



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Daria Blackwell
Vice Commodore
OCC Press Officer

Skype: Daria.Blackwell
+353 87 954 2514
PR@oceancruisingclub.org

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## OCC Member Bill Hatfield Secures World Sailing Speed Record

**Devon, UK, 16 March 2020** – On Saturday, the 22nd February, [Bill Hatfield](#) became the oldest man to sail around the world solo and non-stop. But Bill is not only the oldest man to circumnavigate the world solo, nonstop and unassisted at age 81, he's now also secured two official records regardless of age, as confirmed by the World Sailing Speed Record (WSSR) Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The [WSSR Council announces](#) the establishment of a new World Record Reference Time:

**Time:** Around the World Westabout. Singlehanded 40ft

**Yacht:** "L'Eau Commotion". Northshore 38. Monohull

**Name:** Bill Hatfield. AUS

**Dates:** 8th June 2019 to the 22nd February 2020

**Start time:** 02; 04; 10 UTC on 08/06/19.

**Finish time:** 00; 28; 19 UTC on 22/02/20

**Elapsed time:** 258 days 22 hours 24 minutes and 9 seconds

**Distance:** 21600 NM

**Average speed:** 3.48 kts

**Comments:**

No previous record – hence this will be listed as an "Initial Benchmark Time"

When asked to confirm that this record is regardless of age, Bill wrote, "Yes it's the first Westabout circumnavigation [solo nonstop] from Australia and the first Westabout circumnavigation from any country [solo nonstop] in a vessel under 40 feet regardless of age."

"I really didn't set out for it to be a big media thing. A few people said I must do a blog and, because I did it every day, I rather selfishly thought if I didn't do it everyday people would take seriously any EPIRB activation and I did get a few alerts when I got closer to land than I should have. The girl in black (see photo) is my daughter, Katherine Ann Lambros with whom I race in National Masters rowing regattas in a double scull, the lady on my right is

Angie Bell MP, Federal Member for Moncrieff and the upraised arm is that of my grandson Constantine Lambros.”

Bill, the Ocean Cruising Club salutes you, your successes, and your endurance and perseverance. The world needs a hero in these trying times, and you’ve ticked many boxes for us. Thanks for giving us a reason to celebrate, albeit virtually.

## About the Ocean Cruising Club



### ***The Worldwide Community for Adventure Sailing Since 1954***

The OCC is the “home port” for those who have sailed long distances across big oceans. With 45 nationalities represented among more than 3100 members, and Port Officers around the world, we have a more diverse membership and a more international reach than any other blue water sailing organisation.

The Ocean Cruising Club exists to encourage long-distance sailing in small boats. A Full Member of the OCC must have completed a qualifying voyage of a non-stop port-to-port ocean passage, where the distance between the two ports is not less than 1,000 nautical miles, in a vessel of not more than 70ft (21.36m) LOA; associate members are committed to achieving that goal. This standard distinguishes the OCC from all other sailing clubs.

Our membership as a whole has more experience offshore than any other sailing organisation – in the number of circumnavigators, in the range of extraordinary voyages members have completed, and in the number of solo sailors and female sailors among our ranks. This is what sets us apart from other organisations, even as it draws us together as a group.

Web: [www.oceancruisingclub.org](http://www.oceancruisingclub.org)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OceanCruisingClub/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/oceancruisingclub/>

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