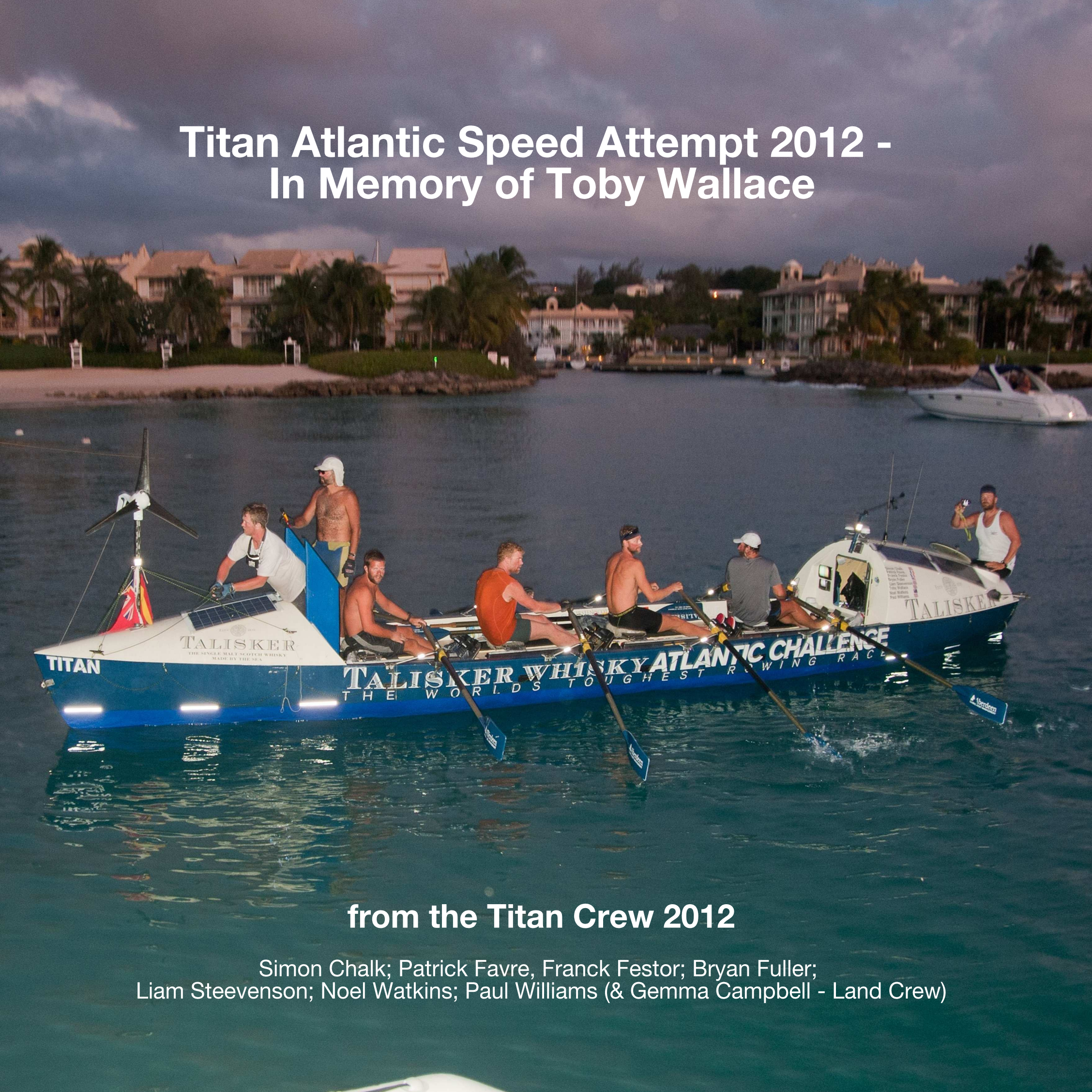
Titan Atlantic Speed Attempt 2012 - In Memory of Toby Wallace



from the Titan Crew 2012

Simon Chalk; Patrick Favre, Franck Festor; Bryan Fuller;
Liam Steevenson; Noel Watkins; Paul Williams (& Gemma Campbell - Land Crew)

Titan Atlantic Speed Attempt 2012:

TITAN is the latest light-weight 8 man ocean rowing boat constructed by Woodvale. She has been designed to go after and break the "4 minute mile of ocean rowing" and achieve the **ATLANTIC SPEED RECORD CROSSING** in under 30 days.

Leaving from Gran Canaria on 26 February 2012 at 0659 GMT, the international crew of 8 men rowed to Barbados with the current record of 32 days to chase.

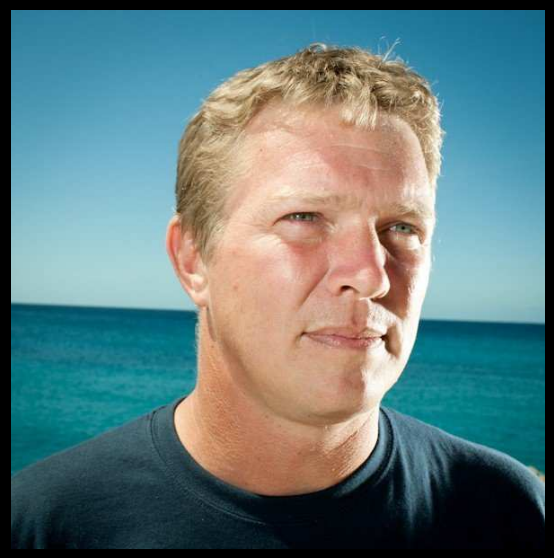
Skippered by Simon Chalk (UK), with seven crew:
Patrick Favre (France)
Franck Festor (France)
Bryan Fuller (USA)
Liam Steevenson (UK)
Toby Wallace (UK)
Noel Watkins (New Zealand)
Paul Williams (UK)

The crew of Titan touched the cement works jetty just outside Port St Charles, Barbados at 1732 local time (2232 GMT) on 31 March 2012 to take a final finishing time of **34 days, 15 hours and 31 minutes**!

Written in memory of Toby Wallace
1977 - 2013
(Titan 2012 "secret weapon")

Put together with much respect, admiration and love for Toby Wallace,
from all of the Titan Crew 2012 & Gemma Campbell (land crew)

Titan crew



Simon Chalk
Titan Skipper
Age 39
British

Based in Devon, UK

Patrick Favre

Age 45
French

Based in Paris, France

Franck Festor

Age 41
French

Based in Metz, France

Bryan Fuller

Age 42
American

Based in Boston, USA

Liam Steevenson

Age 36
British

Based in Kingsbridge, UK

Toby Wallace

Age 35
British

Based in Philadelphia, USA

Noel Watkins

Age 46
New Zealander

Based in South of France

Paul Williams

Age44
British

Based in Gloucestershire, UK

The First Crew Meeting - December 2011

When Toby Wallace filled in his Titan crew application in September 2011, he didn't mention his height and nor did he mention it in subsequent telephone interviews or Skype chats (he was sat down obviously!). So imagine our **SURPRISE** when we met Toby in a cold, wet Devon in late December 2011 at our boat workshop in Totnes, Devon.

As you can see, he stood out head and shoulders above the rest of the crew at 6'7"! Unassuming and quiet, Toby helped out on the boat, getting stuck into jobs along with the rest of the crew.....

Pictured (from l to r): Noel Watkins; Patrick Favre, Simon Chalk, Paul Williams, Bryan Fuller, Liam Steevenson & Toby Wallace.

47

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6

6

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What I can say is I will remember all my life Toby's power and regularity during these 34 days. We were in the same watch and I could see him row. It was very impressive. When he was stopping to row for a small pause, we could feel how powerful he was. There was a great difference for the rest of us when he was rowing or not. Fortunately his pauses were very short !

Patrick Favre

Launching the boat on the River Dart, Totnes

Launching the boat - Simon decides to put Toby straight to the test and gets him in the boat immediately to help row her upstream to a pontoon. As a result, Toby and Patrick get to be the very first rowers to row Titan **EVER**!

With everything Toby did, he approached it with quiet optimism and humour.....no pressure, don't break the boat on her maiden voyage!

TITAN

TITAN

TALISKER
ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

All the crew aboard, an afternoon
rowing on the River Dart is set.
Departure port: Totnes.
Destination port: Dartmouth.

What could possibly go wrong?

