard American serial adventurer Steve Fosset's giant catamaran *Cheyenne/Playstation*, setting a 58-day non-stop circumnavigation record in 2004 with Mark Featherstone. A year later, Brian had command of his own winning catamaran, *Doha 2006* (ex-*Club Med*), in the Oryx Quest round-the-world race with fellow Cape Horn Hall of Fame inductee Thomas Coville aboard.

In 2006, he joined the star-studded Volvo Ocean Race yacht *ABN AMRO I*, skippered by Mike Sanderson, as stand-in helm for a southern ocean leg that proved pivotal to the team's overall race win.

Another circumnavigation followed in 2008/9, this time singlehanded when he finished 5th in the Vendée Globe aboard the IMOCA 60 *Bahrain Team Pindar*.

Four years later, Brian joined Loïck Peyron aboard the maxi-multihull *Banque Populaire 5* to win the Jules Verne Trophy, in a time of 45 days.

In 2017 Brian was navigator on *Turn the Tide on Plastics* skippered by Dee Caffari, and rounded the Horn for a 5th time.

Career highlights

2004: with Steve Fosset with whom he set several records, including a new world sailing record in 2004 aboard the multihull *Cheyenne/Playstation*

2005: won the Oryx Quest, skippering the round the world crewed race, in *Doha 2006*, (ex-*Club Med*)

2006: Crew member aboard *ABN AMRO 1* skippered by Mike Sanderson for Cape Town/Melbourne leg of the 2006/7 Volvo Ocean Race.

2008/9 : finished 5th in the Vendée Globe on a 60 feet IMOCA class yacht *Bahrain Team Pindar*.

2012: won the Jules Verne Trophy as helmsman and trimmer for Loïck Peyron, on the maxi-multihull *Banque Populaire* to became the first British sailor with four non-stop laps of the world

2018: Rounded Horn with Dee Caffari on *Turn the Tide on Plastic*, during the 2017/18 Volvo Ocean Race.

Web Links

<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2024/01/25/sitting-down-with-brian-thompson/>

Paul Cayard – USA

DoB: 1959

Nominated by Barry Pickthall and Gary Jobson

Biography

Paul Cayard is one of the USA's most successful sailors. He started his sailing career winning in an El Toro dinghy at the age of eight. Many years later he remarked, "As an eight-year-old, sailing just bit me. I really liked it. As a kid you're always doing what your parents tell you to do. However, when I was on my El Toro, I was the captain of my ship. I oversaw my own destiny. It was an environment that allowed me to express myself at a young age."

Paul soon progressed to Lasers and 505s where he gained the notice of top San Francisco sailor Tom Blackaller, who invited Cayard to crew for him on his Star Class Olympic keelboat and became an influential mentor. He went on to compete at the highest level of sailing, including: the America's Cup, Whitbread and Volvo round-the-world races and Olympic Games. He has won nine world championships, twice participated in the Olympic Games and seven times in the America's Cup.

Cayard also excelled in offshore racing and notably won the 1997/8 Whitbread round-the-world race aboard *EF Language*. Cayard and his mostly "inshore" crew also won the prestigious Roaring Forties Trophy. Cayard also became a compelling race narrator via the newly discovered internet. His reports engaged the public in real time, bringing his followers aboard the boat. His most gripping reports came from the Southern Ocean and the rounding of Cape race Horn. Equally notable, and one of the main reasons for this victory, was Cayard's work pioneering the Code Zero gennaker. Paul was named 1998 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year.

Paul Cayard rounded Cape Horn again in the 2002 Volvo Ocean Race aboard *AmerSports 1*. In 2005, he was named Skipper of *The Black Pearl*, an entry in the 2005-2006 Volvo Ocean Race sponsored by The Walt Disney Company. Cayard placed second in the race while rounding Cape Horn for the third time in February of 2006. He rounded Cape Horn one more time aboard the cruising yacht *Rosehearty* in 2019 enroute to explore Antarctica.

This past year has probably been Paul's most successful. Thirty-seven years after first winning the Star World Championship in 1988, still racing in what is probably the most competitive keelboat class in the world, at the age of 66, he won the 2025 Star World Championship in Split, Croatia over a fleet of 102 teams. For this achievement, he was named 2025 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year for a second time. Cayard then dominated the 2026 Bacardi Cup, in March, a title he had been chasing for 46 years! Cayard capped off this streak by winning the equally competitive Etchells World Championship, over a fleet of 77 competitors, in San Diego.

Through 40 years of competing at the highest levels, across all disciplines of Sailing, Paul considers his offshore racing experiences to be the most life enriching. Today Paul shares a Star and offshore racing with his son Danny, who works as an engineer but is quite an accomplished sailor in his own right.

Career highlights

4-time Cape Horner

1997/8 Whitbread Round the World Race *EF Language* -1st. Role: skipper

2001/2 Volvo Ocean Race – *Amersports 1* – Leg 5- Role watch captain

2005/6 Volvo Ocean Race *Pirates of the Caribbean* 2nd. Role: skipper

Rosehearty – 56 Metre Perini – Expedition of Antarctica via Cape Horn

Web link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Cayard

For further information Contact

Visit: <https://capehorners.org/>

Barry Pickthall – Administrator, IACH Cape Horn Hall of Fame

Barry_pickthall@icloud.com

+44 (0)7768 395719

Available on WhatsApp & Signal