



General Information BTO Project

PEDDLING WATER FOR CHARITY

Alex Mutsaars, Gerrit-Jan Spaans, Rob van Sundert and Pierre van Leeuwen want to cross the Atlantic Ocean next year with a pedalo/hydrocycle with as motto "BIKING THE OCEAN". They will be the first in the world to bike this exhausting northern crossing. The pedalo/hydrocycle (which is in fact an ocean rowing boat which has been converted and fitted with a reclining tandem bicycle construction) is on Sunday 2nd September officially put to water. The 'bike trip' with the BTO Challenger from New York to Amsterdam should take place next year 2008, between May and August. The most important objective for the trip is raising money for 'Villa Pardoes' in Kaatsheuvel, and of course the eternal fame.

Almost 100 days biking across the Atlantic Ocean. Alex Mutsaars from Geldrop, in the Netherlands, got the idea during a crossing from the Caribbean on a motorboat, he thought it would be a challenge to do the crossing pure on muscle power, and because the Netherlands is well known for its bicycles, it seemed only natural to do it with a pedal mechanism.

After a few anxious months, which saw the boat the team had got their eye on in England, snatched from under their feet, which meant that the project almost came to a stand still even before it got started, but then they found the most famous dutch ocean rowing boat in Rotterdam, it was far above what they could afford, but after some negotiating with the owners and finding a head sponsor their dream came in reaching distance, and at the end of April 2007 the boat was purchased.

The last few months have been spent preparing for this trip, together with a team of volunteers, sponsors have been found, the boat has been stripped and adjusted to requirements needed for such a demanding trip. A double reclining bike construction is built inside the boat which is connected to the right angle transmission, which is connected to the propeller shaft.

The chosen charity 'Villa Pardoes' in Kaatsheuvel, gives children with a life threatening illness the chance to go with their family on a weeks holiday in a specially adapted holiday home, free of charge. A holiday where the child's illness is put on the back burner for a week. A charity such as Villa Pardoes is a costly business and is dependant on donations. The BTO Team will do everything in its power to raise a substantial amount for Villa Pardoes.

We hope with this information to have given a clear account of our intentions, and the progress of this unique Dutch project.

The "Biking the Ocean Team" is supported by:

www.bikingtheocean.com

