

November 2018

Record-breaking ex-Royal Marines deliver a lesson in facing adversity at Patron Greatness Lecture

Patron Capital, the pan-European institutional investor focused on property-backed investments, welcomed Steve Sparkes, a blind former Royal Marine and Falklands War veteran, and Mick Dawson, a fellow ex-Royal Marine, to the latest Greatness Lecture, fresh from their record-breaking row across the Pacific.

Named team Cockleshell Endeavour and sponsored by Patron Capital, Steve became the first blind person to row the Pacific together with Mick, spending 82 days rowing the 2,400 miles from Monterey, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii. Prompted by the inadequate support by official routes for Royal Marines struggling with PTSD, injury rehabilitation and mental health following service, the duo raised £13,378.30 so far.

Steve and Mick shared their experience of crewing *Bojangles*, a carbon fibre boat just under 22ft long, and how they overcame not only the physical challenges of freezing weather conditions, rowing through a hurricane and being thrown overboard, but also the personal obstacles they had to confront, from sacrificing hot food in order to have the gas needed to make a cup of tea, to having oars too short for the journey and being caught in a current and having 20 miles of hard endeavour undone.

Not only were Steve and Mick the only duo to complete the race, with the other teams having three and four participants respectively, but they were also third to complete the race, which started with five boats; two of the teams dropped out, one of them due to hypothermia, and the other due to exhaustion. The record-breaking feat was to raise money for Blind Veterans UK and the Royal Marines Charity.

Keith Breslauer, Managing Director of Patron Capital, said:

“What Steve and Mick have accomplished is truly extraordinary, and their enduring humility, humour and commitment to guiding others through adversity epitomises the Greatness series. Rowing the Pacific is a significant challenge for anyone, illustrated by the fact that two crews didn’t make the start line and a further two were forced to retire, but to take this on without the same physical faculties, or even equipment it would turn out, is a testament to the ambition and strength of will of these two men. At Patron, we are honoured to have played a role in their feat.”

Those who would like to donate can do so by visiting www.cockleshell-pacific.com.

The Patron Greatness Lectures are a series of talks from inspirational individuals. They are not part of a fundraising exercise; instead, they are intended to motivate, educate, inspire and enrich for the Patron team, its friends and partners.

Each evening consists of an early evening talk followed by a Q&A session and an opportunity for informal conversation over drinks and light refreshments. For more information about The Greatness Lectures, e-mail Denise Goodwin on denise@patroncapital.com.

As part of its fundraising work with the Royal Marines Charity, Patron will also once again be hosting the Royal Marines Commando Dinner on 20 November 2018 at The Guildhall in London. For more information or to book tickets contact denise@patroncapital.com.

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Notes to Editors

About Patron Capital Partners

Patron represents approximately €3.4 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments, investing in property, corporate operating entities whose value is primarily supported by property assets and distressed debt and credit related businesses.

Since it was established in 1999, Patron has invested in over 71 investments and programs involving over 65 million square feet (6 million square metres) in 16 countries, with many of these investments realised.

Investors represent a variety of sovereign wealth funds, prominent universities, major institutions, private foundations, and high net worth individuals located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The main investment adviser to the Funds is Patron Capital Advisers LLP, which is based in London, and Patron has other offices across Europe including Barcelona, Milan and Luxembourg; the group is comprised of 74 people, including a 41-person investment team.

Further information about Patron Capital is available at www.patroncapital.com



