



September 2018

## **Patron-sponsored boat completes record-breaking challenge as ex-Royal Marine becomes first blind person to row across the Pacific**

A boat sponsored by Patron Capital and rowed by Steve Sparkes, a blind former Royal Marine and Falklands War veteran, and Mick Dawson, a fellow ex-Royal Marine, has arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, finishing a gruelling 2,400-mile rowing race, which started in Monterey, California, back in June.

Named team Cockleshell Endeavour, after one of the Royal Marines most daring and famous Kayak-based raids during World War II, Steve and Mick were 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. Steve and Mick were also the only duo to complete the race, with the other teams having three and four participants respectively.

Crewing Bojangles, a carbon fibre boat just under 22ft long, Steve and Mick endured freezing conditions and Hurricane Lane, while Steve managed to survive being thrown overboard.

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:**

*"Overcoming adversity, setting ambitious goals and pushing to achieve more are key themes of the charitable work we look to support. Steve Sparkes and Mick Dawson have certainly done all of these and we were pleased to sponsor them, continuing our ongoing support of those who have served in the Armed Forces. Their mission particularly resonated with me on a personal level as, like Steve, my father also struggled with his sight."*

*"Having taken part in a recreation of the Cockleshell Endeavour last December, I can perhaps understand more than most how intense rowing endurance challenges can be, but the idea of being at sea during a hurricane and also being blind is truly terrifying. Steve and Mick are an inspiration and we congratulate them on this incredible feat."*

Those who would like to donate can do so by visiting [www.cockleshell-pacific.com](http://www.cockleshell-pacific.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](mailto: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](http://www.patroncapital.com)





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