



PRESS NOTE

**THE CLASS40 IBSA REACHES THE PODIUM OF THE NORMANDY CHANNEL RACE:
ALBERTO BONA AND ALBERTO RIVA PLACE THIRD AFTER FIVE INTENSE DAYS OF
REGATTA**

Caen (Normandy, France), September 21, 2024 – A well-deserved and strongly desired **third place for the Class40 IBSA at the CIC Normandy Channel Race**. Alberto Bona and Alberto Riva crossed the finish line yesterday at 12:01 pm, after 4 days, 22 hours, 51 minutes and 5 seconds of navigation. The fifteenth edition of the *CIC Normandy Channel Race* started last Sunday with calm weather and ended with the typical Normandy fog, very large waves and challenging upwind stretches against the current. Precisely due to sea conditions, the route had been changed during the race, canceling the obligatory passage at Guerseny to facilitate navigation in the Channel.

From start to finish, the two Italian skippers – racing together for the first time, but immediately appearing well-matched – had to **fight to stay among the group leaders**. Because of a **slow motion start**, in the first hours they had to recover a nice position in the rankings, from which to start the run to reach the top places. **The Solent and the English coast saw them consistently among the top five**, as well as the passage before Tuksar Rock. The descent along the Irish coast occupied a night of intense navigation, in which the two skippers attacked their opponents, **reaching the Fastnet with good speed, until achieving the third position and defending it along the route back to the Channel. The arrival was also very challenging**, with the fourth-ranked boat, *Sogestran Seafrigo*, which crossed the finish line just five minutes and a few tenths of a mile behind *IBSA*.

As expected by the two skippers before the start, the regatta had one main interpretive key: being able to maintain speed and concentration on the long obligatory tack back from the Celtic Sea, before tackling a Norman coast which offered typical conditions, which Bona and Riva faced with determination and a smile.

*“I took on this second Normandy Channel Race”, stated **Class40 IBSA skipper Alberto Bona**, “with the spirit of those who face the last important match of the season, which also closes the three-year period of activity on board the Class40 IBSA. This is a complex regatta, but we managed to stay very focused and overcome the tiredness we accumulated in four days. Due to the weather conditions, the race was complicated both on a tactical level and by the need to draw clean trajectories: so we did, and it went very well. I’d like to thank Alberto Riva: he was a fantastic adventure partner. We were both excited for different reasons: he was going back to sea after what happened with his *Acrobatica* while I was ready for the last test of the season on the Class40; once we controlled our emotion, we raced well and above all we managed to smile and have fun. I hope he can start again as soon as possible with a new project, because he really deserves it: he is a great navigator”.*

*“This was my first Normandy Channel Race”, commented **Alberto Riva**, “a regatta that I have dreamed of for many years. Besides being very tough, it’s also very complex: you have to make a lot of difficult decisions all the time, and at a very fast pace at that. We crossed the Channel four times, turned around the Isle of Wight, famous for its strong currents and sandbanks, that move and are therefore poorly mapped. After returning from Ireland, we moved on to Raz Blanchard, where there*



are currents of up to 7 knots, and there we managed to catch up with the leaders. The final stages of the race were very stressful, with three boats finishing in less than 5 minutes. I really enjoyed sailing with Albi: on board we immediately found our rhythm and, in addition to always maneuvering well and agreeing on strategic choices, we also laughed a lot. In short, I hope to be able to sail with him again soon!"

"Congratulations to Alberto Bona and Alberto Riva for obtaining third place in this exciting regatta", stated **Giorgio Pisani, Vice President IBSA Group and Leader of the project Sailing into the Future. Together.** "In just five days we saw very different weather conditions, from calm to strong winds, and waves that put the crews to the test, but at the same time highlighted the great quality of the Class40 IBSA and the skill of her sailors. A well-deserved third place, a season finale on the podium that rewards the commitment, dedication and growth of Alberto Bona, as well as the progress of Sailing into the Future. Together as a sports project. Kudos to Alberto Riva, who added content, strength and a pinch of irony to this regatta, making it even more special".

This ends the Class40 IBSA's third season of regattas. And now a well-deserved period of rest in the shipyard, after covering – not counting the transfers – **over 25,000 miles in just three years, competing in ten regattas in total, four of which were transoceanic.**

THE PROJECT: The three-year project *Sailing into the Future. Together* was launched in January 2022. The partnership between IBSA and skipper Alberto Bona was born on common bases and values, and aims to use sailing as a corporate communication vehicle towards the market and the nautical world. Ingenuity, courage, innovation, responsibility are elements that unites IBSA and Alberto, and the oceanic challenge, in addition to the sporting competition, also metaphorically represents the company's history, philosophy and vision, which are always oriented towards and are part of a path that brings IBSA increasingly closer to the topic of environmental and social sustainability, with a particular focus on inclusive sailing projects for people with disabilities. In November 2022, the *Route du Rhum* was the first sporting stage of the project *Sailing into the Future. Together*. In 2023, Bona and the Class40 IBSA participated in six regattas, including the *Rolex Fastnet Race* and the *Transat Jacques Vabre*. With two victories and three podiums, the record for the highest number of miles covered in 24 hours and over 15,000 miles sailed, Bona won first place overall in the Class40 International Championship. In 2024, between April and July, he will face two of the toughest transatlantic races on the international scene: the *Transat CIC* from Lorient (France) to New York and the *Quebec Saint-Malo* (from Canada to France).

THE SKIPPER: Alberto Bona is from Turin, and has a degree in philosophy. As a university student, he won the *Panerai* trophy aboard *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 5th, 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 Vabre*, 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 world's fastest boats, 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, in 2020 he finished 7th among the rookies in the first year and 16th overall. 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 in partnership with IBSA: after an eighth place in the *Route du Rhum* 2022, in 2023 Alberto won the Class40 International Championship, closing a season with three podiums and over 15,000 miles covered.

THE BOAT: Designed by French naval architect Sam Manuard and built by the JPS Production shipyard, Alberto Bona's boat is a Class40 Mach 5 model. Its main characteristics are: scow bow – rounded and with a wider and flatter shape than standard bows – designed to stay high above the water and avoid being submerged; *all-round* hull, particularly performing in conditions of strong tailwinds; and a large, shielded cockpit, to face extreme conditions of navigation in as comfortable and safe as possible positions.

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 20 subsidiaries located in Europe, China, and the United States. The company has a consolidated turnover of 986 million CHF, and employs over 2,300 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.

For more information, visit www.ibsasailing.com/en/

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PRESS RELEASE

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