



## **Solihull Resident Named 2013 Winner in National Maritime Awards**

Bob Lewis, a sailing enthusiast from Solihull, has been hailed the 2013 winner of an exciting nationwide initiative – **The Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Awards**.

Bob, who is 90 years old, was nominated by Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club for his outstanding Club Service. He was selected as the winner by a panel of judges from the many deserving nationwide entries.

Now in its second year, the annual awards scheme was initiated by Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky to reward the outstanding passion, commitment and achievements demonstrated within Britain's maritime communities, at both a local and national level. To launch this year's scheme in May, Old Pulteney contacted UK sailing clubs asking them to nominate any members they felt deserved recognition within one of the following three categories: Club Service, Bravery or Sailing Achievement.

Earlswood Lakes Sailing Club owes its existence to Bob, who is its Founder, First Commodore and oldest sailor. After building an Enterprise dinghy in his garage in the 1950s, Bob dedicated his time to finding a suitable place to sail it. In 1957 he found a group of like-minded people and worked tirelessly to form a sailing club with enough land for a clubhouse and shore facilities. After finally succeeding in 1961 he was elected Club Commodore.

In addition to this achievement, he has dedicated much of his life to introducing young people to the joys of sailing, many of whom have enjoyed international success in the sport. In recent years he has mentored junior sailors by sailing with them in races, an initiative that has seen the youngsters grow in confidence and progress through the boat classes.

Bob's commitment has not been restricted to the immediate community, he has also arranged sailing afternoons for visiting Belarusian children who were suffering the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. His support of the programme was recognised by a commendation from Stratford-on-Avon District Council in 2006.

A true maritime ambassador, Bob hasn't allowed his age or failing hips to restrict his activities, he still regularly competes throughout the year and often shames younger members into sailing in the cold and wet, when staying ashore might seem a more attractive option.



**Vice Commodore of Hollowell, James Patterson says:** *"We're delighted that Bob has been voted the Old Pulteney Maritime Hero of 2013. He is a key asset to our club and his achievements throughout the years have been remarkable. It's great to see a scheme like this that recognises all the hard work members put in to keeping the club alive."*

To reward Bob's enthusiasm and dedication, Old Pulteney has presented him with a bottle of its award-winning 21 Year Old single malt, a personalised decanter and a £1,000 personal cheque. As a semi finalist, he had already received £1,000 for the club.

**Margaret Mary Clarke, Senior Brand Manager:** *"Bob is clearly extremely deserving of this fantastic award and it is our pleasure to be able to celebrate this through the Maritime Heroes campaign. His efforts and dedication to sailing and the club have made such a positive impact on many people and we hope that winning this award shows him just how much he is valued within the maritime community. Well done again to Bob."*

**For further information, please contact Laura Cavanagh at**

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

Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky is diligently crafted at Pulteney Distillery in Wick. It is one of the most northerly distilleries on the UK Mainland and was founded in 1826 by James Henderson at the height of Wick's herring boom. The distillery lies in the heart of 'Pulteneytown', which was created for all the fishermen at the time, and is embedded in the deep rooted history of this coastal town, which used to be one of the most important and biggest herring fishing ports in Europe. Old Pulteney is known as the Maritime Malt.