



THE QUEEN'S GURKHA ENGINEERS *ATLANTIC 2026*

WORLD'S TOUGHEST ROW 2026



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TOUGHEST

ROWTM

QGE ATLANTIC 2026

Project Overview

In December 2026 four serving members of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers will row unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean, competing in the World's Toughest Row, Atlantic race. This challenge will test the crew physically and mentally and is widely regarded as one of the toughest feats of endurance in the world. In the process the team racing as 'The Salty Sappers' will raise money and awareness for the Sapper Charity: [The Royal Engineers Association](#) and the [Gurkha Welfare Trust](#). In addition, this challenge will represent a world first as the team will be the first citizens of Nepal to row any ocean.

THE CHALLENGE

The World's Toughest Row, Atlantic race is the premier event in the pioneering world of Ocean Rowing. It sees crews row 3000 miles unsupported from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean. During the race the crew will be rowing non-stop for around 40 days. This will mean adapting to a gruelling 2hrs on 2hrs off routine. During the crossing, they are likely to have to endure extreme weather, high seas, physical exhaustion and raft of other arduous conditions that the ocean will throw at them.



THE BOAT

Home for the duration of the challenge will be the team's specially constructed 8m long R45 ocean rowing boat "Victory". Having previously carried the Salty Sappers on a successful crossing of the Atlantic in 2021/22 and winning the Pacific race in 2024, the boat is built to withstand the harshest of weather conditions and designed to self-right in the event of a capsize. Space on board is at a significant premium and when the crew are not rowing (which isn't very often!) the living quarters are cramped to say the least. The boat will be equipped with a range of communication and navigation equipment as well as the pivotal 'water-maker' desalination unit that provides the team's drinking water when at sea. During training the crew will become experts in the use and maintenance of all on board equipment.



Victory - The team's Rannoch R45 with the Salty Sappers Atlantic team arriving in Antigua (Jan 22)

Meet the Team -The Salty Sappers

The crew consists of four serving Sappers. All have a varied background in adventurous undertakings and together they will make for one mighty engine room!



Surya Pariyar - Sapper Surya Pariyar joined the British Army in 2019 and serves with The Queen's Gurkha Engineers. With limited prior exposure to Army adventurous training, he embraced sailing as his first major expedition, an experience that would define the beginning of his journey into elite adventure. In 2023, alongside 14 fellow sappers from the Corps of Royal Engineers and the QGE, he successfully completed Ex Atlantic Quest – a demanding offshore sailing

expedition from Brazil to the Falkland Islands. The team covered a total distance of 2,304 miles, navigating challenging ocean conditions and extreme environments. This achievement stands as a clear testament to his resilience, determination, and adventurous spirit, skills he will apply to rowing the Atlantic. Committed to excellence and driven by pride in his heritage, he continually seeks opportunities to represent the Gurkhas on the world stage. He is now fully focused on doing so as part of the Salty Sappers in the World's Toughest Rowing, further demonstrating his ambition to push physical and mental boundaries while honouring the Gurkha legacy.



Tek Karki - Sapper Tek Karki joined the army as a Gurkha soldier in 2019. At the age of 18, he passed the rigorous Gurkha selection process in Nepal. Then, he came to the UK and completed 9 months of infantry training in Catterick. He is a Class 1 plumber by trade and has deployed to the Middle East, Cyprus, Latvia and multiple exercises as a combat engineer. A keen sportsman, he enjoys football, running, table tennis, climbing, hiking and always seeks to test his limits by doing adventurous activities. He is 2x Silver medallist in Ex Cambrian Patrol (a world renowned military skills competition).

His passion for sport and adventure was initiated in a military school in Bhaktapur, Nepal. After joining the British Army, he has seized every opportunity to continue this passion. His enthusiasm drove him to complete Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race (125 mile non-stop canoe



marathon) in 2022 where he discovered his sport and a love of water sports. As a mountain boy, who came from the country of Mt Everest (8848m), he looks forward to challenging himself on the Atlantic Ocean by rowing 3000 miles testing his limits as part of the first ever Nepalese team to row any ocean.



Sagar Hamal - Sapper Hamal commenced his career with the British Army in 2023, having successfully navigated the formidable Gurkha selection process at the age of 19. Whilst completing the rigorous nine-month basic infantry training at Catterick, he was recognized as the top recruit of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE)—a testament to his discipline and tactical aptitude. Building on this, Spr Hamal transitioned to the Royal School of Military

Engineering at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley. During his three-month Combat Engineering course, he again came top of a highly competitive field of peers. A Fitter by trade, Sapper Hamal hopes to put his technical skills to good use on the boat. His operational experience includes deployment on Exercise Austere Shield in Latvia, honing his skills in a demanding multinational environment. Spr Hamal is a dedicated athlete who thrives on "competing against his own comfort zone." While he is a passionate footballer and avid traveler, his recent pursuits have taken him into extreme environments. Participating in the British Army Nordic Skiing 25/26 championship – an experience that demanded adaptation to a frigid, alien landscape far removed from his previous experience. There is a poetic synergy in Spr Hamal's journey: born in a landlocked nation, his name, Sagar, translates directly to "Ocean" in English. Guided by this namesake, he is now preparing to transition from the mountains of his heritage to the the sea. By rowing across the Atlantic Ocean, he aims to shatter perceived limits and establish new records, proving that his ambition is as boundless as the waters he seeks to conquer.





