

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lindsay Mason
Media Liaison
07817 555347
lindsayjillcox@aol.com

British Rowing Crew Makes History With World-First Mainland-to-Mainland Indian Ocean Crossing

Record-breaking expedition completed in traditional ocean rowing boat—no sail, no engine, no shortcuts

KILIFI, KENYA | 24 JULY 2025 – A British four-man ocean rowing crew is making waves across the globe—becoming the first team in history to complete a mainland-to-mainland crossing of the Indian Ocean in a traditional ocean rowing boat.

Departing Carnarvon Yacht Club, Western Australia, in May 2025, the crew made landfall at Kilifi Boat Yard, Kenya, on the 25th July—completing a 4,500+ nautical mile journey across one of the world’s most remote and punishing oceans.

Their mission? A world-first feat of pure endurance.

This marks a monumental achievement in maritime history and ocean rowing.

“To complete a crossing of this scale in a traditional ocean rowing boat is something else entirely,” says expedition lead and Royal Marine Matt Mason. “No tech boosts. No wind power. Just grit, teamwork, and relentless rowing. It’s ocean rowing in its truest form.”

Why this is a historic first:

→ While others have attempted to row the Indian Ocean, this expedition is the first documented mainland-to-mainland crossing using a traditional, classic-class rowing vessel—completely self-propelled.

→ The crew’s achievement honours the purest form of ocean rowing—free from modern sailing aids or alternative propulsion.

→ Their vessel, No Great Shakes (NGS), is now the only ocean rowing boat to have crossed all four major oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, and Indian—cementing its place as one of the most accomplished ocean rowing boats in history.

Meet the crew:

Led by Royal Marine Matthew Mason, from Cheshire, this marks his fourth successful ocean row—placing him on the cusp of completing the Ocean Rowing Grand Slam, and potentially becoming the fastest person in history to do so.

He's joined by Matthew Hemmings, who brings a military background, and Matthew Inglesby, an MOD police officer, both sharing a deep commitment to spotlighting veteran mental health through Ocean Revival Adventures' purpose-led expeditions. Rounding out the team is Jake Mattock, founder of The Adventure Antidote—an initiative dedicated to helping people reconnect with the outdoors and improve wellbeing through both bold and everyday adventures.

Throughout the crossing, the crew endured:

- Capsizing in open ocean
- Navigation system failures
- Sleep deprivation from round-the-clock shifts
- Storms, rogue waves, and extreme heat

[Nexus Pictures](#), a UK documentary team owned by David Cox, has been capturing the expedition since 2020—offering a raw, behind-the-scenes insight into the physical and emotional toll of life at sea in pursuit of world-first achievement.

“Every update I posted, I could feel the world leaning in,” says Lindsay Mason, Ocean Revival's media liaison and wife of skipper Matt Mason.

“This journey was built on belief, persistence, and purpose—and it's been an honour to bring the world along for the ride.”

What's next:

Following their historic arrival, the crew will remain in Kenya for several days to decompress, debrief, and begin the next phase: preparing No Great Shakes for her journey back to the UK.

A film crew with experience shooting for National Geographic will be on site capturing the arrival for Nexus Pictures' upcoming documentary.

Media Opportunity

Media are warmly invited to get in touch for interviews, filming, and photography.

Contact

For quotes, interviews, images, or footage access, please contact:

Lindsay Mason
Media Liaison – Ocean Revival Adventures
07817 555347
lindsayjillcox@aol.com

Based in the UK, Lindsay has led the expedition's live coverage, offering real-time storytelling of this world-first crossing and providing on-shore support to the crew.

Follow the Expedition:

Website: www.oceanrevivaladventures.co.uk

Instagram: [@oceanrevivaladventures](https://www.instagram.com/oceanrevivaladventures)

Images + Moments That Got the World Watching

Below are some of the most shared visuals and reels from the expedition—including a [post that's hit 45k+ views](#). You're welcome to use these with credit or get in touch for more.

- Welcome to the Indian Ocean; when the ocean wants a piece of you, distance means nothing <https://www.instagram.com/p/DL8L1pXNyl-/>
- Capsizing on the home stretch: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DMGSXRUNckG/>
- 69 days at sea: https://www.instagram.com/p/DMa_-2jtpaw/
- Turning a snapped oar into a cricket bat: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DK33p-KNMo2/>

Folder for photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jvleGrdO1DAmBGUJQgyV4duYzgyHZlp2?usp=sharing>













