



Thursday, October 28, 2010, 10:00

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You'll need to be quick if you want to row an ocean



ADVENTUROUS sportsmen and women are being urged to take up the challenge of rowing an ocean, writes Hilary Bastone.

Devon company Woodvale Works Ltd, part of Woodvale Challenge Ltd, are looking for individuals who could row an ocean as part of a crew, solely with the purpose of breaking and establishing records.

In January 2011 Woodvale are running the Atlantic Allum Cup - three record campaigns for the mid-Atlantic route (La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Barbados – 2600 miles away) and they are looking for crew members to take on this epic challenge.

The records will be more than just rowing hard... route selection, reaction to situations and a degree of luck with the weather will all come into play.



The boats Woodvale will be launching are three of the fastest ocean rowing boats ever built:

- Britannia III - a 14-man boat which crossed the Atlantic this year in 38 days
- Audeamus - an 8-man boat which holds the Indian Ocean Speed Record (to be put out as an all-female crew)
- Oystershack - a 6-man boat which is the fastest boat ever into Antigua (37 days)

For a reduced price of £8,000 rowers will get the chance to have their name in the record books, as well as receiving all mandatory training (RYA First Aid at Sea, Sea Survival, Ocean Yachtmaster Theory, shortwave radio training and licence), medical equipment, tracking equipment, duty officer, family officer, race clothing and a detailed ocean rowing training package.

Payment can be made in instalments and Woodvale can provide rowers with information on gaining sponsorship, and direct would-be record breakers to useful ocean rowing resources.

For more information, or to book a place before the deadline you'll need to get in quick - it's tomorrow Friday, October 30. Get in touch with Kate Battes of Woodvale Ocean Ltd on 01242 60293 or 07864 288609 or www.woodvale-challenge.com or the main Woodvale office in Devon - 01364 644 598.

ATHLETICS: Early-bird reduced entry fees for next year's Great West Run in Exeter are available until this Sunday. The city centre half marathon and 5k races both take place on Sunday May 1 and have raised many thousands of pounds for South West charities.

Entries are also being invited for the one-mile Great West Santa Run on Sunday December 5 this year. Full details and entry costs for both events are available at www.thegreatwestrun.co.uk or at the Ironbridge Runner shop in Bartholomew Street, Exeter.

RACING: Exeter Racecourse is heading for the busiest month of its season with three meetings held in quick succession during November.

The course's flagship meeting on Tuesday, November 2 features the totepool Haldon Gold Cup which is worth £70,000. Widely regarded as the first real test of the National Hunt season over two miles, it normally attracts high class runners. Possible runners this year include Punchestown Guinness Gold Cup winner Planet of Sound and recent Limerick grade 3 chase winner Cornas.

Exeter Day on Friday, November 9 will see anyone with an EX postcode able to book grandstand and paddock tickets for just £10 each (pre-bookings only, call 0844 5793005 and quote EXDAY). The first race is off at 1.20pm.

On Prize winners' day, Friday, November 19, there are a host of luxury racing breaks to win including at Upton Lakes, Cullompton,; Finlake Holiday Park, Chudleigh, Combe House, Honiton and Sampsons Farm, Kingsteignton as well as a £100 clothing voucher from Henry Hunt and other goodies.

New to the racecard this year is a Pertemps Handicap Hurdle series qualifier with the final at the Cheltenham Festival on March 17 which is sure to attract some major players. The

meeting also coincides with Children In Need day and the racecourse will be putting on something special to help raise funds for the cause.