Dilip Singh Pun Magar - LCpl Dilip Singh Pun Magar enlisted in the Army in the 2017 and subsequently joined the prestigious Queen's Gurkha Engineers. After completing training as combat engineer he completed his technical trade training as a Fitter. During his career he has deployed to various locations on operations and exercises, including Kenya, Germany, Canada and Cyprus. Recently, he has deployed in the British Army's support operation during the Covid 19 pandemic (Op RESCRIPT), other UK operation and support to training of

Ukrainian Armed forces, as well as an interesting rotation on Public Duties in London. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in numerous competitions and adventurous activities. Keen to challenge himself, he has set his sights on the World's Toughest Row to test the absolute limits of my physical and mental endurance.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Rowing an Ocean is an expensive undertaking, The outline costs of this project are around £100k. This is already drastically reduced as the team already own the boat and have secured some grant funding from military sources. However, to achieve our mission we still require generous support from sponsors. In return we are pleased to present a range of benefits to be realised by sponsors from association with the project, the World's Toughest Row, the Corps of Royal Engineers, QGE, Sapper Charity and British Army.

WHAT DOES SPONSORING US GIVE YOU?

The World's Toughest Row is a high-profile event that is widely publicised on a range of media platforms both in the UK and internationally, presenting an excellent branding opportunity for your organisation. The event has significant popularity and public interest so your organisation's exposure during the event will be significant.

The Salty Sappers team have a significant following on social media platforms, and the serving and former Sapper community is a large and well-connected group of people. Association with this project will help you to form connections and exposure to this group. As part of the British Army the team will have excellent links to the Army's extensive digital media presence as well as its traditional media products.

Physical branding of the boat and relevant equipment by sponsors is actively encouraged and will provide a great platform to get your company logo seen in an eye-catching and unusual setting. Space for this is allocated in line with the amount of sponsorship.

Sponsorship could also be in the form of equipment, goods or services, such as technical equipment, clothing, food or boat and equipment maintenance services.

We will be pleased to offer accreditation for any sponsor that is directly associated with the project with pre-agreed wording, for example: 'In association with', 'Supported by', 'Made possible by' or 'The Ministry of Defence gratefully acknowledges the support of'.

Sponsorship Packages

Outlined below are our suggested sponsorship packages and the benefits associated with each of them. *Sponsor agreements will be subject to a formal sponsorship contract facilitated by a commercial officer from Army commercial.*

GOLD SPONSOR (£10,000)

- Company/organisation branding to be given space on the side of the hull on the boat when vinyl wrapped (approximately 1m² per side).
- Company/organisation logo on items of Salty Sapper clothing worn by the crew.
- Mid-Atlantic video 'plug' from the crew.
- Complimentary group invite to the campaign launch party (venue and format TBC)
- Company/organisation logo and website link to be published on all forms of Salty Sapper social media.
- Use of all Salty Sapper media material.
- Product or service given exposure on social media.
- Time with the crew to support creation of your own media products.
- 2 bespoke speaking events from the crew: before and after the race.

SILVER SPONSOR (£5,000)

- Company/organisation branding to be given space on the side of the hull on the boat when vinyl wrapped (approximately 0.75m² per side).
- Company/organisation logo on items of Salty Sapper clothing worn by the crew.
- Complimentary invite for two people to the Pacific Sapper launch party (venue and format TBC)
- Company/organisation logo and website link to be published on all forms of Salty Sapper social media.
- Use of Salty Sapper/ PACIFIC SAPPER media material.
- 1 bespoke speaking event from the crew: before or after the race.

BRONZE SPONSOR (£2,000)

- Company/organisation branding to be given space on the side of the hull on the boat when vinyl wrapped (approximately 0.5m² per side).
- Company/organisation logo on items of Salty Sapper clothing worn by the crew.
- Company/organisation logo and website link to be published on all forms of Salty Sapper social media.
- Use of Salty Sapper media material.

PROVIDER OF GOODS OR SERVICES (COMPANIES/ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES FOR USE BEFORE DURING AND AFTER THE ROW)

- Benefit from your products gaining exposure when in use by the team.
- Company/organisation logo and website link to be published on all forms of Salty Sapper social media.



Further benefits to be negotiated to match with the level of support offered (use above indicative levels based on product value).