team BRITANNIA

global challenge

British from Start to Finish

# Admiral's ramblings

**Dear all. 2017 was a year of extremely hard work by everyone in Team Britannia, and there were times when I didn't think we had got anywhere. But in the closing stages of the year it went absolutely ballistic, with confirmation that the boat will be afloat around late spring, followed by extensive sea trials and systems set-ups. The boat is not only revolutionary, but everything inside it has to be taught to talk to one another and not fall out at any time!**

## Dedicated management

We have set up a dedicated management programme, so everyone knows what their job is, and what they have to do. A very special mention has to go to everyone at the Aluminium Boatbuilding Company, who have been brilliant with us at all times. I have a strong feeling we may have to buy a lot of extra beer when Excalibur is launched!!!

**Alan Priddy**

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# DR PRIDDY

**The award, Doctor of Science (honoris causa), was presented to Alan by the University of Portsmouth at a spectacular graduation ceremony in Portsmouth's Guildhall, overseen by TV's Sandi Toksvig – the Chancellor of the University.**

Speaking at the ceremony, Professor Mike Tipton praised Alan as a local boy who has "done good," and that just reeling off his achievements was "far from the whole story."

"I am deeply, deeply honoured and touched by this award," replied Alan. "The University is an important part of our City and preparing young people for the future - so when I first got the letter telling me that I had been proposed to become a doctor, I thought it was a mistake. After all the only test I have ever passed was my driving test! I was pleased to be able to share it with so many young people who have their whole future and careers in front of them."

# THE ROWING MARINE

**Just 11 months after losing his right leg in a freak motorway accident, former Royal Marine Lee Spencer joined the Row2Recovery crew - a team of four injured military veterans with just three legs between them - to row across the Atlantic. He wanted to prove he wouldn't be defined by his disability, but ultimately it was a journey of rediscovery. His circumstances might have changed, but he hadn't!**

Needless to say we were delighted when Lee joined Team Britannia as one the Blesma-sponsored veterans. He has done amazing things raising funds for the Royal Marines Charity, and last year was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary International's top honour - highly unusual for a non-member.

Having rowed the Atlantic once, Lee decided to have another go, this time rowing solo from Gibraltar to Venezuela in a double Guinness World Record attempt. He would be the first disabled person to row the Atlantic solo, and he would also attempt to break the current able-bodied record for a solo row from the European mainland to South America. Having done all the training and made all the preparations, Lee was just days from setting off in January when he had to postpone his departure following a family bereavement.

In any other endeavour, you might expect to come back to it in a couple of months, but the situation is somewhat complicated by the narrow window in which a human-powered vessel can travel through the Strait of Gibraltar from east to west, where the current is predominantly flowing from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean. So Lee has rescheduled his attempt for 2019. Meanwhile there's the small matter of a powerboat voyage around the world...

*Blesma crew members Jez Scarratt (L) and Lee Spencer (R) at Gibraltar's monument to the Royal Marines in Ocean Village.*
*Photo: Chris Davies*

*Photo: Rama*

**Mixing water with diesel might sound like the recipe for seized cylinders, but do it right, and you have the means to cut pollution dramatically. Particulate Matter (known as PM) and various Nitrous Oxides are the stuff of smog in every major city throughout the world, and governments are aware that this pollution is responsible for thousands of chronic illnesses and premature deaths every year.**

Banning diesel vehicles is one drastic solution, but the problem could be solved instantly if they were all burning the water in diesel mix of Clean Fuel's HydroDiesel. It all comes down to an emulsifying agent which is combined with the water and diesel in a patented mixing process.

We'll be showcasing the benefits of HydroDiesel by mixing it for use as we go. Water will come from our reverse osmosis watermaker - standard issue on many ships and boats to create potable water from seawater. The Clean Fuel emulsion, water and diesel are piped into the mixing unit - about the same size as a small sewing machine - and the resultant blend pumped into a small holding tank ready to feed the two Fiat Power Train engines. Mixing on the fly gives us the maximum range possible from each 30,000 litres fill of fuel. Data will be fed to Team Britannia's website so people can track fuel usage, engine temperatures and lots more, which we hope will be of interest to scientists and techno-geeks alike.

