



## Three finalists announced in 'The Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Awards'

In what has been another tough year of competition, the finalists of this year's annual 'Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Awards' have at last been unveiled. From 30 semi-finalists from all over the UK, three exceptional entrants with extraordinary stories to tell have been voted into the top three spots: David Clarke from Darlington, Laura Cammidge from Glasgow and Matthew Reed from Kingswear in Devon.

The annual awards are now in their fifth year, having been founded by Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky – known as 'The Maritime Malt' - to reward the outstanding passion, commitment and achievements demonstrated within Britain's maritime communities, at both a local and national level. UK sailing clubs were invited to nominate any members they felt deserved recognition within one of the following three categories: Club Service, Bravery and Sailing Achievement.

David (55) was nominated within the **Club Service** category for his role as Centre Principal & Director at Ullswater Yacht Club, and for the outstanding level of commitment he has given to the Club since his youth. In 2013, David used his strong passion for sailing to instigate and lead a team which developed and delivered a sailing school facility within the Club. Since its inception, the sailing school has trained over 1,200 individuals from local school, scouts and community organisations through the RYA scheme, providing a tailored sailing experience from qualified instructors to schools and groups.

Nominated within the **Sailing Achievements** category, Laura (26) has demonstrated outstanding sailing success despite being partially sighted. After learning to sail at the Clyde Cruising Club Dinghy Section, Laura has since spread her wings and proceeded to win silver in the ISAF Blind Sailing Fleet Worlds 2015 and International Championships 2015. In September, Laura made her debut at the World Blind Match Racing Championships in America where her team won silver.

Matthew (72) was nominated by Royal Dart Yacht Club in the **Bravery** category for saving the life of a sailor during the Dart Sailability Regatta. Matthew, who was off duty and attending the race as a spectator, dived into the water to rescue a trapped disabled entrant whose etap had overturned. Although the entrant nearly drowned, Matthew managed to unstrap him and get him to safety.

Old Pulteney has presented each finalist with a trophy and bottle of the award-winning Old Pulteney 17 Year Old Single Malt. The three shortlisted sailing stars will now go through to the final stage of the competition and the successful candidate will win £1,000, a



commemorative trophy, and a bottle of Old Pulteney 21 Year Old, which was voted 'World Whisky of the Year' in 2012.

**Margaret Mary Clarke, Old Pulteney Senior Brand Manager commented:** *'The standard of entries this year has been exceptional, making the task of picking our finalists tougher than ever. It has been an absolute privilege for the Old Pulteney team to hear so many inspiring stories from around the UK and our congratulations go to David, Laura and Matthew for reaching our top three. They are truly deserving of this recognition and we wish them the very best of luck for the awards' final stage.'*

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### **Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky**

Old Pulteney is one of the world's finest and most distinctive single malt Scotch whiskies. Known as 'The Maritime Malt', it is crafted in the windswept coastal town of Wick, home to the Pulteney Distillery which is one of the most northerly on the Scottish mainland. The distillery was established in 1826 in the heart of 'Pulteneytown', the town created to house fishermen during Wick's famous herring boom which once drew a fleet of over 1000 boats and 7000 workers to this remote and rugged harbour. Old Pulteney is the embodiment of this place, its people and its remarkable history. The skilled Pulteney Distillery team continues to craft whisky using the most traditional and time-honoured techniques that most others have long abandoned. This includes the uniquely shaped Pulteney stills, which are reflected in the design of the Old Pulteney bottle on shelves today.

Matured in hand-selected oak casks, the resulting whisky has been acclaimed for its excellence, its smooth drinking style and faint hint of the sea. Old Pulteney's 21 Year Old Single Malt holds the coveted title of 'World Whisky of the Year' for 2012 in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible – one of the industry's highest accolades. The whisky also achieved top ten status in the UK single malt market in 2012 and is flourishing in many other countries around the world. 2016 saw Old Pulteney 1989 Vintage crowned the 'World's Best Single Malt' at Whisky Magazine's prestigious World Whiskies Awards, while parent company International Beverage celebrated a momentous win in Whisky Magazine's Icons of Whisky Scotland 2017 awards, after being crowned Whisky Distiller of the Year.