

Tracy Edwards MBE

Biography Brief - 2019

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. She was expelled from school at 15 and began sailing as an on-board cook. Tracy overcame chronic sea-sickness to become a professional Sailor in 1980 and embarked on her first in Whitbread Round the World Race 1985-86 as the first girl to ever race on a Maxi when she joined "Atlantic Privateer" as a crew member.

Tracy won international fame in 1990 as the skipper of the first all-female crew to sail around the world when they raced in the 1989/90 WRTWR. After years of struggle, Maiden was only made possible by the support of her friend HM King Hussein I of Jordan. Maiden won two legs and came second overall in her class, the best result for a British boat since 1977 and unbeaten to this day. Tracy was awarded an MBE and became the first woman in its 34 year history to be awarded the Yachtsman of the Year Trophy. She paved the way for other women to follow. 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. This yachting trophy is 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 coast of Chile and her mast snapped in two. 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". In 2000/01 she created and managed the world's first equally mixed gender professional record breaking and racing crew with Maiden II. The team broke many world records, including the 24 record which became the fastest record in the world. Tracy then decided to turn 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 created the first ever round the world race to start and

finish in the Middle East. The Oryx Quest 2005 was a huge success and created \$46m worth of press coverage for the gulf state.

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 and graduating with an upper 2:1

In 2014 Maiden was found rotting in the Seychelles and in 2016, Tracy began raising funds in order to rescue Maiden and bring her home to the UK. The Maiden Factor was consequently set up to promote and fundraise for the education of 130 million girls worldwide who are currently denied this basic right. Thanks to the generous support of HM King Hussein's daughter, HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, Maiden has now been restored to her former glory. In November 2018, this iconic piece of British Maritime History, embarked on a three-year world tour to raise funds for her charity The Maiden Factor Foundation. The Maiden Factor Foundation works with and supports communities to enable girls into education and empower and support them to remain throughout their teenage years. Maiden is a Global Ambassador for the Empowerment of Girls through Education with a focus on STEM subjects to increase life and career opportunities.

www.themaidentfactor.org

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

Maiden

How to teach yourself Resilience

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 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 Spring 2022

Television:

1990 “Maiden Voyage”

1998 “Girls and Buoys”

1998 “Royal & SunAlliance Advert”

1993/94 Presenter “Whitbread Round the World Race”

2000 Presenter “On the crest of a wave” for National Geographic

2001/02 Presenter “Science of Sailing” for National Geographic

Films

2019 “Maiden” documentary by renowned Director Alex Holmes (TIFF, Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, BAFTA nominated, OSCAR shortlisted, Board of Review 2019 Best Documentary, grossed over \$4million)

Awards and Patronages:

1988 – Royal Jordanian Air Force Wings (first British woman)

1989 - Yachtsman of the Year (first woman to win in its 34 year history)

1990 - MBE - Member of the British Empire

1990 - Sportswoman of the Year

1990 - Maiden - Sports Team of the Year

1990 – Dennis P Miller Trophy

1990 – Lady Mackworth Award

1995 - People of the Year Awards - Courage Award

1998 - RYA Endeavour Award

2018 – Lendy Ladies Day Award

2018 – British Yachting Awards – Outstanding Achievement

International Who's Who of Women

Who's Who

International Who's Who

DeBretts

Honorary Fellow of Swansea University

Fellow of The Royal Geographic Society

Trustee – The Maiden Factor Foundation

Patron – Regenerate UK – Helping disadvantaged young people in Roehampton

Patron – Just a Drop

Patron – The Girls Network

Patron – Girls Go Sailing

Ambassador – I am Girl

Ambassador – Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme

Honorary Member - Lady Taverners - Giving youngsters a sporting chance

Testimonial

“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.”

King Hussein I of Jordan