



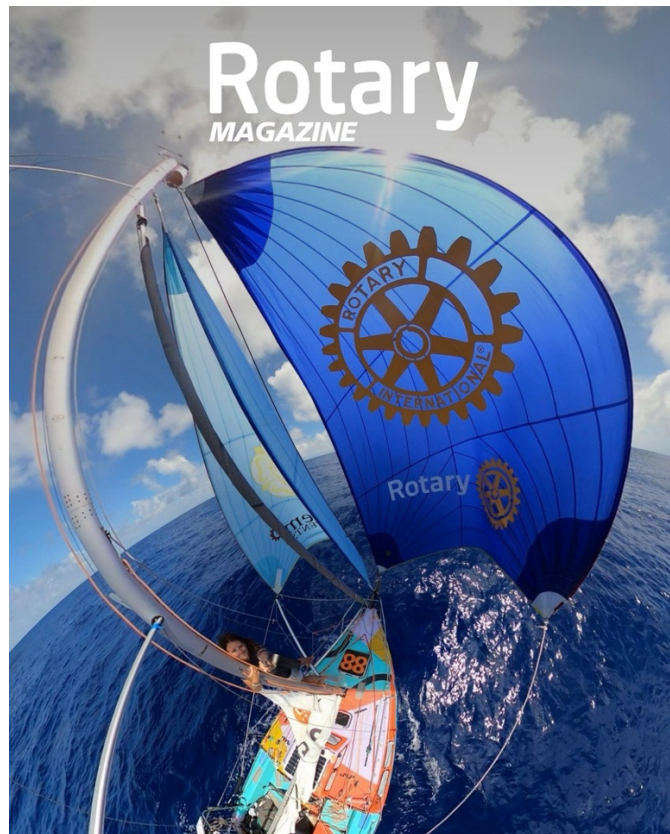
By early evening on Thursday, October 10, under a clear Indian Ocean sky, Jasmine Harrison guided her tiny 19-foot yacht Numbatou into the anchorage off Rodrigues Island, a small volcanic island completing one of the most testing stages yet of the Mini Globe Race.

The 25-year-old Rotarian from Thirsk in North Yorkshire, representing the Rotary Club of Thirsk, has now sailed more than 7,000 miles since leaving Fiji in July.

Her voyage from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which began in the early hours of Tuesday, September 23, took more than two demanding weeks of squalls, isolation and mechanical problems before she reached Rodrigues - to be greeted not by officials, but by fellow Rotarians.

On arrival, members of the Rotary Club de Rodrigues were waiting on the dockside with music, flowers and warm hospitality. "They played music and presented me with flowers," Jasmine wrote. "I've been so warmly welcomed by Rotary members across the world."

"ROTARY SUPPORT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT PRESENCE THROUGHOUT HER ROUND-THE-WORLD CHALLENGE."



Her participation in the Mini Globe Race is partly funded by Rotarians, with local clubs assisting with equipment, logistics and community outreach. "The encouragement from Rotary has been incredible," she said earlier in her voyage. "Everywhere I stop there's a friendly face waiting."

The latest leg from the Cocos Islands across open ocean to Rodrigues, east of Mauritius proved a brutal test of endurance. The journey began with heavy squalls that "sucked all the wind away only to deliver it back with a vengeance 30 seconds later."

The sea state was rough and unpredictable. "It was really tricky to start with," Jasmine admitted, "but then it settled down."

By late September, Jasmine was making steady progress, averaging 120 miles per day. But even calm seas brought challenges.

"I've been heading to bed as it gets dark, at around 6.30 pm, but waking every two hours to check position, sails and conditions," she wrote. "There have been lots of fishing boats, which only seem to appear at night."

October brought new frustrations. After a day becalmed, she faced "a long, long night of constant squalls, zero sleep and freezing cold."

Then disaster struck when the hydrovane self-steering system failed - a small pin sheared inside - forcing her to steer manually through much of the night.

**"SINCE WINNING ROTARY YOUNG CITIZEN
IN 2023, JASMINE HAS RECEIVED AMAZING
SUPPORT FROM THIRSK ROTARY CLUB AND
DISTRICT 1040."**



Jasmine and a large container ship off Rodrigues Island

To make matters worse, her Starlink satellite internet stopped working for 48 hours. "It was difficult not to get up-to-date weather information when the weather was being so unpredictable," she explained. "So near yet so far when you just want to sleep."