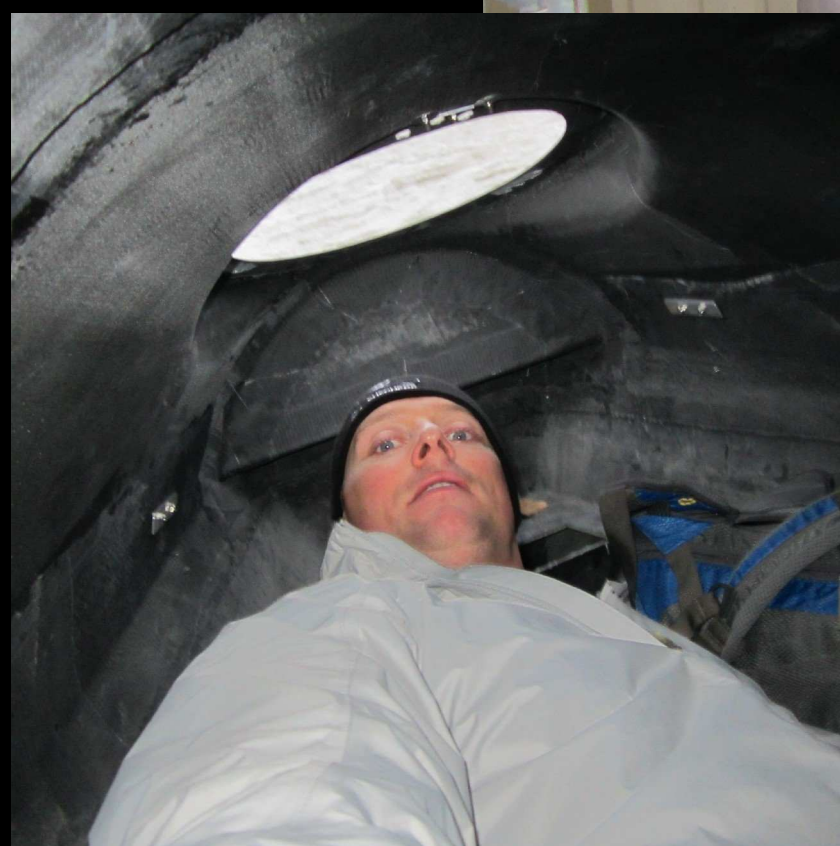
SEA SHEPHERD

TALISKER
TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

The crew reached Dartmouth as it was getting dark.....oh yes, and due to wind, rain and misjudgment on the river bends, they managed to bend the *unbendable* titanium rudder, got stuck in the mud and needed a tow out of trouble!

They all got to have a row and try out the cabin and coffin berths though. Just a normal day on the river then!

SEA SHEPHERD



www.CelebrityRow.co.uk

Downtime.....ocean rowing style

It was all worth it for the dinner that evening & lunch the next day though.....in the local pubs!!

Liam Steevenson

I rowed across The Atlantic in 2012 with Toby Wallace, a trip which was a life ambition for many of us, and one that bonded 8 people together. Toby apart, we were not athletes, a couple of us had dared to cross an ocean before, but none of us had spent a lifetime training. Toby was a mountain of a man, naturally gifted to pull an oar, personally driven to perfect it. I was daunted on first meeting, it felt wrong that I should even share a boat with him, wrong for his dreams to be affected by seven others that were still learning to drive a boat powerfully forward.

We spent 34 days rowing from Gran Canaria to Barbados, on a 'boys own' trip that challenged all of us mentally and physically. During that time we got to know each other, in a way that everyday life does not normally permit. In Toby everyone of us made a friend. His drive, determination and will made him the heart-beat of the boat, the tempo around which we all found a rhythm. He was the motor, the boats strength; the boat moved better and faster every time he applied his weight to the oars. He was majestic to watch, and inspirational to try and emulate.

It will not be Toby's rowing however that I, or I am sure the other members of the Titan crew will miss. It was the person. He crossed that huge expanse of water with a smile on his face. He was alive outdoors, taking on the elements, embracing the tough times and much as he enjoyed the good. All of us broke at times, cracked for one reason or another. But from Toby, not once do I remember a grumble, a note of aggravation. The man who wanted to break the world record so much took us so close, and then if he felt any disappointment as the possibility slipped away; powered on, still smiling, still praising others, still giving.

Toby was 'good' in every way. He had a sense of purpose and morality that I will never forget. In life you meet many people who set standards that you would like to achieve yourself. Toby will inspire for a long time to come with his athletic achievements. For those of us lucky enough to spend time with the man, we will remember him for more than that. He made you want to be a better person. He was a beautiful man, that achieved so much, with such grace and positivity. The crew of Titan may not have broken a world record but we spent time with a truly incredible person, and I for one will always be thankful for that.

Next stop for
the Titan crew:
Gran Canaria

February 2012.

The Titan crew meet the 8th member - Franck - and get stuck into getting the boat prepped, packed and ready to be launched.

Titan Row
2012

Hurley

Aberdeen

ESTD 1830
ISKER
NTIC CHALL
ROWING

Aberdeen
TALISKER
YACHT LIFELINE
DAKINE
Gill

Toby got given the un-enviable job of putting the foam matting into the cabin. As you can see, he got on with it and didn't do ANY showing off at all ! The smell of the glue spray might have gone to his head.....

Hurley

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
EST ROWING

Gill
TitanRow.com

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GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

TitanRow.com

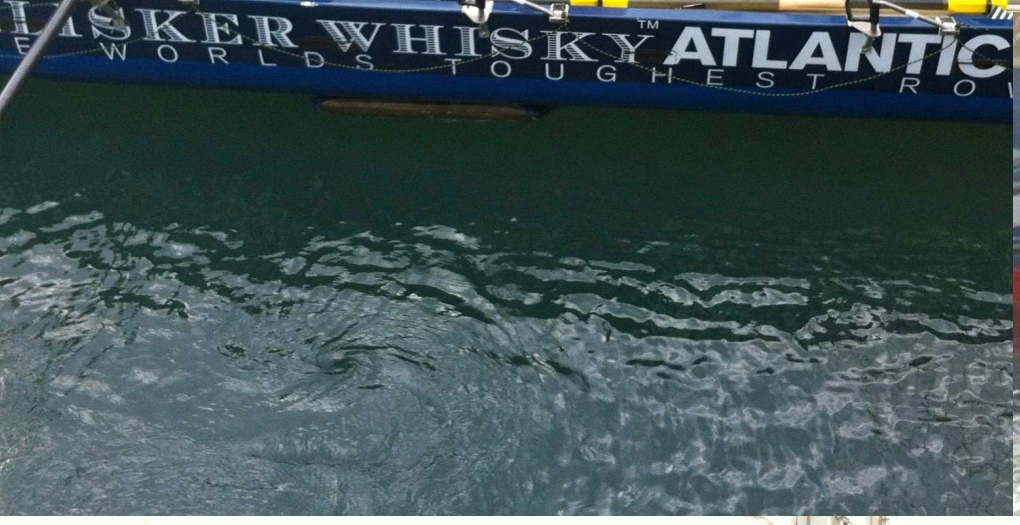
Titan Row
2012
Ardeer

TitanRow.com
TitanRow.com

Toby was super keen to help out with the boat launch in Gran Canaria

TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC
WORLDS TOUGHEST

TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE



TALISKER
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THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE
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ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
ROWING RACE

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TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE
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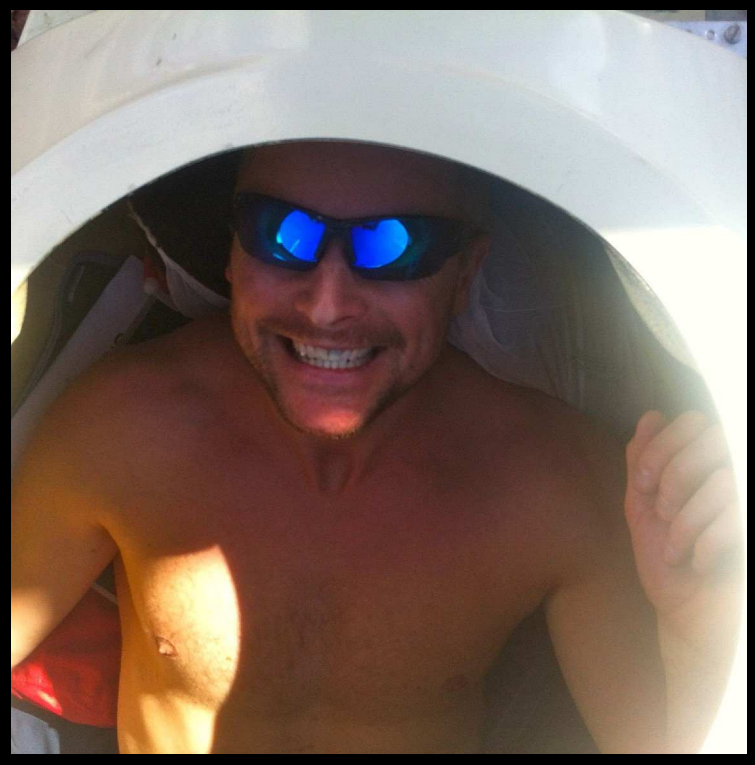
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams
TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE
TALISKER
ESTD 1830

TITAN

Downtime in Gran Canaria

Simon Chalk
Patrick Favre
Bryan Fuller
Liam Steevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams
TALISK

TALISKER
Aberdeen



Aberdeen

Simon Chalk
Patrick Favre
Bryan Fuller
Liam Steevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams
ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
TALISK

Aberdeen

Toby and Bryan spent **DAYS** preparing the food for the boat - and then packing it!

