

The Global Challenge



The Global Challenge is dubbed 'The World's Toughest Yacht Race' because it is for amateur crews and sails 'the wrong way' around the world, against the prevailing conditions, past Cape Horn and twice into the Southern Ocean, covering 35,000 miles over 10 months.



Race Route 2004-5

The Global Challenge 2004-5

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE Round-the-World Yacht Race was conceived by Sir Chay Blyth and first ran in 1992-3 as the British Steel Challenge. There were ten boats, each 67' long and made of steel. They were designed to be very labour intensive for the 14 crew on each boat, not having any of the comforts of a cruising yacht. The next race in 1996-7 saw the introduction of four more yachts and a new title sponsor - BT.

The race ran every four years and in 2000-1 the boats were changed. The new fleet was only 12 boats strong, but each steel boat was 72' long with a crew of 18. Much more powerful and much faster than the older boats, these were to compete in two Round-the-World races.

After a multi million pound refit in Plymouth, the yachts were re-branded and sent out for the 2004-5 race. This was to be the last race as Challenge Business struggled to find a title sponsor and subsequently folded six months after the 2004-5 event finished. The yachts were sold off privately. This was quite sad as a large part of our lives was tied up in our boat, with many memories, both good and bad.



The crew was made up of a Skipper employed by Challenge Business – the race organisers - 15 'core crew' doing the whole race and two 'leggers' who would only be onboard for one leg before being replaced by two more leggers for the next leg and so on.

In 2004-5 the boats carried 12 sails: a mainsail, a genoa, a staysail and storm staysail, three yankees, four spinnakers and a trysail. The sails were heavy, especially when wet, but very strong. If a sail was damaged - and they were often - then they had to be repaired by hand, there was no luxury of an electric sewing machine. Everything on the boat was over engineered to cope with the rigors of the Southern Ocean and ten months of racing Round-the-World.

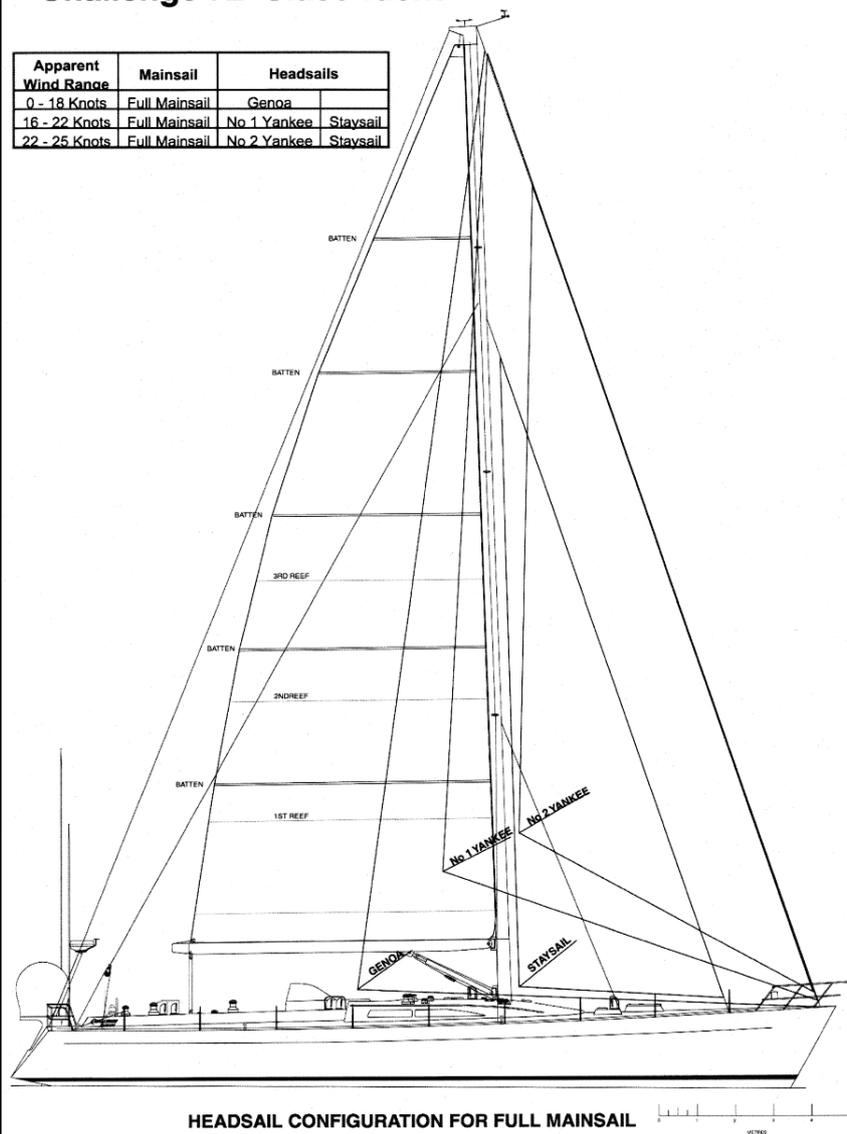
The 2004-5 race followed a different route to the previous one due to the hurricane risk around the Caribbean. From the start in Portsmouth, the boats sailed south down the Atlantic, crossing the equator, and finishing in Buenos Aires some five weeks later.

