



Elijah's Star rises to Atlantic Challenge

Team Elijah's Star continued rising to the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge in support of Action Medical Research, as the gruelling 3,000-mile rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean passed the 2,000-mile point in mid-January. CJC is supporting the voyage as a corporate sponsor.

The voyage of Elijah Star between the Canary Islands and English Harbour, Antigua & Barbuda has been inspired by the story of a prematurely born baby boy named Elijah Halse. Elijah passed away of necrotising enterocolitis, just 37 days after delivery.

The four-man crew of the ocean rowing boat LADY JAYNE, Elijah's Star– comprising Dean Frost, Philip Bigland, Mac McCarthy and Kevin Watkins – are seeking to raise £200,000 on behalf of Action Medical Research, which aims to shine a light on premature birth and the devastating impact it can have on newborns and their families. The money will go towards funding research that could save the lives of



babies like Elijah in the future. Each year, the AMR Scientific Advisory Panel recommends fellowships and project grants in support of innovative research.

On the eve of departure, Frost reported that funds raised had already amounted to £197,000, thanking all donors for their contributions - whether given in money, products, time, or a combination of all three. CJC is supporting the voyage as a corporate sponsor.

The crew have faced some challenging moments, including swordfish attacks on some of the boats in the flotilla and flying fish landing on the crew in the night. The onboard experience was also described as “like being strapped into a Concept 2 rowing machine, which, in turn, is strapped to the back of a bronco bull!” At night, the same experience is amplified by the impression of “doing it blindfolded”.

In early January 2022 Elijah's Star lost all power due to a battery failure which for a time took out nav systems, comms, AIS and their water maker. Thankfully at the time of writing everything is back online. They have now been at sea for well over a month, rowing continuously for two hours on, two hours off, and have 380 miles to go. They are making a steady 3.3 knots at the moment and are well placed in the flotilla, with just under 5 days to make landfall in Antigua.

The quiet but still “testing” conditions came after 48 hours of “lively” weather, with a 15kn easterly trade wind providing a welcome push but also making things “a little more sporty”.

This is a truly awesome effort and CJC are proud to be following the crew's progress. If you want to see more, or to join CJC's efforts in supporting the crew, please take a look at Elijah's Star on Facebook, Instagram or the following link: <https://elijahsstar.com/>

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