MANLY
TYR

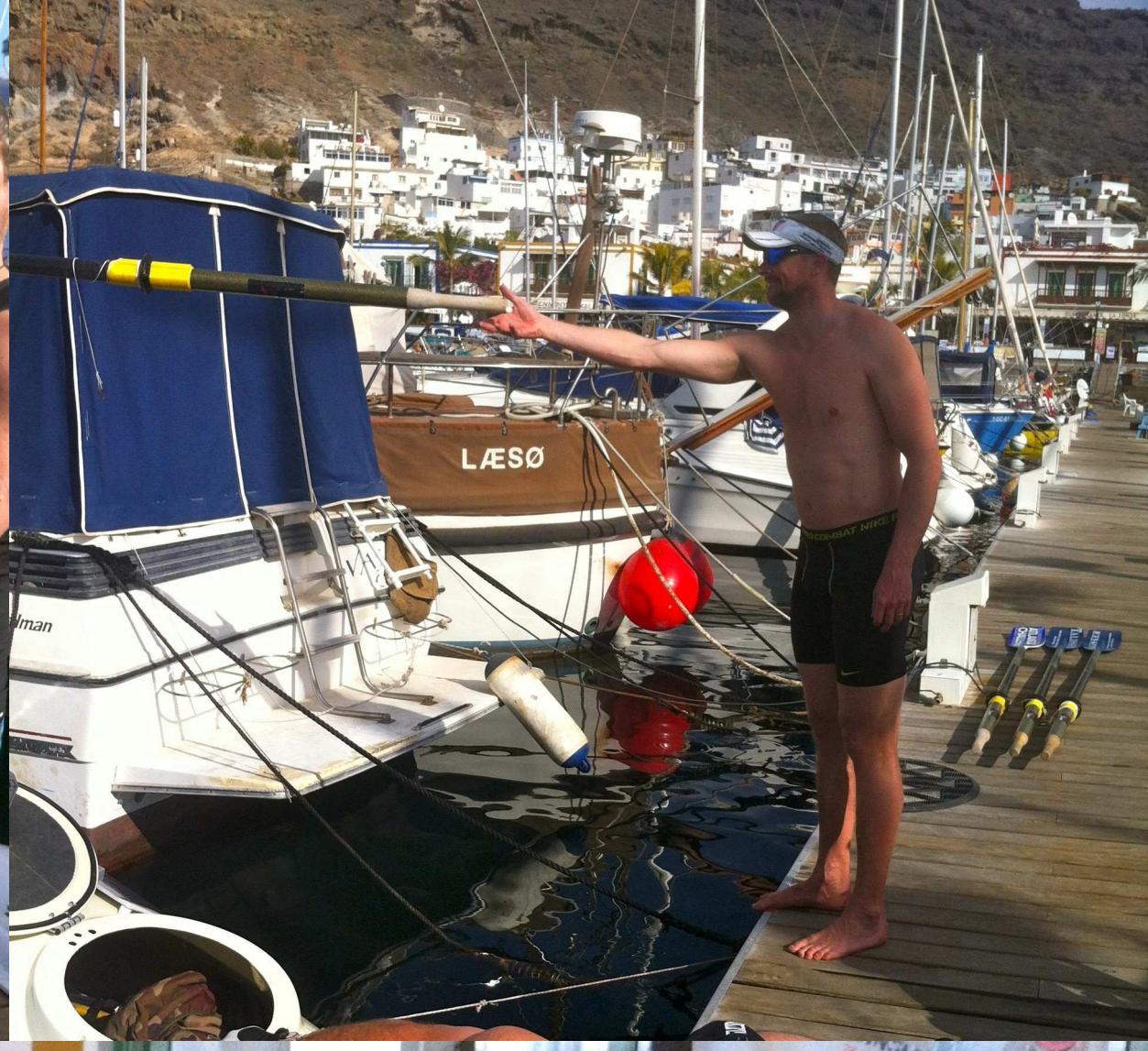
TALISKER
Simon Chick
Patrick Fenn
Bryan Fuller
Jim Stevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Williams
Paul Williams

Aberdeen

TALISKER
Aberdeen

Noel Watkins:

"It's hard to remember in all my travels meeting a nicer human being than Toby, I had some great chats, laughs and serious moments on the row, not least being hauled back onboard by Paul and Toby after falling over the side mid-Atlantic in less than favorable conditions. Toby had a smile that will never be forgotten and I will be eternally grateful for having the chance to spend time with him."


LÆSØ

ERDINGER
der Flasche gereift!
TALISKER
Aberdeen

Simon Chalk
Patrick Favre
Franck Fastor
Brian Fuller
Liam Stevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams
TALISKER
ESTD
1830

CHARADE

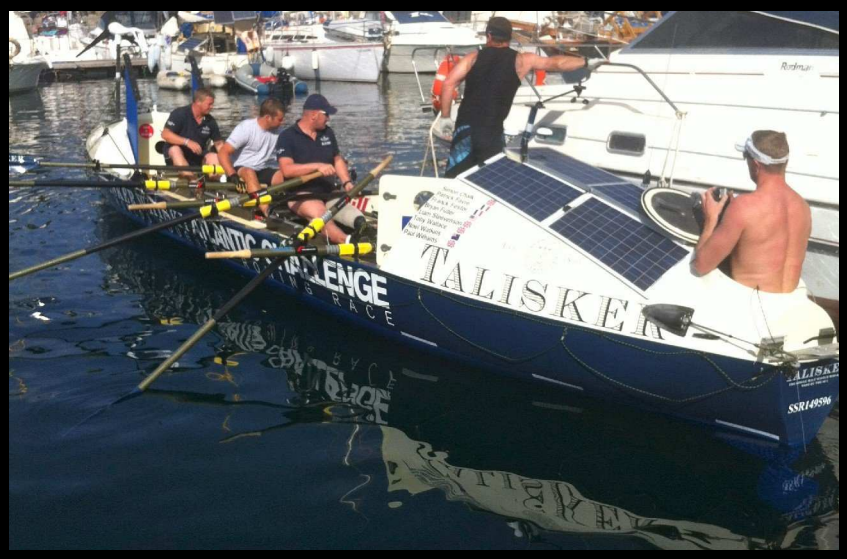
ESTD
1830
LISKER

SINGLO SPORT

Aberdeen

Rodman

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
ROWING RACE
Simon Chalk
Patrick Favre
Franck Festor
Bryan Fuller
Liam Steevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams


TALISKER

Franck Festor:

I'm sad to have lost my brother Ocean. I had the chance to know and appreciate Toby. He made me laugh when he spoke perfect French but timidly. My condolences to his family and his wife. I will remember the beautiful pictures that I have in mind of our great Toby and his legendary smile ...May he rest in peace. Death is a continuity of life and I accept it, but I admit that it is sometimes difficult to remember then, I prefer to live fully. This avoids thinking too ... But I could never forget Toby.

Toby & Bryan managed to take some time out from boat prep to play some chess and cycle round the island!

TALISKER
ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
ROWING RACE

TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE
TALISKER
Aberdeen

TITAN
TALISKER
THE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
MADE BY THE SEA
TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE
TALISKER
Aberdeen

Trying to get sensible crew shots was always a challenge!

