



TRACY EDWARDS

MBE

OVERVIEW

Tracy Edwards came into sailing by an unconventional route. Her father died when she was young and her mother travelled the world as a ballet dancer. Expelled from school at 15, she began sailing as an on-board cook. Tracy overcame chronic sea-sickness to become a professional Sailor in 1980 and embarked on her first Whitbread Round the World Race (WRTWR) in 1985-86 as the first girl to ever race on a 'Maxi' yacht when she joined "Atlantic Privateer" as a crew member.

Tracy won international fame as the skipper of the first all-female crew to sail around the world when they raced in the 1989/90 WRTWR. The boat won two of the legs and came second overall in her class. Tracy was awarded an MBE and became the first woman in its 34 year history to be awarded the Yachtsman of the Year Trophy and paved the way for other women to follow. Her book "Maiden" was published in 1990 and was No.1 on the Time bestseller list for 19 weeks.

Following her success with Maiden, Tracy set to consolidate her position as one of the world's top sailors by entering Trophy Jules Verne in 1998, again with an all-female crew, aiming for the fastest circumnavigation around the world with no stopping and no outside assistance. She was well on course for the record for more than half of their route but was thwarted by treacherous seas off the coast of Chile and her mast snapped. During their attempt Tracy and her team broke 7 world records.

Tracy retired from round-the-world sailing two years later when pregnant with daughter Mackenna, and published her second book "Living Every Second". She then turned her attention to organising round the world sailing events and the development of a formal governing body for multihulls with championship tables and rules. In 2003 she set up Quest International Sports Events and signed a sponsorship deal to create the first ever multihull round-the-world races. HSBC sponsored the first event to the tune of £3million. The 2005 event was also a huge success, creating \$46m worth of press coverage but after a dispute when the title sponsor refused to pay Tracy and her team and also withheld the agreed \$1million prize money, Quest went into receivership and Tracy was forced into bankruptcy in September 2005.

Having been discharged in September 2006, Tracy has spent the subsequent years rebuilding her life and that of her daughter. In 2007/08 she worked for CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) as Project Manager for their International Youth Advisory Conference. Working with the UN she assisted in the creation of the 2009 Resolution to the UNCRC. Upon completion of her contract Tracy enrolled at Roehampton University taking a 3-year degree in Psychology, graduating with a 2:1.

In 2011 Maiden was found rotting in the Seychelles and in 2014 Tracy began raising funds to rescue Maiden and bring her home to the UK. Once restored to her former glory, Maiden, an iconic piece of British maritime history, will embark on a three-year world tour to raise funds for the charity Maiden Education. Maiden Education funds projects run by charities who enable and facilitate girls' education. The Maiden Factor has been set-up to promote and fundraise for the education of 130 million girls worldwide who are currently denied this basic right. Tracy has joined forces with the daughter of the late King Hussein I of Jordan, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, who is passionate about the education of girls and is generously providing support for The Maiden Factor.

In addition to her many sailing adventures, Tracy is a Motivational Speaker and covers a range of subjects including:

- How to bounce back after reaching rock bottom
- Effective Leadership and Teamwork
- How to motivate yourself and achieve your goals
- The Maiden Factor

Tracy is a unique speaker having experienced not only the upsides of winning but also the devastation of taking a calculated risk that resulted in financial ruin and the depths of despair. She speaks eloquently and is disarmingly open about success and failure. The biggest lessons in life are learnt when things go wrong and Tracy's story of battling against the odds to survive is poignant and truly revealing. There are many lessons to be learned from Tracy's experiences of massive successes and devastating failure. In addition, Tracy has lost none of the sparkle and humour that audiences warm to and make her one of the most inspirational speakers of today.

BOOKS

Maiden. Simon & Schuster; 1990. Whitbread Sports Book of the Year.

Living Every Second. Hodder & Stoughton. 2001.

Maiden Rises. To be published in June 2018.

AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

1988 **Royal Jordanian Air Force Wings** (First British woman).

1989 **Yachtsman of the Year** (First woman to win in its 34 year history).

1990 **Member of the British Empire** (MBE).

1990 **Sportswoman of the Year.**

1990 **Maiden - Sports Team of the Year.**

1990 **Royal Ocean Racing Club's Dennis P Miller Trophy for Best Performance of a British Yacht Overseas.**

1990 **Lady Mackworth Award.**

1995 **People of the Year Awards. Courage Award.**

1998 **RYA Endeavour Award.**

Swansea University (Honorary Fellow). **The Royal Geographic Society** (Fellow). **Maiden Education** (Trustee).

Patron of: Regenerate UK (helping disadvantaged young people in Roehampton). **Just a Drop. The Girls Network. Girls Go Sailing.**

Ambassador for: I am Girl. Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. Emmaus (helping the homeless).

Lady Taverners. Honorary Member. Giving youngsters a sporting chance

TESTIMONIALS

King Hussein I of Jordan. "I am proud of her for having fulfilled her dream; for having risen to the challenge by no more than her own will and her unbeatable, infectious and inspiring spirit. I am delighted that Royal Jordanian Airlines was one of the privileged few who sponsored Maiden."

Sir Christopher Benson, Chairman Royal Sun Alliance. "Within a couple of minutes of meeting Tracy and shaking her hand I knew this was a very special person. I knew instinctively that our money had been well spent."

Mike Jones, Head of Corporate Communications, Royal SunAlliance. "Tracy's dedication, professionalism and will to win, inspired everyone around her. While the records set in our colours and the media coverage generated gave the sponsor real quantifiable value, it was Tracy and her interviews, photo calls and staff presentations which really set the seal on the sponsorship's success.

Cazenove Capital Management. "Tracy Edwards gave two outstanding presentations as guest speaker at our two Investment Conferences in Jersey and Guernsey. The audience loved her as she bared her heart in telling the story of her achievements, in fabulous contrast to the dry-ish content of the global macro-economics at the heart of the seminar's topics. Tracy delivered exactly what she said she would, and a significant portion of the audience have become her fans."

Greig City Academy. "Thank you so much for today. Your visit has created such a massive buzz around the school. I am so grateful that you did the Maiden project in the first place. The entire Outdoor Education project of mine came from watching the Maiden Voyage at 12 years old and then basically replicating the principles at different stages of our project. In essence, literally thousands of disadvantaged inner city kids have had life changing experiences because of a direct result of your work. I never thought I would actually meet the leader of this project and I am truly amazed by this. Thank you so much again. Our staff and student are so inspired and much more so than I had thought they would be."