



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AFTER 891 MILES AND 3 DAYS AND 10 HOURS OF NAVIGATION, THE CLASS40 IBSA CONCLUDED HER FIRST ROLEX FASTNET RACE**

**Alberto Bona: “Difficult and wonderful. We paid for our mistake at the start, but it’s still a great experience”**

*Cherbourg (France), July 27, 2023 – A 5<sup>th</sup> place (actual time) in the Class40, which becomes 9<sup>th</sup> due to the penalty for the early start; the 42<sup>nd</sup> boat to cross the finish line. The first *Fastnet* of the Class40 IBSA ended just before 2 am on Wednesday, July 26, after 3 days and 10 hours of navigation. A total of 891 actual miles travelled to circumnavigate the legendary rock in Ireland, starting from Cowes (UK) and arriving in Cherbourg (Normandy, France), in the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the “mythical regatta” which recorded 430 entries, 142 withdrawals and 24 hours of upwind sailing, with gusts of wind up to 47 knots in the Solent.*

*“It was a very tough trial in the first 12 hours”, confirmed **Alberto Bona**, “but we knew that the Class40 IBSA was capable of dealing with it: we suffered no damage, we had no doubts of being safe, we just had to be very careful not to break anything, and that’s why we steered a lot. The early start was the result of a mistake that we paid dearly in the ranking; it wasn’t easy, because there was a strong current pushing, and sometimes you simply make mistakes. It was hard to start like this, knowing we already had two hours behind us, but that doesn’t take away from the great experience we’ve gathered in this race, from the choices we’ve made, from both a technical and a team perspective, to motivate us and compete giving our very best for the entire race”.*

*“We spent a lot of time at the helm in the first 12 hours”, continued **Alberto**. “The waves made us jump, and in these conditions you have to steer the boat well, so as not to suffer any damage. The somewhat short sea bothered everyone, and then, when the wind died down, the waves remained. After the first calm, the second front arrived, which made us start again; after rounding the *Fastnet*, we regrouped and went on well, we made good decisions. Not an easy regatta, but it’s the *Fastnet*, and you have to deserve it”.*

At two in the morning in Cherbourg the shore team is on the quay to welcome the crew: when they disembark, Alberto Bona, Francesca Clapcich, Andrea Caracci and Luca Bertacchi are very hungry, because they had no time at all to eat in the three and a half days of navigation. There is the satisfaction of having completed a difficult regatta, the embrace with the other teams of the Class40 and the moment of analysis. **Francesca Clapcich** smiles: *“It wasn’t so different from the round-the-world; in the Solent we found one of the worst weather conditions I’ve had in recent months. This regatta is always true to itself, and I would say that finally, for me, this was my first *Fastnet* with real conditions, those that helped create the legend; the other times the weather had turned it into a regatta like any other. Here the upwind was demanding, the downwind then paid off for the efforts: the Class40 is an incredible boat, very seaworthy, and then it runs really well... it’s like a small *Imoca* without foil that managed to race on equal terms with some *Imocas* along the course”.*

To welcome the team on the floating dock was also **George Pisani, Vice President of IBSA Group and Project leader of *Sailing into the Future. Together***. *“We are happy with the performance of our team. Alberto, Andrea, Francesca and Luca proved to be strong and cohesive, in a legendarily difficult regatta which in this edition proved to be such right from the start, so much so that it resulted in a penalty for many Class40s, including IBSA. We all followed the extreme adventure of these three days with passion. Now Alberto will have to rest and prepare for the next big challenge, at the end of October: the *Transat Jacques Vabre*”.*



One hour after arrival, after the locks and once the Class40 *IBSA* – where, by choice of Boat Captain Pierrot, a light is always on – had been moored, the village welcomes the team with grilled meat and torrents of beer: it's story time, even if it's three in the morning.