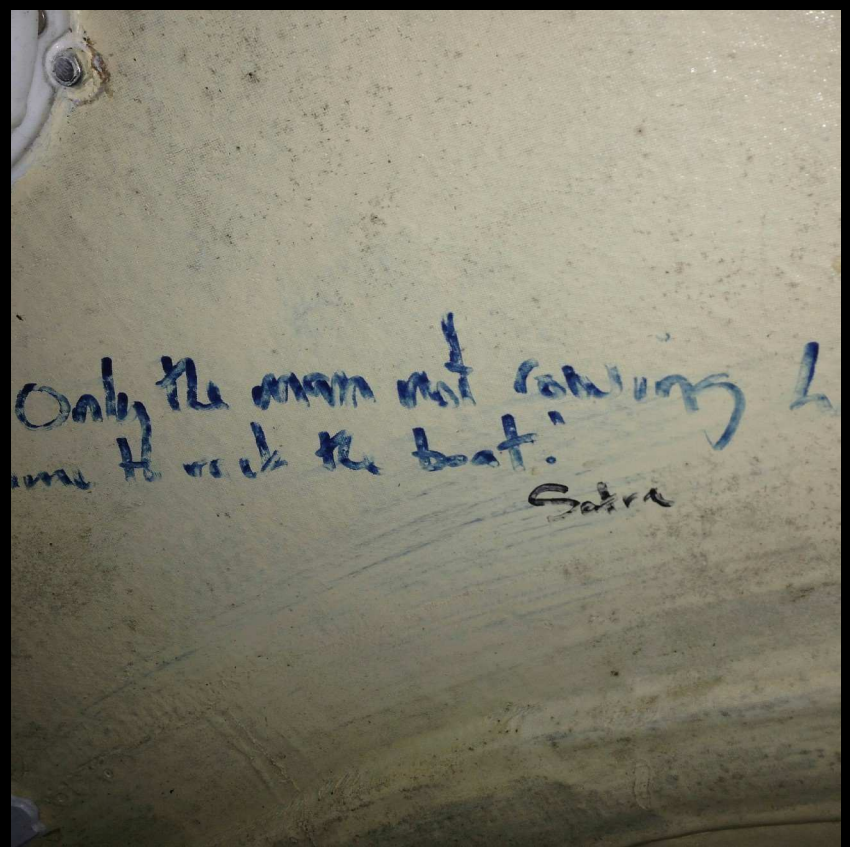
Titan crew 2012 practicing their
male model poses.....

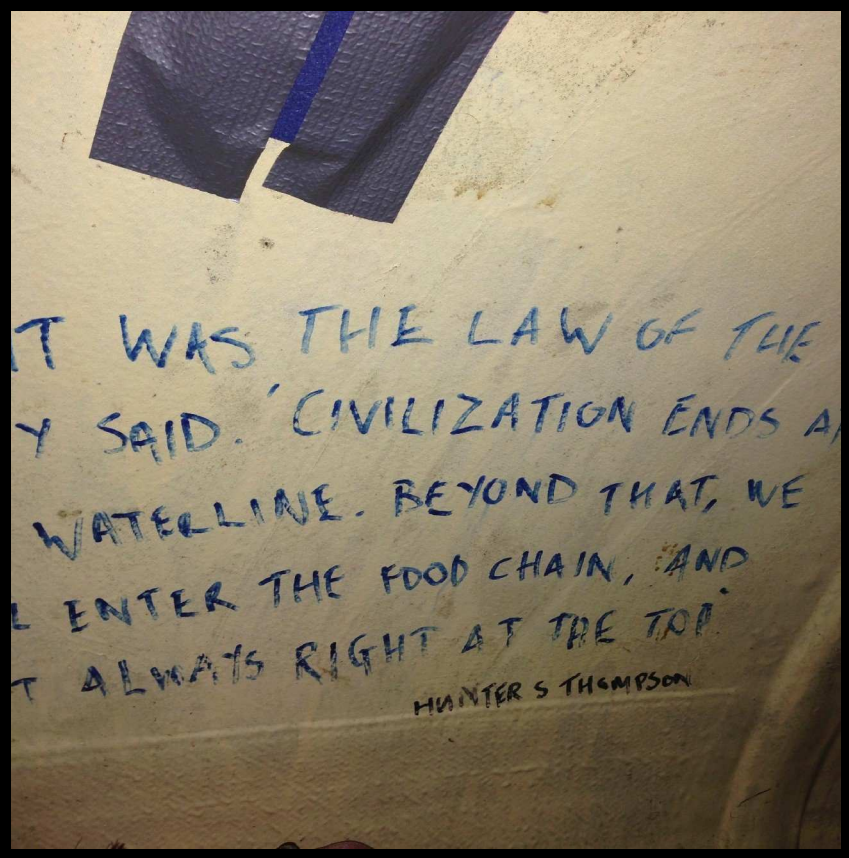
Last bit of training before they leave, with Toby capturing the moment from the cabin hatch!

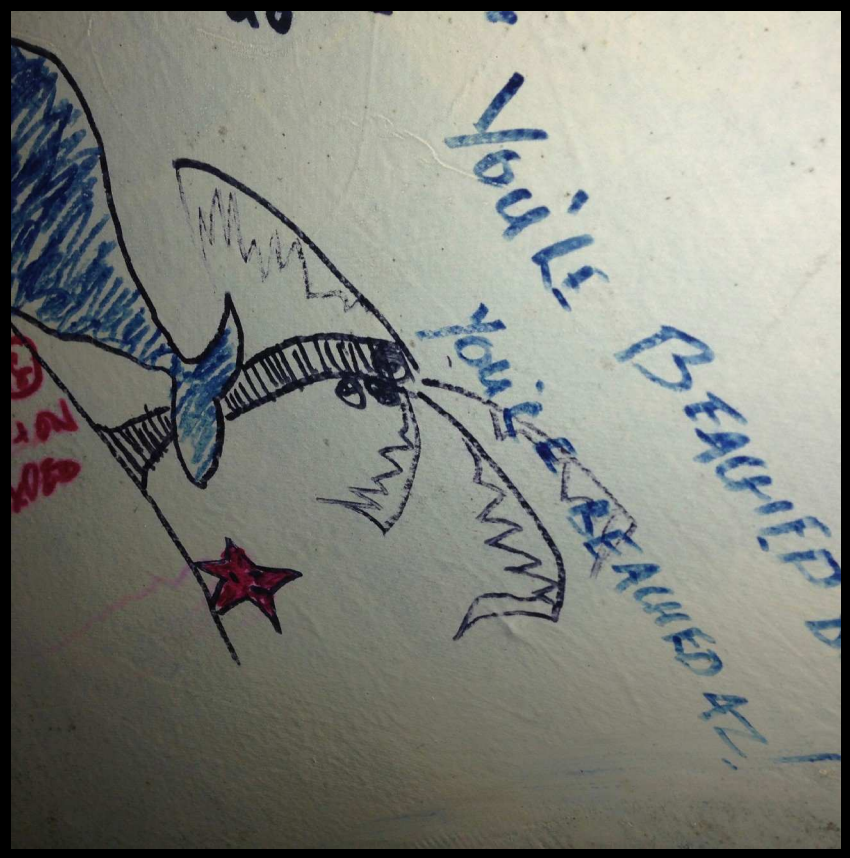
Christening the boat with whisky for her maiden voyage

The crew leave Gran Canaria - Sunday 26 February 2012, 0659 GMT

Some of the cabin artwork by Toby mid-Atlantic







A 7☆ BARKER
HOLIDAY!

MOTIVATION
- the desire to succeed, to stretch yourself to the utmost is the most important factor.

My feeling was that we would give it everything we had, but we had no sorety that we were going to reach the top.

top.

PAIN & SUFFERING

TRAMADOL DAYS

k ...

d abused...

Paul Williams

Day 1 (big man overboard):

It was maybe our 4th watch of the whole row. Toby and I come out of the cabin as Franck & Noel head in for a rest. I had the stroke seat with Toby settling in behind me. Just as I put in my first few strokes, the boat lurches to port - probably due to the watch change of the two pairs at the bow. I sensed movement over my right shoulder, then simultaneously hear a splash and shout "man overboard". We had practiced man overboard drill a few days earlier, so I knew exactly what to do. Being in the stroke seat, it was my job to trigger the man overboard marker on the chart plotter. This would log our position so we could row back to it and the man in the water. As my index finger reached the chart plotter, I realised that as I was in the stroke seat, the "swimmer" would pass me before the back of the boat. And as the sea is quite calm we would not have passed him yet. I dive to my right, just at that moment a huge hand appears over the gunwale and I grab the wrist. Toby looks up as he pulls himself to the boat and then pauses to wait for mass laughter onboard to subside. He hauls himself onboard, sits down and pulls off his soaked t-shirt. With the spirit, sense of duty and dedication to the cause that we all came to respect in Toby, he apologised for slowing the boat and immediately started rowing. I am sure he did not slow the boat at all that watch, as he would have put in extra effort to compensate for any lost time. This was not to be his last unintentional swim but at least he left the second time for the finish!

