

Pete Goss waves the flag for the St.Ives Jumbos!

The St.Ives Jumbo Association won resounding approval from the international yachting hero, Pete Goss, MBE as he urged the audience that filled the Guildhall last Wednesday (4th April) evening *"to get behind the Jumbos"*.

Pete Goss was in St.Ives in order to help raise funds for the local charity. Empathising with the projects vision and community ethos, Pete has been an enthusiastic supporter since its inception and was one of the first to donate a share towards the second jumbo in 2009.

The evening was opened by the Associations' chairman, Harry Isaacs who welcomed the assembly, which included the Mayor, Cllr. Ron Tulley and Andrew George, MP, before introducing the project's instigator, Jonny Nance.

Jonny explained that the aim of the evening was to raise funds for a tender to ferry crews safely to and from the jumbos they had already built. With the aid of slides, he demonstrated that the typical St.Ives punt was an ideal craft for the purpose. Launching a new initiative, he announced that for a minimum donation of £40, the donors name would be inscribed on the new punt for posterity. So as not to disfigure the boat, the names would be branded beneath the thwarts - in mirror writing to make them more easily legible!

The story of Pete's sailing career is one of triumph over extreme adversity. For well over an hour Pete held his audience in rapt attention as he expanded on his breath-taking adventures aboard Spirit of Mystery, Aqua Quorum, Team Philips, etc. Among these achievements was a description of his dramatic rescue of fellow competitor Raphael Dinelli in the wastes of the Southern Ocean during the '96 *Vendée Globe*. To hear of the harrowing events, and the impossible odds, that surrounded this rescue blithely delivered by the man himself, is a humbling experience which redefines 'heroism' and, by contrast, exposes the utter emptiness of our celebrity culture.

In deciding to turn back to look for Raphael, Pete had scuppered his own chances of winning after 10 years of preparation. However, in his words, he had "set sail alone and returned with a brother" - possibly a better outcome than had he won the *Vendée Globe* itself and one which has earned him lasting world-wide recognition.

Yet despite all this, he clearly remains in touch with his modest origins winning over the audience with his humility and humour and leaving them moved and inspired.

A vote of thanks was given by Andrew George MP.

An exhibition of photos illustrating the numerous activities of the Association was displayed in the foyer. These featured boatbuilding, ropework, Scully Days, Jumbo racing and Boats in the Bay.

At the invitation of the Jumbo Association, there were also stalls manned by members of the St.Ives Gig Club and the Sailing Club who share the aim of encouraging youngsters to get afloat. This was the first occasion that all three organisations were represented under one roof.

As is now customary at these events, the evening concluded with singing round the bar. This time the Cadgwith Singers were joined a strong local contingent. The Association are indebted to Marco Amureo of the St.Ives Brewery for running the bar and thank him, Skinners and St.Austell Breweries for their donations.

The total of just over £1000 was raised during the event and 17 names have been sponsored for the new punt. Anyone wishing to have their name, or someone else's, inscribed should contact Jill Block on 01736 793657.

"We are extremely proud to have Pete Goss champion our cause." said Jonny Nance. *"It's hard to imagine anyone better qualified to do so."*

ends

secretary