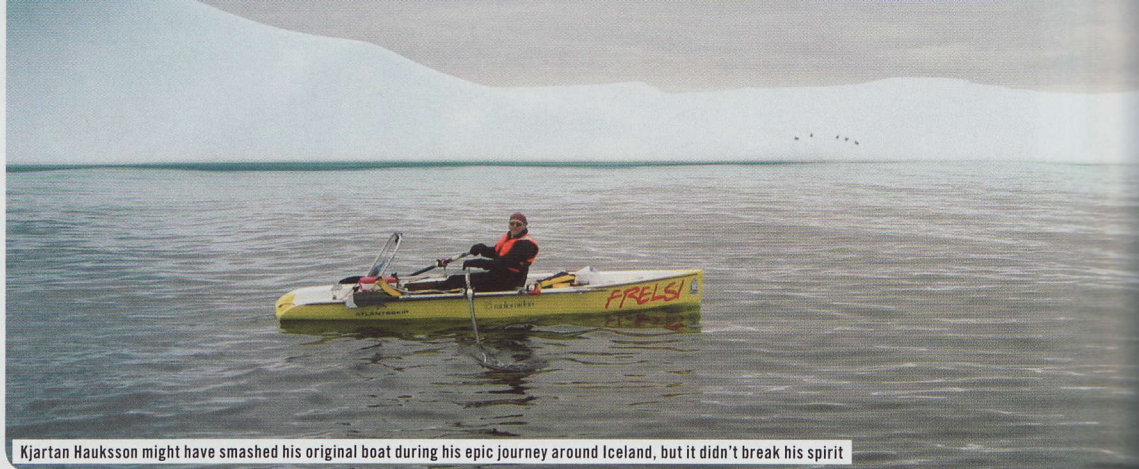


from Plymouth to the Eddystone Lighthouse, in August. And there's also a rumour about a future Atlantic crossing – watch this space!

Bruno Vogin of France rowed his pet monkey from Dakar in Senegal, West Africa, to the Cape Verde islands in the Atlantic. Bruno rowed in a polyethylene VirusBoats Yole Club, fresh off the production line. He made no alterations to the boat, only a canopy for his pet and an extra pair of oars (not for the monkey). The 150 nautical miles, as the crow flies, turned into 450 nautical miles of rowing owing to drift during resting hours and it took them 11 days altogether!

Bruno and his monkey had three capsizes during this epic row and survived long enough to tell the tale, though sadly Bruno later died during an Atlantic crossing on a raft.

Kjartan Hauksson trashed his self-built boat off the Icelandic coast after covering 400km in his bid to be the first Icelander to circumnavigate the island under his own power. Not one to give up, Kjartan enlisted the help of friend and naval architect Mark Ginisty in sourcing a



Kjartan Hauksson might have smashed his original boat during his epic journey around Iceland, but it didn't break his spirit

“ The only time we came close to tipping over was when we stopped to drink and get something out of the hull and we inadvertently both leaned to one side... ”



Christian Morvan is seen here winning the race around Belle Isle, which is organised by his brother. Belle Isle is in the Atlantic just off the Quiberon Peninsula in South Brittany near to where the Yole is built – the race around the island is an annual event at the end of June to which all Yole owners are invited.

replacement boat for the remaining 1900km.

The boat needed to be lighter for rowing against the wind to stay offshore and easy for him to pull it ashore single-handedly in remote locations. Yet the boat needed to be big enough to carry all the gear and supplies for two days at a time. Obviously, it needed to be self-bailing, have good surfing characteristics and overall stability. It needed to be unsinkable and easy to repair. Kjartan and Mark decided that the VirusBoats Yole Class in fibreglass fitted the bill.

Weather proved the greatest difficulty but in some areas long shallow shorelines with limited or no possible landing sites were also problematic. Average rowing legs were 15-20 hours covering as many as 100km. Some legs

were up to 30 hours non-stop and up to 140km! Non-stop means rowing without any rest owing to a total lack of options for a safe landing. Often the weather, wind and surf made it necessary to keep rowing in order to prevent being blown ashore in heavy surf. In the most difficult legs Kjartan would have a 2-3 minute food stop every two to three hours. It wasn't all sweat and toil though – there were also days of good weather when Kjartan was able to enjoy the magnificent scenery, whales, seals and bird life.

After 109 days on the water and a total of 550 hours of rowing the voyage finished where it had started in Reykjavik harbour. Kjartan's efforts raised US\$135,000 for the Iceland Handicapped Association. Bravo! ▀

THE YOLE IS...



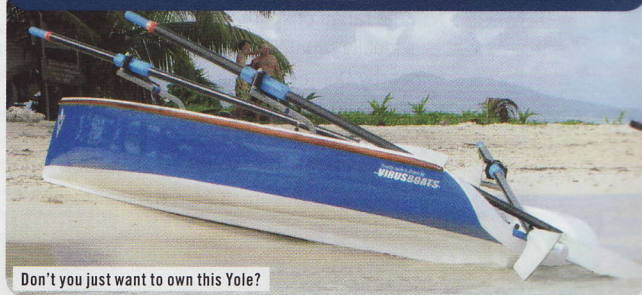
- broad abeam for great stability
- unsinkable
- tough, maintenance-free hull and rigging
- rigged for two rowers
- rigging converts to single rower without tools in less than a minute
- adjustable foot stretchers
- choice of standard 265 or sport 280 aluminium oars
- 100% self-bailing cockpit
- fore and aft carrying handles
- transports by car or trailer
- suitable for use on rivers, lakes, harbours, estuaries or the sea
- ideal for children, adolescents or adults, young or old
- great for competitive racing, promenading, teaching, learning, picnicking, touring, adventure, working out, social rowing,
- communing with nature...

CLUB: Rota-moulded polyethylene hull.

CLASS: Hand laid stratified fibreglass white hull with polyester resin. Wooden rubbing strake.

CUSTOM: As Class but with choice of coloured sides and customised name on the sides.

Length: 4.8m • **Beam:** 1m • **Hull weights:** Club 55kg, Class and Custom 42kg



Don't you just want to own this Yole?