The Orange Man:

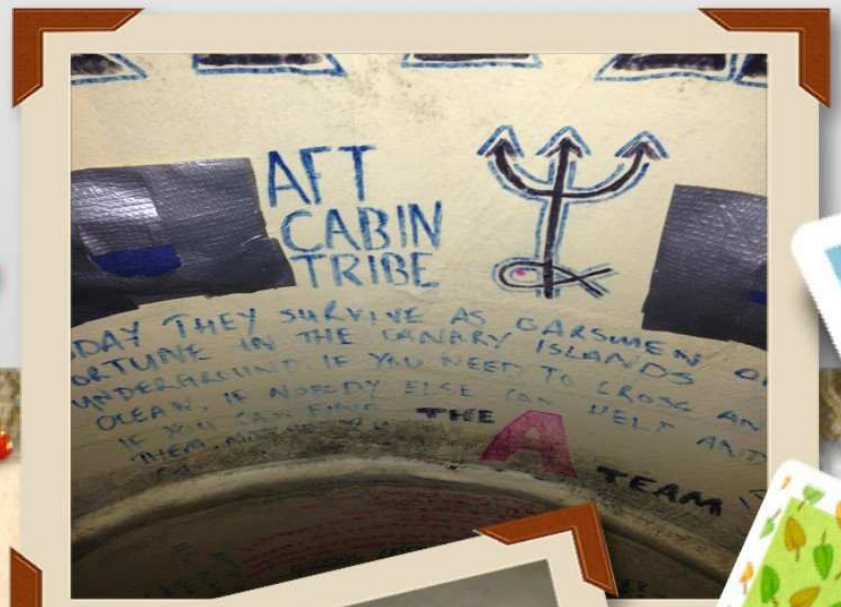
It was clear from the very first time the team gathered in Totnes that Toby was the consummate athlete. He took his training and diet very seriously, unlike a couple of us on the crew. We spent a few weeks in Puerto Mogan, Gran Canaria, making final preparations on Titan and waiting for a weather window. On many days we would eat breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner at Dennehys Marina Bar. One morning, some of us were sat outside the bar eating breakfast. Toby appears, carrying a large bag of fresh oranges. He sits down, starts peeling an orange and then offers one to everybody. I think at this point he may have received a few looks of derision, as much to say "why would I want an orange when I already have this HUGE fried breakfast and mug of tea". I don't know whether he had offered the oranges just out of generosity; a concern for welfare or because he was worried he would never get across an ocean with this bunch of slobs. Whatever his motivation, it was already clear by this point that Toby was the strongest crew member by a significant margin, But he was too much of a gentleman to verbalise his concerns.

In team sports, the measure of a good sportsman is not only in his own talent, it is also how he builds the abilities of his team mates. This is certainly true in ocean rowing. It was clear from our first meeting that Toby was the epitome of a sportsman. It was also immediately clear everyone was going to raise their game because Toby was with us!

Coach Toby:
It was my good fortune to be paired with Toby in as much as we shared a watch; we shared a cabin and we rowed in adjacent positions. I am not a good rower in the conventional sense. But I am now a better rower for Toby's coaching. He did not criticise my abilities, he simply explained how modifications to my technique would improve my output and give him space to apply himself more effectively. On my next row, I will be a better rower because of my good fortune to meet and spend time with Toby.

Further I believe that I have become a better person for having met Toby.

His focus, dedication and gentle manner are something I can only aspire to emulate. I will remember him and be forever grateful I was lucky enough to spend 34 intense days rowing with him.



WALLACE

PRO LIBERTATE

12 DAY > 100

E IN THE SUNSHINE, ROW IN THE O

DRINK THE WILD AIR...

THE MANLY FERRY

No 9'n Rock

Philly 96 Tyin'...

Yah!

