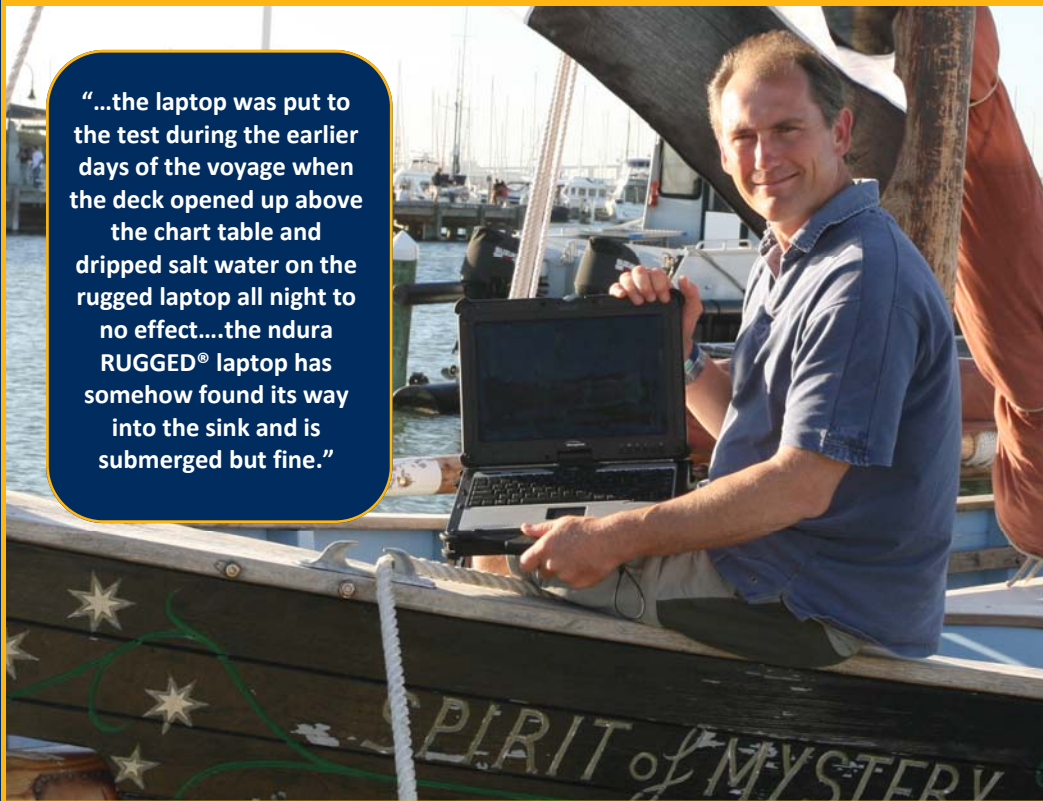




CASE STUDY - PETE GOSS MBE



“...the laptop was put to the test during the earlier days of the voyage when the deck opened up above the chart table and dripped salt water on the rugged laptop all night to no effect....the ndura RUGGED® laptop has somehow found its way into the sink and is submerged but fine.”



14 METRE WAVES AND THE SOUTHERN OCEANS BLAZEPOINT'S RUGGED LAPTOP SURVIVES SPIRIT OF MYSTERY VOYAGE

BACKGROUND

World famous sailor, adventurer and former Royal Marine Pete Goss MBE, recently completed a voyage on board a wooden lugger that he built from locally sourced timber. The aim of the project was to follow in the wake of seven Cornishmen who made a heroic journey to Australia 154 years ago. Proud of his West country roots and an enthusiastic wood-worker, the project was something Pete had wanted to do since he heard about the inspirational voyage of the Mystery.

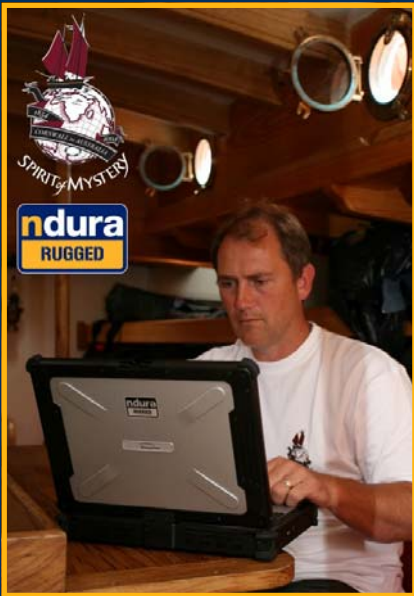
and weighed 16 tons. After beaching the boat to sheathe her hull with Zinc and decking her in fore and aft, the vessel was ready for the epic journey ahead.

Leaving Newlyn on Saturday 18th November 1854, the Mystery travelled about 11,800 nautical miles in 116 days before arriving in Melbourne on 14th March 1855. The only break in the voyage was a week in Cape Town for repairs and replenishment. They had made such good progress to South Africa they were commissioned by the Royal Mail to take the post on to Australia.

