

Our Chairman



"I am enthused and driven by the real difference Toe in the Water is making to our injured servicemen and the positive impact it is having on the military and sailing communities. It has helped to spread the message that there is hope for our injured servicemen and that the Armed Forces will do everything possible to assist them in getting the most out of life after injury.

The healthy competition, team spirit and physical and mental challenge act as a catalyst for change and is inspiring our injured servicemen to believe in themselves again. Our injured servicemen play an active role in competitively racing the boats at national level, with and against their able-bodied contemporaries and we have challenged not only our injured servicemen's own expectations but also those of the people around them and proved that anything is possible. Our results speak volumes as to just how successful the Toe in the Water initiative is and it is down to the vision, commitment and determination of the people behind the programme who make it all work."

Major General Mike von Bertele OBE, Chairman, Toe in the Water

Major General Michael von Bertele is a Consultant Occupational Physician with a background in Aviation Medicine (he is an Army helicopter pilot and parachutist), and operational experience in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Balkans and the Gulf. He has been Commander Medical of regional and operational divisions, and served in HQ MND(SW) (Bosnia) in 1998, as the head of civil military co-ordination. He assisted in the formation of the first Multi-National Medical Unit in Sipovo in 1998, from which the UK, Canada and Netherlands provided role 3 support to the multi-national division for 5 years.

Toe in the Water is staffed almost entirely by volunteers from both the military and civilian communities, and is run on a day to day basis by Lloyd Hamilton, Tanya Brookfield and Tom Wood with Major General Mike von Bertele OBE as its Chariman. They are supported by Lt Cdr Jo Deakin (Royal Navy), SAC Kev O'Brien (RAF), Jayne McLenaghan (DMRC) and Kate Sherman (DMRC) who together form the Senior Management Team.

Dr Tom Wood (Maj), Director



Tom is an Army Doctor. He joined the Army whilst at Medical School, almost ten years ago, and is currently training to be a Surgeon. He spent two years working as the doctor for an Infantry Battalion, and during that time delivered the initial treatment of injured soldiers whilst deployed on operations in Iraq and Beirut. He has been involved with Toe in the Water since 2008, and currently he co-ordinates all medical and rehabilitation aspects of the programme including the provision of on-event medical cover and medical planning prior to the events.

WO2 Lloyd Hamilton, Director



Lloyd is a serving Royal Engineer recently returned from Afghanistan and has seen action all over the world since he was 16. He is also a hugely experienced sailor, having competed at national and international levels for many years in a variety of different boats, both within the military and in the civilian racing circuit. Having been involved with Toe in the Water from the beginning, it is this expertise combined with his general management experience and empathy with the injured servicemen and women which enables him to manage all aspects of our racing programme, ensuring we have the right people in the right boats at the right events.

Tanya Brookfield, Director



Tanya has worked across a variety of marketing disciplines and sectors but it is her recent background in running professional yacht racing teams that makes her well-placed to take care of our fundraising, external relations, and general charity management functions. Having founded TOE IN THE WATER together with Holly King in July 2008, the day to day running of the organisation is managed by Tanya and the charity succeeds thanks to her dedication and enthusiasm. During the sailing events Tanya also coordinates all the shore side activities including logistics and media relations.

The People We couldn't do without

The lynch pin for the whole Toe in the Water programme is the people. The core crew volunteers involved are drawn from both the military and civilian communities and the way in which everyone has embraced the charity and supported it in delivering its objectives has been overwhelming.

“The effectiveness of what we do and the impact we make is down to the dedication, skill and experience of the volunteers from both the civilian and military communities who so willingly give their time, all of which is borne out by the results – with more than 50% Top 10 finishes!”

WO2 Lloyd Hamilton, Director, Toe in the Water

Our Ambassadors



Brian Thompson is a vastly experienced and successful offshore racer. He is a huge figure in the world of offshore racing with more multi-hull sailing miles under his belt than any other Briton today. In all, Brian has held

over 25 sailing records. Brian has supported Toe in the Water since the very first moment he learnt of the idea from Tanya and Holly. He has steadfastly shared his expertise, his racing experiences and his time with many of the injured servicemen and women who have raced with the project and even skippered for both the JP Morgan Round the Island Race and Cowes Week in 2009

"I am really proud to have taken out the very first Toe in the Water sailors last summer on the Open 60 Pindar and to have won the Artemis Round the Island Race with a powerhouse Toe in the Water grinding team on board. Every time I go out with Toe in the Water sailors I am blown away by their talent, energy and aptitude for sailing - and their super positive attitude. The Toe in the Water programme is dynamic and energetic and making its mark on sailing regattas all over the UK. It has brought fun and competition to both the injured servicemen/women, not to mention the volunteers who love to be involved." Brian Thompson www.brianthompsonsailing.com



Dee Caffari awarded an MBE in recognition of her solo circumnavigation against the prevailing winds and currents, Dee set a world record by becoming the first woman to complete this 'wrong' way round voyage in 2006. More recently Dee competed in the 2008/9 Vendée Globe – a race around the world, non-stop and alone, known within the sailing arena as the pinnacle offshore event. Dee crossed the finish line in 6th place out of the 30 starters. As the only female to sail solo, non-stop in both directions around the world, Dee added to her achievements in June 2009 by claiming the overall crewed monohull Round Britain and Ireland Speed Record, which now stands at 6 days 11 hours 30 minutes and 53 seconds. Dee joined the Toe in the Water crew for the first time for the Dartmouth Regatta in August 2009 and plans to race again with the team in 2010.

www.deecaffari.com

"I enjoyed racing with Toe in the Water immensely and met a fabulous group of people. I really appreciated being made to be

one of the gang and have a great time sailing with a great crew. Sailing with the Toe in the Water crew was a unique experience for me and one I hope I will repeat in the future. These guys will give everything to be at the front of the fleet. It was true competitive racing at its best.” Dee Caffari

There are many people who regularly generously give up their time to race with Toe in the Water, we'd like to say particular thanks to



Our Core Race Crew

Nigel Amphlett, Jerome Bakker, Nick Bishop, Giles Bradford, David Cusworth, Jo Deakin, Ryan Dean, Rich Egan, Henry Foster, Olly Gill, Giles Hadland, Lucy Haines, Tom Hamilton, Ryan Harris, MJ Holt, Ifan James, Steve Jose, Charlie Martell, Rob Moy, Kev O'Brien, Phil Pattenden, Huw Reynolds, Sian Reynolds, Ben Rogerson, Alice Rook, Jamie Smith, Harry Spedding, Adrian Stell, John Stevens, Rachel Thompson, Alex Tucker

Our Shore Crew

Dave Angove, Debbie Barber, Kate de Bruyn, Lt Col (Rtd) Alan Flavell, Dr Piers Foster, Martin Hall, Dr Justine Kluk, Jayne McLenaghan, Tim Meo, Dusty Miller, Andy Newell, Dr Rob Poole, Dr Ed Porter, Dr Sarah Raitt, Dr Matt Reeves, Karen Sheriff, Kate Sherman, Billy Sewell, Claire Triggs, Dr Harriet Turner, Catherine Voysey, Anna Wardley, Rachel Wood,