

DEE CAFFARI



Best known British Yachtswoman

Dee Caffari has sailed into the history books. In May 2006, Dee became the first woman to circumnavigate the world solo 'the wrong way' (against the prevailing winds and currents). In recognition of her first world record, Dee was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

Not one to stay in her comfort zone, Dee announced that she wanted to become the first woman to sail solo, non-stop around the world in both directions. Dee entered the highly competitive world of Open 60 racing and faced a daunting task. She was to compete against the best international sailors in a race held every four years 'the right way' around the world. After one of the most dramatic Vendée Globes ever known (2008/09) – it is not called 'The Everest of the Seas' for nothing - Dee crossed the finish line in February 2009 to international acclaim with a double world-first.

On completing the Barcelona World Race in April 2011 with her co-kipper Anna Corbella, Dee became the only woman on earth to have sailed non-stop around the world three times. Dee has proven herself to be a yachtswoman of the highest calibre and many are amazed to learn that she only began her sailing career in 2000.

In recognition of her service to the sea and Britain's maritime heritage as well as the charity 'Toe in the Water' which encourages injured service men and women to sail, Dee was appointed by the Royal Navy as an Honorary Commander in 2011.

With a passion for sport and exercise, Dee's keen interest in health and high performance stems from her roots as a teacher. A strong desire to face and overcome challenges has led Dee into adventures outside the sailing environment too. One such challenge was leading a female team over 6500km of rugged terrain in the Mark Webber Pure Tasmania Challenge. The focus was to raise money for cancer charities and Dee has since become the Patron for the charity Sail4Cancer. A love of the ocean and the British coastline has seen Dee become an Ambassador for the RYA Green Blue Campaign to help everyone reduce, re-use and recycle. In 2022 Dee has teamed up with Olympian Shirley Robertson OBE to take on the non-stop Round Britain and Ireland Race double-handed in a 33 foot yacht.

An inspiring skipper, a passionate Ocean Advocate, Dee is keen to nurture diversity and inclusion. Without doubt, one of Britain's most inspirational women, Dee is now an acclaimed international speaker. She tells her highly motivational story with great humour and insight. Her autobiography 'Against the Flow' is available in French, Italian and German.

Topics (Selection):

- Courage in tough times
- Passion & self-belief to succeed
- Good communication & teamwork
- Embracing change & challenge
- High Performance

Publications (Selection):

- Against the Flow: The first woman to sail solo the 'wrong way' around the world, 2008