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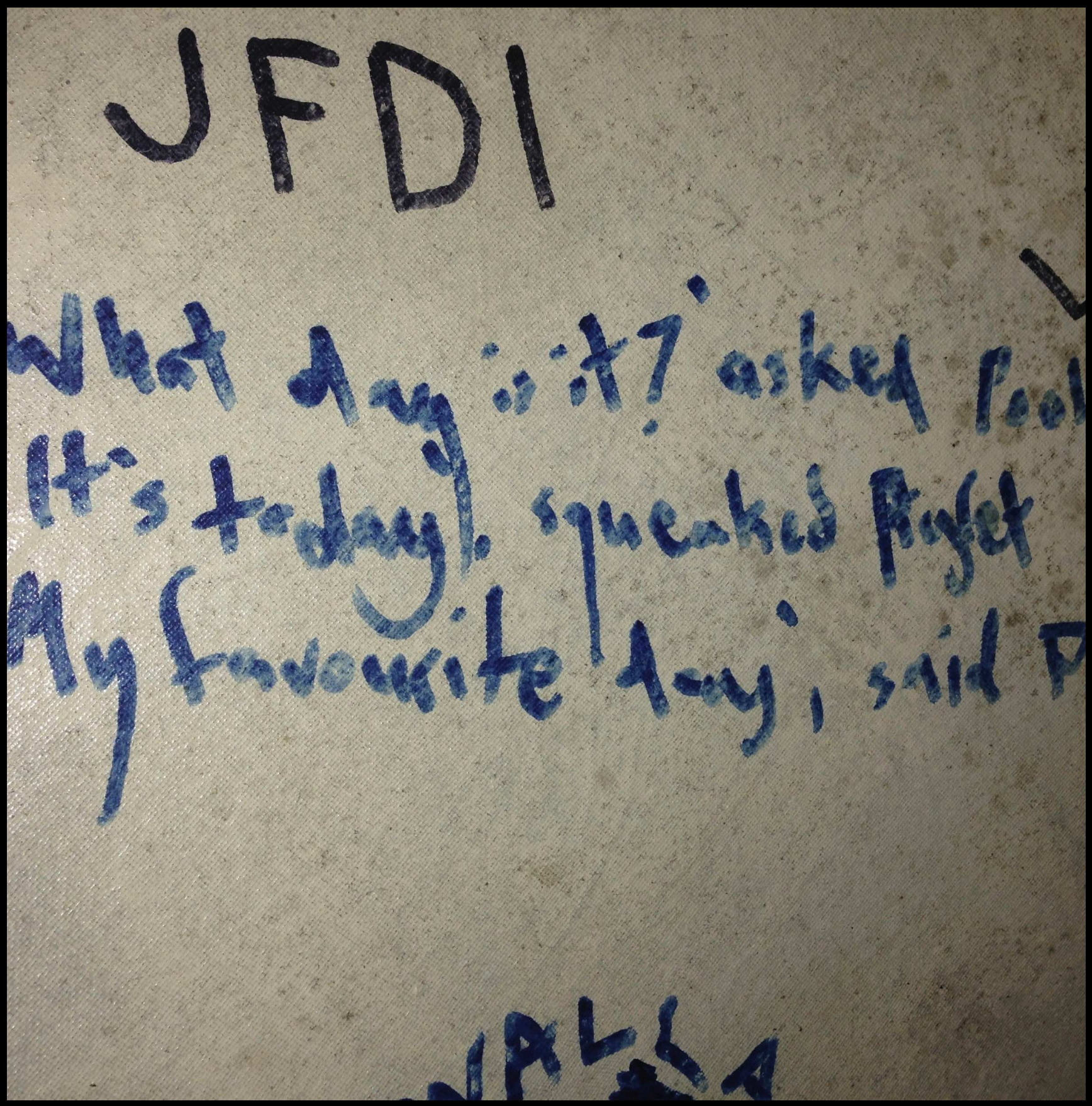
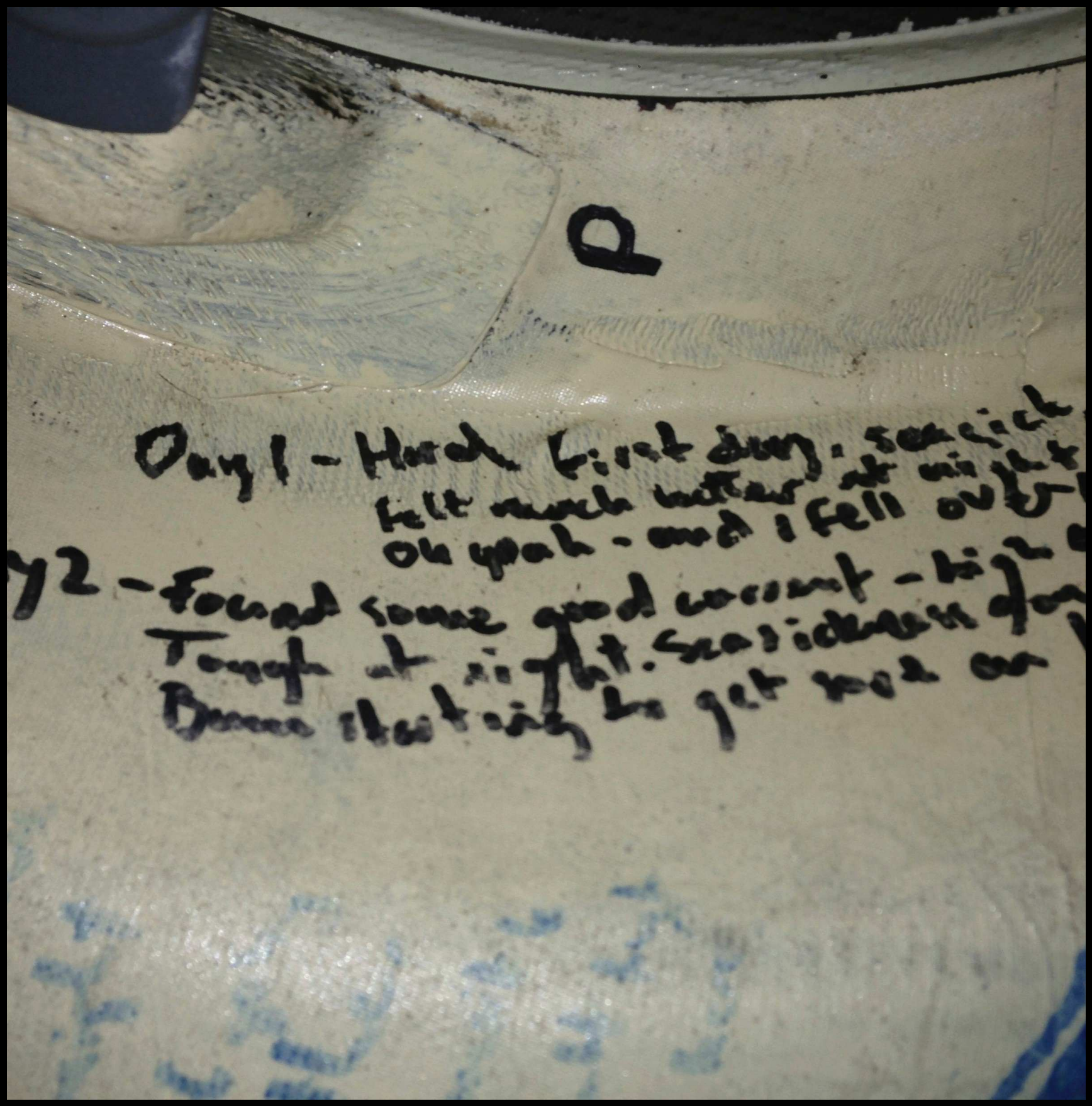
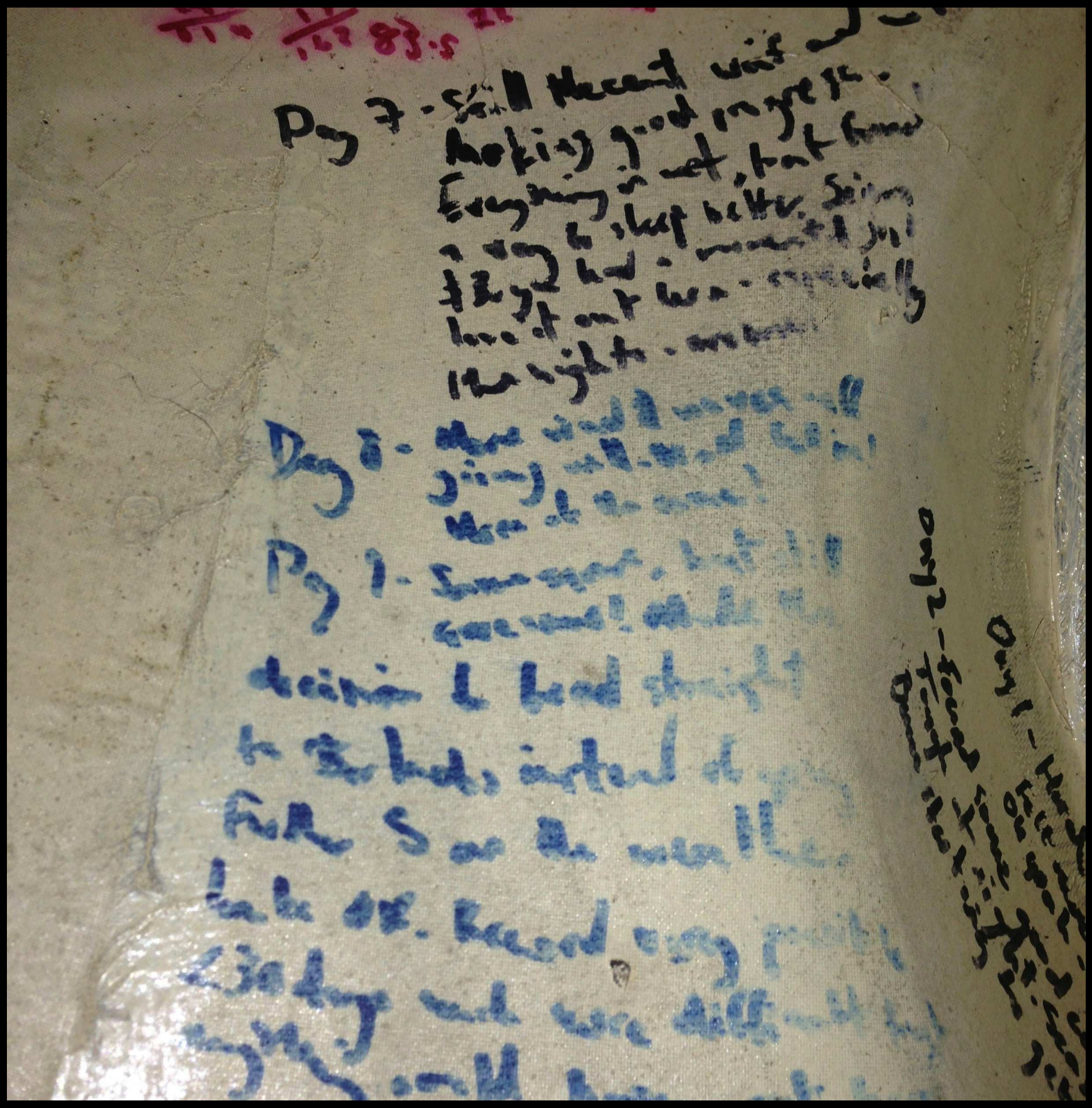
3=72
3·1=74·4
3·2=76·8
3·3=79·2
3·4=81·6
3·5=84
3·6=86·4
3·7=88·8
3·8=91·2
3·9=93·6
4=96
4·1=98·4
4·2=100·8
4·3=103·2

Day 25 - Had a walk in the morning! Di
Felt much I was just hungry. Looking fo
Day 26 - Felt weight - jet.
Day 26 - Had - hull <2 ft.
Possible in the morning (hubert?)
Cleared 9 ft

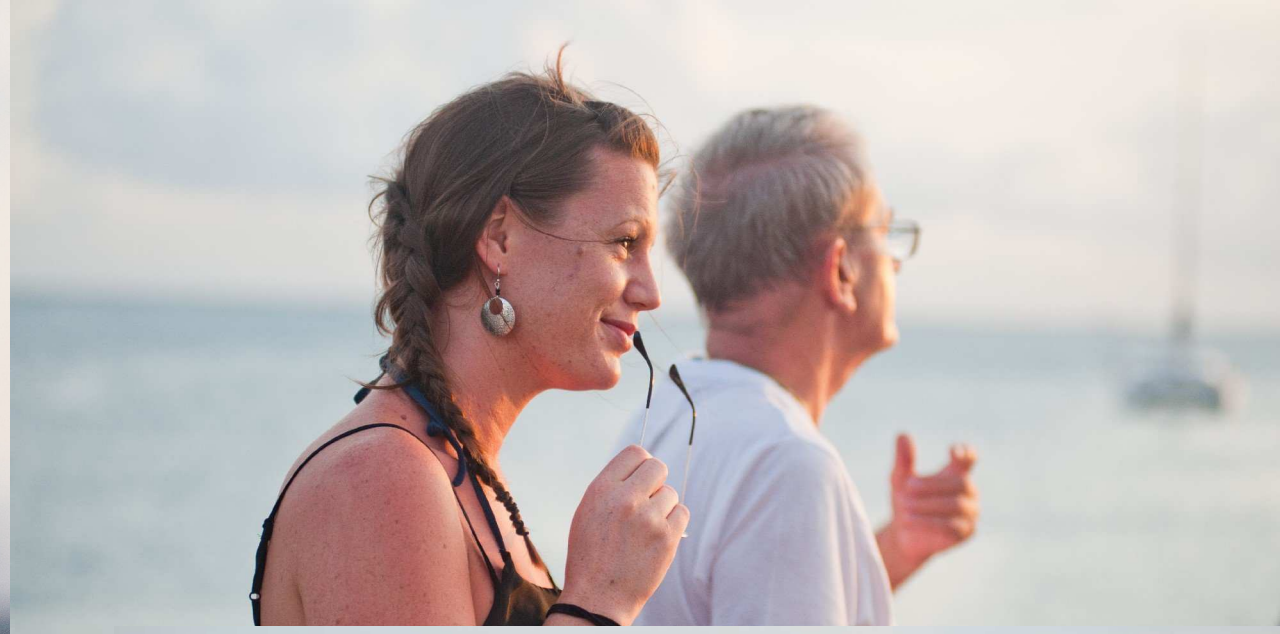

UFDI
What day is it? asked Pooh
It's today, squeaked Piglet
My favourite day, said P

