

Chris Jackson and Sixpence

<https://my.yb.tl/SixpenceJester2018>

1st June 2018

It is with regret that Chris is bowing out of the Jester 2018 challenge to Newport Rhode Island. At 41°13.15N, 42° 17.65W on Wednesday evening (30th), he was planning to set a GPS course for Flores in The Azores. His decision has been made due to a combination of difficulties brought to a sudden head by several knockdowns during a storm in heavy seas with severe squalls. The second of these knockdowns tore off the sprayhood, fixings and one (of 2 main) attached solar panels, which are all beyond repair. The second main solar panel fixed to the deck was also damaged and is beyond repair at sea. This has meant that charging the batteries and instruments without the engine is impossible, as the third panel is not sufficient on its own. This is all on top of the fact that the 2 house batteries, which have caused problems from quite early on, are holding less and less charge each day. So without the capability to charge batteries via the solar panels, Chris is having to charge them and equipment 3 times a day via the engine – and he has insufficient fuel to charge the batteries, navigation equipment, lights and safety gear all the way to Newport.

Last night he felt he was four days from Flores. This is where he is ultimately heading to start the process of repairs.