The last few months have seen Clean Fuel awarded a contract working with leading designers developing a fleet of 21st century clean water-taxis to operate in Venice, and a partnership with Maktec Marine to distribute HydroDiesel. Clean Fuel will also have a presence at the Institution of Diesel and Gas Turbine Engineers annual seminar in early May, a flagship event which attracts around 300 key industry personnel.

# TV Adventure star visits Team Britannia

*Bear Grylls with Alan Priddy and Team Britannia members at ABC Marine. Photos: Johnny Black*

**When renowned TV adventurer Bear Grylls paid a visit to Team Britannia's round the world record-attempting powerboat, under construction at ABC Marine on Hayling Island, it was a nice boost for the project, making a story in the Portsmouth News. It was quite a coup, too, for Team Britannia's PR director's young son Edward. He managed to land a Cubs' communication badge when he interviewed the Chief Scout on a wide variety of topics.**

Team Britannia skipper Alan Priddy had remained in touch with Bear ever since 2003, when Alan, Jan Falkowski and Clive Tully made a northern crossing of the Atlantic in the round the world RIB Spirit of Cardiff, just ahead of Bear's own attempt via a similar route in an open RIB. Spirit's crossing was quite a bit quicker (we set the unofficial record for a fastest transatlantic by RIB). But to be fair, we had a cabin and Bear didn't, and that does make a big difference. And of course it wasn't us that went on to make TV survival programmes which included the US President!

Needless to say we were delighted to welcome Bear to the boatyard, where apart from seeing the boat, he got to meet some of the injured veterans who will form part

of the crew. He was also extremely interested in all of the project's environmental angles, which include the fuel-saving hull design, the pollution-busting Clean Fuel, and our plan to monitor suspended plastic content in the sea throughout the circumnavigation.

# OCEAN PLASTIC

**Notwithstanding any more solid debris which might justify the elaborate system of crash bulkheads in Excalibur's hull, we plan on taking hourly samples of seawater throughout the voyage, and testing them for suspended plastics as we go.**

We know the problem of plastics pollution isn't confined to the north Pacific, and together with experts at the University of Portsmouth, we've devised an onboard testing programme.

We hope to have the data updating on the website, which should prove even more interesting in the light of recent research which shows that a more insidious threat comes from the tiny microfibres shed into the water when we wash fleece jackets and other synthetic fabric garments. Proven to be even more toxic than the microbeads used in some cosmetics (now phasing out as governments ban them and many companies voluntarily drop them), these microfibres are ingested by fish, poisoning the food chain.

With parts of our route around the world well away from regular shipping

*The visible sign of plastic pollution in the oceans - garbage on a beach in Malaysia. Photo: epSos.de*

lanes, we're hoping to add to the volume of scientific data with sampling from areas that won't have been covered before.

## Follow us

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# MAKTEC DOUBLE

**Yorkshire-based Maktec Marine is partnering with Clean Fuel Ltd to distribute their pollution-busting HydroDiesel, and with Team Britannia to provide sponsorship and technical support for Excalibur's engine fuel and oil performance.**

"Maktec has developed its engine expertise working on all kinds of vessels and engines around the world over the last 20 years," says Maktec's Technical Director Mark Cornforth. "We are absolutely delighted to be chosen as technical engine support and fuel oil performance advisers for this incredible record attempt, and longer term as the distributor of HydroDiesel. The challenge reflects Maktec's passion to make engines greener, less harmful and more energy efficient."

Maktec's branding will be displayed on the lifejackets worn by Excalibur's crew.

