

TEAM HESCO

OCEAN FOURS ROWING RACE 2006

TEAM HESCO IS COMPETING IN THE SHEPHERDS OCEAN FOURS ROWING RACE 2006

May 19, 2006

BIRMINGHAM FIRM BOOSTS ATLANTIC ROWING RECORD ATTEMPT



From l-r: Chris White of Chambers & Cook; Staff Sgt Ben Fouracre; L Cpl Charlie Martell, and Chris Blackburn, also of Chambers and Cook

World records are there to be broken – which is why one Birmingham company has pulled out all the stops in its involvement with an attempt to set a new trans-Atlantic rowing record, expected to raise more than £100,000 for charity.

Witton freight company Chambers and Cook is sponsoring Team Hesco, a team of four British Army Commandos who this summer intend to row 3,318 miles from New York to Falmouth. Raising money for the Meningitis Trust, the ‘oarsome foursome’ must complete the crossing in fewer than 55 days if they are to beat the previous record – which has, incredibly, stood for 110 years.

“It was a very simple decision for us to get involved with Team Hesco,” says operations manager Chris White. “These four men have shown nothing but grit and determination in

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preparing for their gruelling challenge. When they approached us about shipping their 29ft boat to New York for the start of the race in June, we were struck by their intent and attention to detail – attributes which are naturally important to us as an ISO9002 accredited company.

“So in conjunction with our partners, shipping company K-Line Europe and haulier James Kemble, we’re providing the team with the container, haulage and freight passage to New York,” he explains.

Adrian Bell, Team Hesco’s campaign manager, expressed his gratitude to Chambers and Cook for their generosity. “Every penny saved or trimmed from our costs means more money raised for the Meningitis Trust. We chose to support this charity – and indeed, row the Atlantic – following the death in 2003 of Gareth, the 16-year-old son of team member Major Pete Rowlands.

“Already we’ve raised more than £53,000 for the Trust, which is helping to raise awareness of this indiscriminate disease and help other families who’ve suffered the same loss as Pete and his family.

“The boat’s not been out of our sight for the last 18 months, while we’ve been fitting it out and training on the water, so the involvement of Chambers and Cook gives us great reassurance that our boat will be in safe hands from the moment it leaves Birmingham until arriving in New York at the end of May.”

The team will depart New York on their epic journey on June 10, and intend to arrive in Falmouth by the end of July or early August. For more information about Team Hesco, to follow their progress or make a donation, visit www.teamhesco.com

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About Team Hesco

Team Hesco is part of Commando Joe, a team of British Army Commandos who are undertaking a series of three extreme challenges to raise more than £100,000 for the Meningitis Trust. In 2005 they raced to the North Pole, covering 320 miles in nine days and beating the existing route record. Following the 2006 Atlantic Challenge, in 2007 they will participate in an as-yet undisclosed race through one of the world's great deserts.

The Atlantic Rowing Team comprises Major Pete Rowlands, of Yorkshire; Captain Mark Waterson, also from Yorkshire; Lance Corporal Charlie Martell, from Gloucestershire, and Staff Sergeant Ben Fouracre, from Devon. The reserve rower is Warrant Officer Steve Clewley, MBE, from Cornwall.

The current West-East Atlantic rowing record was set in 1896, by George Harbo and Gabriel Samuelsen, from New York to the Scilly Isles. No-one has yet rowed unsupported from the US mainland to the UK mainland.

More information and photographs are available from the Commando Joe website at www.commando-joe.co.uk.

Contact Adrian Bell, Team Hesco campaign manager, for further information or to receive any images in high-resolution:

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