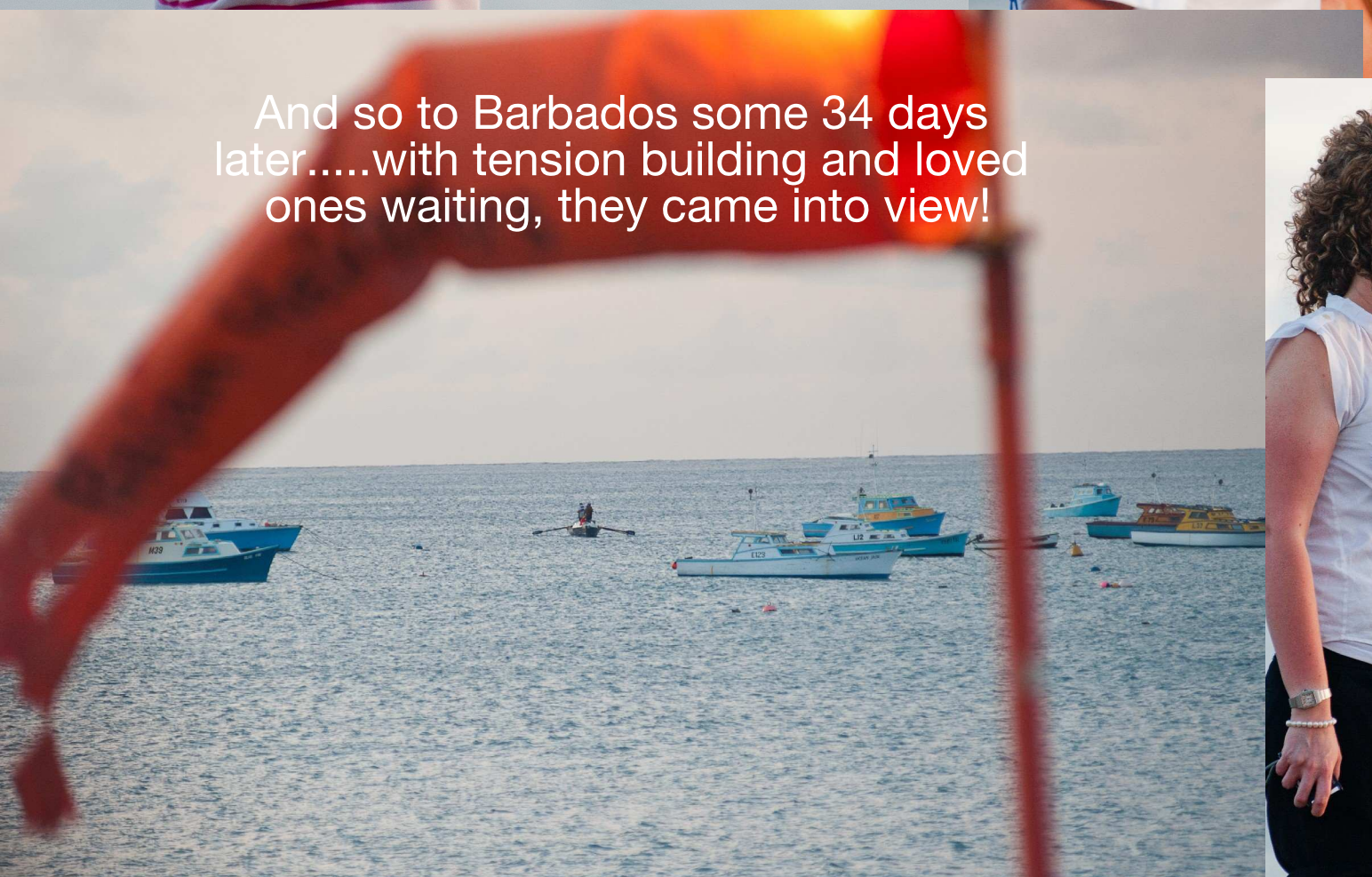
THESEARCER...


Day 1 - Hard first day. Seasick
felt much better at night
Oh yeah - and I fell ov
Day 2 - Found some good current - hig
Tough at night. Seasickness
Bummer that we get wet on



ATLANTIC CHALLENGE





And so to Barbados some 34 days later.....with tension building and loved ones waiting, they came into view!

STBY
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[1230min]

TITAN
TALISKER
TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE

TITAN
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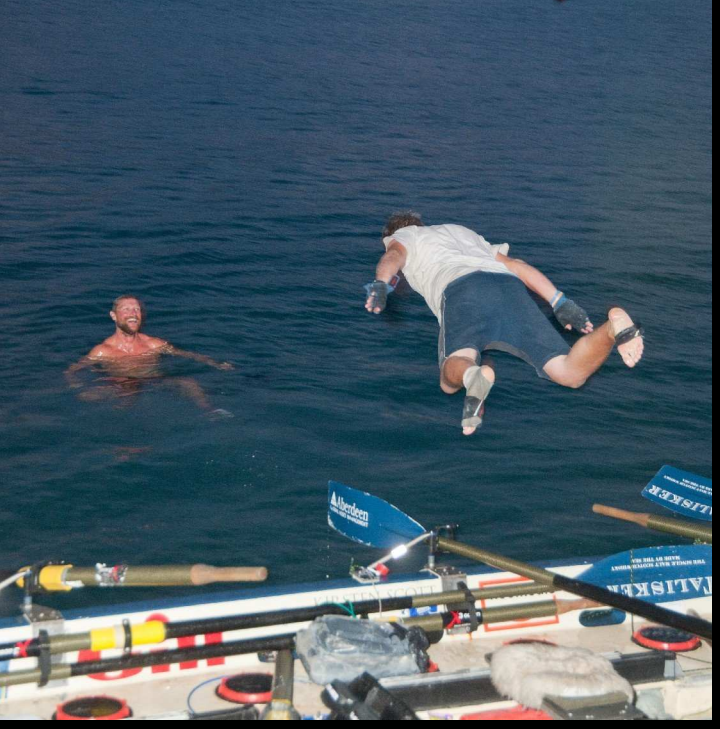
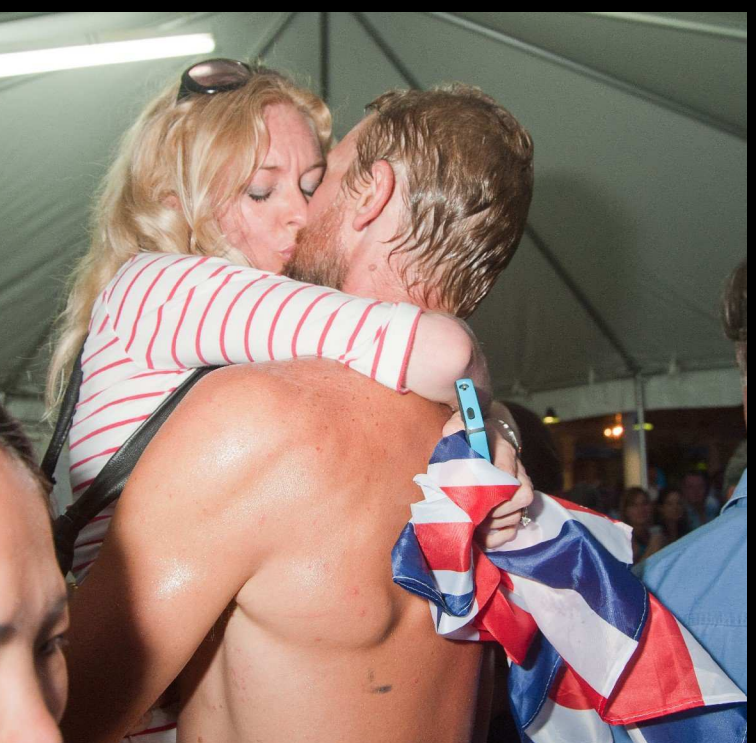
TALISKER WHISKY ATLANTIC CHALLENGE
THE WORLDS TOUGHEST ROWING RACE