*Alan Priddy (L) with Maktec Marine's Technical Director Mark Cornforth (R) with Excalibur under construction Photo: Maktec Marine*

# Peer-to-peer lenders help launch Excalibur

**The term "peer-to-peer" usually comes up these days in the context of the techy networking end of computing. Not so many might realise that it also appears in the financial world as peer-to-peer lending.**

It's based on the principles of pawnbroking, where someone borrows money, offering personal assets as security - in fact, the way Lombard banking started in Italy in the Middle Ages. What makes it different today is the way those who want to lend money (ie invest) are connected up with those who want to borrow, and that's what makes Team Britannia's business association with FundingSecure such an attractive proposition.

For investors, potential loans are posted up on FundingSecure's platform rather like you might see on a crowd-funding page, with a target amount, so lenders can choose how much they put in. Interest rates will vary depending on the risk, but ultimately they see what's being offered as collateral, and FundingSecure's part includes doing background checks on the borrowers. Interestingly, if you follow the link below, you'll see Team Britannia's Excalibur as one of the current investment opportunities.

FundingSecure
PEER-TO-PEER ASSET BASED LOANS

Of course, no investment is without risk, but in Team Britannia's case, there's an extra layer of security which doesn't appear in the prospectus - we don't ever give up! Throughout the years the project has been running, including building a previous boat which ended up being scrapped following an arson attack, we've dusted ourselves off after numerous setbacks and got back on with the job.

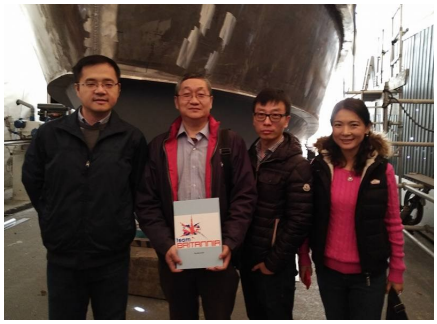
And with a boat that's now close to being finished, that last little push will see Excalibur in the water, and Team Britannia ready to take on the world.

www.fundingsecure.com/invest-with-us

# CHINESE PRESS VISIT EXCALIBUR

**While the Hayling Island boatyard building Excalibur has seen a succession of high-profile visitors, the recent media visit by a group of Chinese journalists had an immediate and profound effect.**

Alan Priddy had given the party a tour of Portsmouth's naval heritage, then whisked them over to ABC Marine to see



*The visiting journalists were impressed with the high-tech boat.*

the boat. "Aren't you a bit old to be taking on something like this," asked one of the journalists, probably half Priddy's age. He modified his view when Alan challenged him to an arm wrestling contest, and beat him - twice!

Days later, coverage in the Chinese media went ballistic. One of the stories, syndicated through the national news agency Xinhua, appeared in numerous print and online publications. In that one week, 37 features about Team Britannia were assessed by independent media monitoring service Meltwater to have attained a reach of nearly 40 million!

# GAC UK steps up support

*GAC UK Cruise Manager Fergus Poole (R) with Alan Priddy (L).*

**Logistics experts GAC UK will now be supporting Team Britannia's 80ft powerboat and its 12-strong crew with their environmental programme and land-based activities, as well as the bunkering and storage services they originally signed up to provide last year.**

"As Official Logistics Provider of the Volvo Ocean Race and a keen supporter of the UN Environment's #cleanseas initiative, GAC UK is looking forward to supporting Team Britannia's environmental programme to raise awareness of the damage caused to the world's oceans by plastics," says GAC's Cruise Manager Fergus Poole. "The scale of this problem is huge, with estimates suggesting nearly 13 million tons of plastic are entering the sea every year. That's equivalent to a rubbish truck full of plastic being emptied every second. By 2050, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish."

When it comes to the logistics of getting boat and crew in and out of each refuelling stop as quickly as possible, it's about ensuring the GAC support team is on the ball to guarantee that every aspect of in-port operations runs without a hitch, and as tight as a Formula 1 pit stop. In that respect, Team Britannia's record bid is as much about showcasing their own operations.

"We'll be under immense pressure," says Fergus Poole. "How well we play our part will substantially increase or destroy Alan's chances. We're very well experienced in time critical services, but it's fair to say this is the first time a world record has been dependent on us!"

## Like us

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