*“When you sail with professionals like Alberto, Francesca and Andrea”, commented team leader Luca Bertacchi, for the second time on board this season, after winning the RORC Caribbean 600, “you have the opportunity to experience unique moments, in which you see talent and professionalism at work. It was tough, it was absolutely the most demanding weather conditions I’ve ever seen at sea, but I was with an exceptional team, and even while managing the first 12 challenging hours I had the privilege of sailing in the myth”.*

*“To those who love competition, who like difficult things: come to the Fastnet”, remarked Andrea Caracci. “The regatta has been very nice, competitive, a wonderful experience. We had all possible weather conditions, from calm to storm, currents for and against. This boat is a true all-rounder: Sam Manuard did a great job; it’s been a pleasure to sail with this team, Alberto will obtain great results”.*

Once the Fastnet has been filed away, let's go back to the Class40 championship and to the preparation for the decisive regatta, the *Transat Jacques Vabre*, at the end of October. In the coming months, the boat will enter the Mediterranean for a series of activities linked to the sponsor, IBSA; therefore, it will undergo an accurate overhauling in the shipyard, through meticulous optimisations and checks. *“A few weeks of rest after a long first part of the season”, observed Alberto, “then we go back to the shipyard, we will dismantle keel, rudder and mast and check everything, inch by inch before facing the ocean again and closing a season that is giving us a lot of satisfaction, while allowing us to learn a lot, even from our mistakes”.* Up for grabs is first place in the Class40 circuit: Alberto Bona and his Class40 *IBSA* are currently leading the ranking.

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**THE PROJECT:** *Sailing into the Future. Together* started in January 2022; the partnership between IBSA and Alberto Bona was born on common bases and values, and aims to use sailing as a vehicle for corporate communication, towards the market and the nautical world. Ingenuity, courage, innovation, responsibility are elements that unite IBSA and Alberto, and the oceanic challenge, in addition to the sporting race, also metaphorically represents the company's history, philosophy and vision, which are always oriented towards the future and are part of a path that brings IBSA increasingly closer to the topics of environmental and social sustainability, inclusion and integration. The *Route du Rhum* was the first stage of the three-year programme *Sailing Into The Future. Together*, which the Swiss pharmaceutical company started with Bona and which continues in 2023 with a busy calendar of regattas, including the *Rolex Fastnet Race* and the *Transat Jacques Vabre*.

**THE BOAT:** The boat with which Alberto Bona participated in the *Route du Rhum* in November is a latest generation Class40, with a scow bow. Designed by French naval architect Sam Manuard and built by the JPS Production shipyard, the boat is a Mach 5 model, the latest evolution of Manuard's Class40.

The characteristics: rounded bow, created with the aim of increasing performance while running; water lines and appendages designed to make the hull an all-round fast even upwind; large and protected cockpit to face navigation in the most comfortable and safe positions possible.

**THE SKIPPER:** Alberto Bona is from Turin, and has a degree in philosophy. As a university student, he won the **Panerai trophy** with *Stormvogel*, fast ULDB and historic boat with which he crossed the Atlantic Ocean for the first time, winning the ARC with a New Zealand crew. In 2012 he took part in the **Minitransat**, finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, one of the best Italian results ever in this category. In 2015, he switched to the prototype category **Mini 6.50** with *Promostudi La Spezia*: he won the Italian championship and finished second in the ocean crossing Les Sables-Azores. In 2017 he discovered the **Class40**: on Giovanni Soldini's former *Telecom Italia*, he participated in the *Transat Jacques Vabres*, where he was forced to withdraw when he was in sixth place. In 2019 he was aboard the **Maserati Multi 70** trimaran, one of the fastest boats in the world, where he practiced on the foils before moving on to the **Figaro Beneteau 3**, aboard which he participated in the Solitaire; the only Italian registered, he finished 7<sup>th</sup> among the rookies in the first year and 16<sup>th</sup> overall in 2020. In 2021 he won the **Italian offshore team title** and the **Europeans in mixed doubles aboard the Figaro 3**. In 2022 he started the new project, with the support of the IBSA Group: with the new Class40 *IBSA*, he participated in the *Route du Rhum 2022*, finishing in eighth position.

**IBSA:** IBSA (Institut Biochimique SA) is a Swiss multinational pharmaceutical Company, founded in 1945 in Lugano. Today, its products are present in over 90 Countries on 5 continents, through the Company's 18 subsidiaries located in Europe, China, and the United States. The company has a consolidated turnover of 900 million CHF, and employs over 2,200 people between headquarters, subsidiaries and production sites. IBSA holds 90 families of approved patents, plus others under development, as well as a vast portfolio of products, covering 10 therapeutic areas: reproductive medicine, endocrinology, pain and inflammation, osteoarticular, aesthetic medicine, dermatology, uro-gynaecology, cardiometabolic, respiratory, consumer health. It is also one of the largest operators worldwide in the area of reproductive medicine, and one of the world's leaders in hyaluronic acid-based products. IBSA has based its philosophy on four pillars: Person, Innovation, Quality and Responsibility.



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