



Cooper Stevenson

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Harris sets record

Joe Harris smashed the record for the solo section of the Bermuda 1-2 race by four hours as he led the fleet in from Rhode Island early yesterday morning.

Harris, whose 50-foot yacht Gryphon Solo also took line honours in the Charleston-Bermuda race last month, said he was 'stoked' to have broke the record and had toasted the victory with a shot of whiskey.

Gryphon Solo came in just before 2am yesterday morning, clocking an unofficial time of 62:37 for the ocean crossing - beating the previous mark, set by Kip Stone on Artforms two years earlier.

Harris will now team-up with Dobbs Davis for the return trip to Newport - leg two of the biennial race. Boats race singlehanded from Newport and double-handed on the return leg (hence the name 1-2). The ultimate winner will be the boat with the fastest aggregate tome.

For Harris just claiming the first-leg was a sweet moment. He awoke his shore team around 2:15am yesterday.

"I'm sorry to wake you," he said in press release. "I've finished, got my sails down and I'm motoring through the cut into St. George's. I tried to rouse the RC (Race Committee), but nobody would answer. I'm totally stoked about setting this record.

"I'll have a solo spot of Jamison to toast my finish and then rack out for some real rest."

The conditions for the race were good with moderate winds from the east, north, and west, picking up in intensity through the weekend at around 15-20 knots by Sunday and dropping off slightly on Monday evening to around 10-18. They were obviously good enough for Harris and his Gryphon Solo as he crossed the finish line well ahead of his competitors.

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