After a stopover of about 2½ weeks, the race re-started, heading south again, around the notorious Cape Horn and into the desolate expanse of the Southern Ocean, skirting Antarctica bound for Wellington. A leg of about six week's duration. In Wellington the boats would be lifted out and checked for signs of damage. From there the boats had a short sprint of about seven days across the Tasman Sea to Sydney. After a break of a couple of weeks, the teams prepared to head back into the Southern Ocean again, this time bound for Cape Town. Another six week epic in the frozen waters. From Cape Town the teams headed North West up the Atlantic, crossing their outbound track and officially circumnavigating the planet. The destination this time was Boston. After Boston there was a relatively short leg of about 16 days back across the North Atlantic to La Rochelle in France, and from there there was another sprint leg back to Portsmouth and the finish.

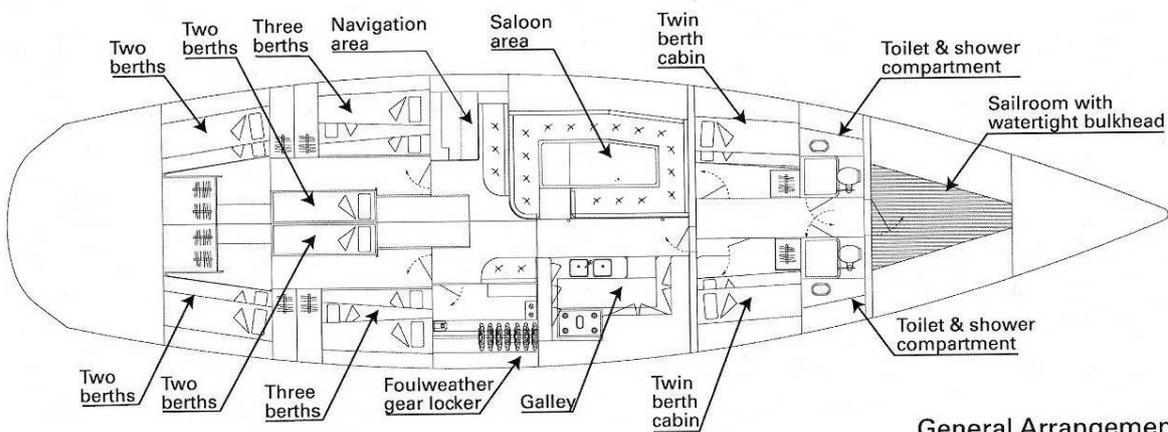
For *Team Stelmar* this meant 184 days racing at sea and a total of 35,500 miles.

Challenge 72' Class Yacht

Apparent Wind Range	Mainsail	Headsails	
0 - 18 Knots	Full Mainsail	Genoa	
16 - 22 Knots	Full Mainsail	No 1 Yankee	Staysail
22 - 25 Knots	Full Mainsail	No 2 Yankee	Staysail



Challenge 72' Class Yacht





List of Skippers and Boats in order of finishing:

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|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Andy Forbes | <i>BG Spirit</i> |
| 2. Stuart Jackson | <i>Barclays Adventurer</i> |
| 3. David Melville | <i>BP Explorer</i> |
| 4. Duggie Gillespie | <i>Spirit of Sark</i> |
| 5. Eero Lehtinen | <i>SAIC La Jolla</i> |
| 6. Clive Cosby | <i>Team Stelmar</i> |
| 7. James Allen | <i>Me to You</i> |
| 8. Amedeo Sorrentino | <i>VAIO (Sony)</i> |
| 9. Matt Riddell | <i>Samsung</i> |
| 10. Dee Caffari | <i>Imagine It. Done (Unisys)</i> |
| 11. Loz Marriott | <i>Pindar</i> |
| 12. Paul Kelly | <i>Team Save the Children</i> |