global challenge
News from Team Britannia

THE FOURTH AWAKENS!

Team Britannia at the London Yacht, Jet and Prestige Car Show. Photo: Chris Davies

A long time ago in a boatyard far, far away... Well, actually, not that long, or indeed, that far. For Team Britannia, May 4th was all about showing a sizeable presence at the London Yacht, Jet and Prestige Car Show, where the shiniest, fastest, and most glamorous cars, boats and planes were showcased in London's historic Old Billingsgate Market and St Katharine Docks.

The First Order

The First Order of the day was the news that with funding secured, we've finally started to build our round-the-world superboat. Having said that, there are still sponsorship opportunities available - one of the reasons we were there - and we certainly came away with more impressive leads than you could shake a light sabre at.

Meantime, it's all systems go to get the boat in the water by August, and run sea trials before we commence the circumnavigation record attempt from Gibraltar on 23rd October. At which point, not even Lord Vader himself is going to stop us from breaking the record!

Clive Tully

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Tantalising

ABC Marine, the Hayling Island-based boatyard building our superboat, are more used to constructing vessels somewhat shorter than ours.

Which explains the temporary extension which they're putting up on one end of their main shed. It'll be ready for action by the time all our aluminium is laser cut later this month, and delivered to them to start welding together. We won't be publishing any pictures of the boat during the construction process, although we may release one or two teasers just to keep you tantalised.

After consultations between Team Britannia skipper Alan Priddy, ABC Marine and boat designer Professor Bob Cripps, they've agreed a plan of action which will see hull and wheelhouse built simultaneously rather than the original intention of consecutively, which helps to keep to our tight timeline.

"Back in World War Two, frigates used to be turned out at the rate of one every 30 days," says Alan Priddy. "Everyone seems to think we can't build a boat in three months, but it comes down to organisation, and a question of attitude. We know we can do it."

Endeavour Crew

We've been pretty bowled over to receive support from the Royal Foundation's Endeavour Fund. This is a charity set up by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with Prince Harry, supporting injured ex-servicemen and women.

You might think that people who've suffered life-changing injuries would withdraw into their shells, but if anything it seems to boost their resolve to set their own personal mark of achievement that bit higher. Which explains why Team Britannia crew member Stuart Croxford races in the ThunderCat powerboat racing series, while John Sandford-Hart holds the Guinness World Record for the fastest London Marathon on crutches!

Stuart's specialist training company Team Endeavour Racing has put together an extensive programme to help with the selection of wounded ex-military crew members who will be joining us on board during the circumnavigation record attempt. They will set individual records for their respective legs of the round-the-world voyage, and be expected to play a full role as crew members. We're not carrying any passengers!

The Endeavour Fund uses sport and adventurous challenges to help wounded and sick servicemen and women in their recovery and rehabilitation. Team Britannia is proud to help in this process for the select few that join us, as well as highlighting the extraordinary work of the Endeavour Fund.

ROYALFOUNDATION.COM

ENDEAVOUR FUND

Clean Fuel

When Alan Priddy and Steve Mason started work on Clean Fuel Ltd last year, it was in reaction to a situation we had with a former sponsor - a potential "Plan B."

Since then, development has very much taken on a life of its own, first proving the principle that you can mix water with diesel to make it burn more cleanly, and then to come up with a way to allow you to do it simply without any expensive engine modifications.

Team Britannia will be showcasing Clean Fuel during the world record circumnavigation, not just to clean up our engine exhaust, but to extend our range. Just how much further we'll get out of our 36,000 litre fuel tank is yet to be established - our sea trials will be as much about gathering the data for this as proving the boat and crew.

Clean Fuel Ltd ad in a recent issue of Yacht Investor magazine.

Sent: Tuesday, 26 April 2016 11:13
To: alan@circumnavigationrecord.com
Subject: Congrats

Hi Alan,

The news just popped up that you have the money and the race for the round the world record is on.

Just wanted to wish you well on the project and congratulate you on pulling it together.

Fair winds and good fuel.

Cheers Pete

Pete Goss MBE
Email - pete@petegoss.com
www.petegoss.com

Ever since we announced we'd given the green light to begin building the boat, we've had messages of congratulation and support from all over.

But this one from Pete Goss MBE was particularly gratifying. Pete risked his life and gave up his lead position in the Vendée Globe round the world yacht race in 1996/7 to rescue fellow competitor Raphael Dinelli, for which he was awarded the BT Yachting Journalists' Association's prestigious Yachtsman of the Year Award.

Alan Priddy was nominated for the same award (coming runner-up), for his 1997 transatlantic in the RIB Spirit of Portsmouth, and since then, Alan and Pete have remained in touch with each other.

We're still in the early stages of planning, but the week before we set off from Gibraltar in October is going to have lots going on with a maritime theme, and that's apart from "open days" when members of the public and press will be able to view the boat.

There will be a staffed press centre in the Ocean Village complex for the duration of the voyage, too. So for Team Britannia, Gibraltar isn't just a convenient place along the route for us to start and finish the race - it's very much our base of operations.

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