



Honoring Arnaud Dhallenne and Sophie Labruhe Marconnet

It is with profound sadness we share with you the loss of two esteemed colleagues, Arnaud Dhallenne and Sophie Labruhe Marconnet.

Arnaud and Sophie were lost at sea last month. We have kept our grief as an organisation private until such a time that we could discuss with their next-of-kin how best to convey the news of this terrible tragedy.



Arnaud was born in France in 1952 and sailed his whole life, starting a long and distinguished career on Eric Tabarly's Pen Duick VI during the first Whitbread Round the World Race in 1973. In the early 1980s, he launched his own charter business offering trips

around the world, first on his own boat, and then on legendary yachts such as Pen Duick III & Pen Duick VI amongst others. A keen racer, he continued competing throughout his career, finishing third in the Route du Rhum in 2006.

After acquiring Paradise in 2008, he started spending more and more time sailing in the Southern Ocean, offering charters to Antarctica, among other destinations.

Sophie was born in France in 1951 and studied political sciences, graduating from Science Po; the most prestigious school in the country.

In 1977, she met Oleg Bely and decided to abandon a promising career to join him on a transatlantic crossing, having not sailed much before. From then on, she never stopped sailing, forgoing a home on



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IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate and promote the practice of safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

land and instead raising their two children on the boat, sailing to Antarctica, South Georgia and around the world as if it was just a thing anyone did.

Sophie and Oleg were amongst the first to offer yacht charters to Antarctica, aboard Kotick and then Kotick 2 in the early 1980s, and although not members of IAATO, were treasured members of the yachting community. Sophie was a very delicate and quiet person, yet the essence of strength itself and an inspiration for us all.

Tragically, these two incredible sailors left us far too soon, swept off the yacht Paradise when it was knocked down by a rogue wave on March 5, 2019, as they were sailing back from South Georgia to Uruguay.

We will be paying tribute to Arnaud and Sophie along with another dear friend and colleague Sarah Auffret, who died in the Ethiopian Airlines crash on March 10, at IAATO's annual meeting later this month. A memorial room will be open during the meeting, in Cape Town, South Africa, where friends and colleagues will be able to take time to reflect and to write their tributes or share memories in three books of condolence.

Arnaud and Sophie lived for and loved the ocean. Their loss is deeply felt by IAATO and its small, vibrant yachting community. We can but hope that they found peace on the ocean they spent the most time sailing on; the South Atlantic.

Our thoughts are with their families and all who sailed with and loved them.

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