Despite the setbacks, Jasmine repaired the steering with spare parts and pressed on, catching up with Australian sailor Eric Marsh, her friendly rival in the race who is sailing his own 19-foot Globe 5.80, Sunbear.

The pair have frequently sailed within sight of each other since the Pacific, encouraging one another through some of the toughest conditions.

Both yachts reached Rodrigues together on the evening of Thursday, October 10, only to find the harbour closed while the fortnightly supply ship docked. Jasmine anchored outside, “so near yet so far,” and finally came ashore the next morning to clear customs.

Her reception captured the spirit of global friendship that has defined her journey.

Members of the Rotary Club de Rodrigues hosted her on arrival, offering food, flowers and fellowship. It was another reminder that she is not sailing alone.



Jasmine presented the Rotary Club de Rodrigues with a pennant from Thirsk Rotary and a mug printed by one of her sponsors, Ember Designs UK

The Rotarians invited Jasmine to a meal and presented her with gifts such as special handicrafts and eggs, fruit and vegetables. Jasmine presented the Rotary Club de Rodrigues with a pennant from Thirsk Rotary and a mug printed by one of her sponsors, Ember Designs UK.

This was just typical of the warm reaction Jasmine has received on her near year-long voyage, in every port she has called into and via social media.

Across oceans, Rotarians from every continent have followed her progress, offering encouragement and logistical support as she continues her solo circumnavigation.

Since winning Rotary Young Citizen in 2023, Jasmine has received amazing support from Thirsk Rotary Club and District 1040 (Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire) who have promoted, fundraised and supported her. In particular, 2024/25 District Governor, Richard Greenwood and his wife Trisha, who have personally donated significant funds in the name of Rotary in order to purchase the Rotary sail and other vital equipment.

With Numbatou safely moored and a local B&B offering a real bed for the first time in weeks, Jasmine could finally rest. The Rodrigues pit stop was brief as she then sailed 600 nautical miles to Mauritius, where the Mini Globe Race fleet regrouped for a mass start at the end of the October.

Jasmine sailed out of Rodrigues Island on October 16 for the three-day voyage to Mauritius with papaya for breakfast, and potatoes and eggs for tea, arriving in Port Louis at 3.30am on October 19 to officially complete leg 3 having sailed 18,663 miles since leaving Lagos, Portugal on December 27 last year. There she was met by a representative of the Rotary Club of Mauritius who took her for lunch.



**“THE RACE ORGANISERS ESTIMATE
ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA IN EARLY
DECEMBER 2025, DEPENDING ON
CONDITIONS.”**

In Mauritius, Jasmine was based at Grand-Baie, 10 miles up the coast from Port Louise to rest, repair and provision for the next journey which race organisers describe as “the most challenging section of the entire event” – the crossing from Mauritius to South Africa.

The upcoming leg will stretch roughly 2,500 nautical miles: about 1,500 nautical miles from Mauritius to Durban, followed by a further 1,000 nautical miles from Durban to Cape Town.

It will be a passage dominated by unpredictable weather, heavy seas and strong ocean currents. The route takes sailors into the turbulent waters of the Agulhas Current, which flows south-west along the east African coast, creating a formidable barrier for small boats heading westward.

The online sailing website Sail-World, reporting on the previous leg of the Mini Globe Race, described this section starkly: “Sailing from Mauritius to Cape Town is by far the most challenging section ... where survival will take precedence over racing on many occasions.”

Jasmine will have to thread a narrow course between the hostile weather systems of the Southern Ocean and the powerful counter-currents of the Indian Ocean. Large waves, low-pressure fronts, and the risk of rogue seas are ever-present hazards. Equipment failure, fatigue and isolation will again test both sailor and boat to their limits.

The race organisers estimate arrival in South Africa in early December 2025, depending on conditions. For Jasmine, that will mean spending another month at sea - much of it in cold, relentless weather - before reaching the shelter of Cape Town and the next major pit stop.

From there, the Mini Globe Race will continue across the Atlantic via St Helena and Recife before returning to Antigua, completing the 27,000-mile circumnavigation. But for now, the focus is on the next horizon.