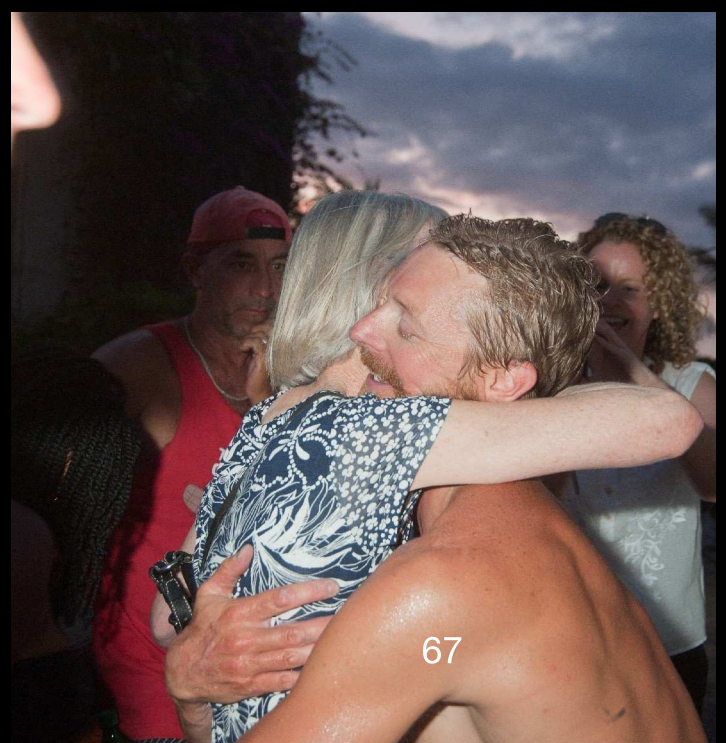


Aberdeen

PUMA
LISKER
TALISKER

Aberdeen
TALISKER





The crew of Talisker Titan touched the cement works jetty just outside Port St Charles, Barbados at 1732 local time (2232 GMT) to take a final finishing time of 34 days, 15 hours and 31 minutes! Super job and the fourth fastest crossing ever to date! Everyone was in great spirits with Toby and Simon taking an unexpected dip immediately on arriving. They all tucked into standard ocean rowers fare - burgers and chips, along with chicken caesar salads and fruit platters! Washed down with Barbados beers and rum - the reception party was HUGE with around 150 people there to welcome them in at Port St Charles yacht club. Special thanks to the Annual Fishing Tournament who welcomed them along with the fishermen who went out to greet them in on the water! A special evening and a great achievement by the crew

dos Game Fishing As
Sponsors

KILL

I ROWED
THE ATLANTIC.

Simon Chalk
Patrick Favre
Franck Festor
Bryan Fuller
Liam Steevenson
Toby Wallace
Noel Watkins
Paul Williams
EST 1830
TALISKER

I ROWED
THE ATLANTIC.

The Ocean Rowing Society have confirmed the following records for Titan:

* FIRST 8 TO ROW ACROSS THE ATLANTIC *
* FIRST ALL MALE 8 TO ROW ANY OCEAN *
* FIRST DISABLED MAN TO ROW ANY OCEAN TWICE *
* THE MOST OCEAN ROWS BY ONE PERSON *
(Simon Chalk)

Liam Steevenson on-board was quoted as saying he has "loved every minute of it"!

Gran Canaria
TITAN ROW 2012
Simon Chalk, UK
Patrick Favre, France
Franck Festor, France
Bryan Fuller, USA
Liam Steevenson, UK
Toby Wallace, UK
Noel Watkins, New Zealand
Paul Williams, UK
www.titanrow.com

KILL 'N TI

S.PELLEG

TALISKER
TITAN

And yet again, trying to get a decent photograph...,,,,,,,

.....but they were in high spirits!

Bryan Fuller

The first time I met Toby it was over Skype, which didn't do him justice except anoint him with the biggest smile ever. When I finally met him in person, a more impressive man you couldn't have known. Standing next to Toby, you couldn't help but think you were out of shape. A weekend jaunt might be to ride his bike a 100 miles or swim up a waterfall!

Toby and his lovely wife Claire came to visit my fiancée Van and I in Boston where we hosted them with friends. I felt an instant connection to him and we became fast mates. We arranged to meet in England to train for our row and bunked together in a small B&B and later met for our time in Gran Canaria.

Whilst there, Toby and I bunked in a small flat that overlooked the bay. Because the weather was nice, Toby would sleep on the balcony while I took the bedroom. Each night we would make dinner together and I would watch Toby eat enormous amounts of food in an effort to put on weight before the trip. At one point, Toby would eat a stick of butter, a two pound chocolate bar and a box of spaghetti all in one sitting! Oddly, as plumped up as he got, he never seemed big. I am sure it was largely due to the fact that he was 6'7".

Toby was exceedingly competitive and rarely was beaten at anything physical. During our time together we biked, swam, hiked and ran and I could barely keep up. Toby even once proved he could skip a stone 20 or 30 times more than me, it just didn't matter what the medium. The only sport I bested Toby at was darts and he didn't know that I grew up with my father playing a darts league my whole life. Even still, he was very hard on himself for not doing better.

When the big row finally came, Toby occupied the seat directly in front of me. Of all the people onboard, Toby was by far the most experienced rower. I spent the first couple of weeks apologising for banging my oars into his as we rowed. We spent 34 days, 15 hours and 29 minutes rowing together to get across the Atlantic and not once did I see Toby miss a stroke. The only time I ever saw him upset was when his seat broke and he had to fix it. He set the standard for me to try and follow and I was honoured to row with him.

Toby and I would have long conversations about life and adventure and I really wanted to attempt something else with him. I remember one conversation we had one night about space travel and how some scientists are saying it would be easier to explore Mars if it was a one way trip. I explained how crazy that was and that no one would ever fly in such a mission. Toby was quick to point out that he would and not for a second did I doubt him. I feel like this summed up Toby perfectly.

Aberdeen
TITAN

Wecome aboard Titan.
Enjoy your spacous, ocean-side bedroom for two...
Titan was fitted with two similar coffin bunks beneath the deck. The resting crew members' body weight acted as ballast, allowing Titan to be lighter and move faster.
Temperatures in this shared bunk reached 110°F during the day. Your longest continuous sleep was 3.5 hours. Flying fish were known to drop in through the cabin while the crew were sleeping.
TITAN
FEBRUARY 26, 2012
to
MARCH 31, 2012
Aberdeen
Asset Management
REGATTA

Aberdeen
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Aberdeen
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

After the row, life in Philadelphia for Toby was not quite so normal - highly regarded Toby was now also an OCEAN ROWER!

He was honoured at the Dad Vail Regatta in May 2012 by the Mayor of Philadelphia, and spent the Regatta weekend telling people about the adventure of Titan.

Tobys enthusiasm even managed to get Simon rowing in the Regatta!!

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Please join us throughout the Regatta as Simon Chalk and Toby Wallace recount the TITAN voyage.
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Toby also successfully did various talks to local schools about Titan afterwards!

THIS B VAS ROWED ACROSS THE ATLAN
...the boat and the crew
"Such a simple word. Row."
- GEICO TV commercial
On March 31st, 2012 at 22:30 GMT
Titan landed in Barbados, posting
a crossing time of 34 days, 15 hours
and 31 minutes.
Teamwork...
Motivation: "the desire to succeed
to the utmost despite the outcom
- Sir Edmund Hillary

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THIS BOAT WAS ROWED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.
Teamwork...
Aberdeen

The man was a mountain. Every stroke he took, you could feel the boat surging through the water. That was all very well when he was sat down pulling on the oars but life onboard a tiny ocean rowing boat created different challenges for Toby. To fold himself up to fit into the cabin or the perilous couple of steps from cabn to seat. No matter what challenges there were - he was always happy. Grabbing life with both hands, encouraging and being level headed - even when the floor folded up beneath him in the cabin….. there was a shrug of the shoulders "It's not that bad" he declared.

Driven to achieve. The task to row across the Atlantic Ocean. The mission to do it as fast as possible.The scribbling calculations to see if we were on course. Eat, sleep, row then row some more…. he absolutely strived on the challenge. How we as a crew managed to keep him fuelled I'll never know - let's put it this way, there were lots of food deals done in that back cabin! When asked if he enjoyed the challenge on arrival into Barbados, the response came "Let's turn the boat around and do it again….."

Toby was more than just a crew member. He became a good friend. He could encourage you to do things you wouldn't normally chose to do. Toby created a feeling of ease whenever you were in contact with him. The sense of admiration towards him would easily turn into determination to become better. To be like Toby. His 'glass half full' approach was infectious. His self discipline, calmness and determination were unique qualities which will be missed by many.

It was an honour to row with Toby and a privilege to have had him in our lives. He was and always will be a Titan.

TITAN

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

Forever in our
thoughts and
prayers -
a special,
generous,
kind-hearted
man and
incredible
athlete,
who will never
be forgotten.

Rest in peace
Toby x

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