The 37 ft 'Mystery' was an open Mounts Bay Lugger built in Newlyn. Times were hard and the seven Cornishmen, all related by either blood or marriage and share holders in the Mystery, made the decision to try their luck at the Australian gold rush over a pint in the Star Inn, Newlyn. It was suggested that the Mystery be sold to cover the passage. Captain Richard Nicholls, with a couple under his belt and in good spirits, said: "I'll take you in the Mystery"; and so an amazing adventure was born.

The brave men risked life and limb to follow their dream and continued through their journey, taking on the gales and hazards of the Southern Ocean. A log entry from 6 March 1855 gives a taste of what they encountered: "A terrific gale of wind – heaviest so far experienced. Our gallant little boat rides the mountains of sea remarkably well. Not shipping any water, dry decks fore and aft. I am confident she is making better weather than a great many ships would, if here."

The Mystery measured just 37 feet in length, had a beam of 11 feet 6 inches



154 years later, Pete built 'Spirit of Mystery' in Innesworne Mill boat yard at Millbrook in South East Cornwall to celebrate their amazing achievement. The vessel is as true to the original Mystery as possible. The keel, stem and stern were made from a tough hardwood called Ekki. Fallen Cornish Oak makes up the frames, with Larch for the planking and Ash for the tiller and sweeps.

Pete commented that he enjoyed building the boat and navigating by the stars: ***"I have always wanted to build a wooden boat and relished the challenge and adventure of sailing such a small vessel to Australia."***

Spirit of Mystery was launched on Saturday 21st June 2008 and set sail for Australia on 20th October 2008, arriving on 9th March 2009. Like the original crew, who were all related by either blood or marriage, it was a family affair comprising: Pete Goss; his younger brother Andy; Pete's youngest son Eliot (who was 14); and Pete's brother-in-law Mark Maidment.



WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE LAPTOP?

The Spirit of Mystery is also a perfect vehicle to support Cornwall Playing for Success, an educational charity of which Pete is founding trustee. Pete Goss added: *"In order to give myself and the crew crucial access to communications and weather information services, without which we couldn't safely undertake the trip, we needed a laptop that could survive the harsh marine environments on board. BlazePoint have a history of providing bespoke solutions that meet the individual requirements of the end user, no matter what environment they need to operate in."*

"Cornish school children were engaged in all aspects of the project through our Playing for Success Centres. Curriculum materials enabled pupils to have a real understanding of the significance of the original voyage, as well as the complexity of organising and undertaking such a journey today."

"The educational program was a very important part of the voyage and the ndura RUGGED® laptop played a pivotal role in maintaining communications throughout the voyage. Powered by a solar panel, the laptop provided us with the ideal tool to edit video footage, store image stills, daily blog writing, and manage our safety communications. It really was fantastic and played a critical role in both setting up the project and acting as the communications hub during the voyage itself. We occasionally used the laptop on deck in order to connect to the satellite communications."



ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

"When you sail a 37 foot boat in the Southern Oceans everything gets wet, and conditions below deck were not brilliant. The crew would climb into Gor-tex Bivvy bags to dry off and this is really what the laptop was up against. The thing I liked most about the ndura RUGGED® laptop was the feeling of complete confidence it gave us. Dripping salt water and endurance aside, following the knock down I found the laptop thrown across deck in the sink. Normally you would panic, but reassuringly you simply dust it down and away you go."



When asked why he wanted to build the boat and re-create the voyage, he said: "In short, I just fancied it and, as in the past, I find that is enough to just get up and go for it. So we found ourselves on another exciting adventure that had the added element of history, which I find I am really enjoying. Life is for living and this, for me, is life at its best."

"We are especially grateful to Blazepoint for their sponsorship of Mystery's hull and for providing the ndura RUGGED® laptop . A standard laptop just wouldn't have been able to survive this voyage."



BIOGRAPHY OF PETE GOSS MBE

At the height of the Team Philips project, Pete headed-up a workforce of more than 100 employees, brokered multi-million pound sponsorship deals and assisted in the creation of several new companies in fields as diverse as new media, engineering, education and boat-building. Handling these complex and often conflicting pressures whilst all the while being under the media spotlight, gave Pete a unique insight into the challenges that face every organisation.

Equally at home battling the elements alone or leading a business team from the front, Pete draws from these experiences to offer management talks, team-building exercises and training sessions that will not only challenge individuals and groups, but inspire them to achieve beyond what they thought possible.

As Pete says: "I have been fortunate to have been brought up on a diet of adventure and privileged to take part in number of challenges. My training in the Royal Marines taught me to be professional at all times, even in dangerous and frightening circumstances. But fear can be dispelled by knowledge and preparation. I truly enjoy helping other people realise their full potential and tailor my talks and training to suit the needs of the audience."



Visit www.PeteGoss.com for more details.



blazepoint

Blazepoint Limited, 2 Tower Estate
Chalgrove, Oxford, OX44 7XZ, UK

WEB: www.blazepoint.co.uk
TEL: +44 (0) 1865 892 050
FAX: +44 (0) 1865 892 031
EMAIL: sales@blazepoint.co.uk