

PINK PANTHER

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TWO TEENAGE GIRLS, MO MONTGOMERY-SWAN & HANNAH GLATZEL (AT THE TIME 18 & 16 RESPECTIVELY) SET OUT TO PROVE EVERYBODY WRONG

PINK PANTHER 

BOAT NAME: PINK PANTHER

SKIPPERS: MORWENNA MONTGOMERY-SWAN & HANNAH GLATZEL

COUNTRY: UK

BOAT LENGTH: 4.9M

BOAT: HIGHFIELD OCEANMASTER 500

ENGINE: HONDA BF 75

What can I say ...? Music blaring all the time ... dancing and singing to our hearts' content ... having a celebratory drink when we got in to each port ... But it wasn't just these features that made 'Round Ireland 2013' outstanding – it was the closeness of the teams.

The most memorable part of the trip itself was definitely Day 5 when we got hammered by the weather conditions and sea state but managed to keep our morale high and stuck together at all times. It was hours before we could see land again, and being stuck in a force 7 in confused seas, travelling at 10 knots, was really taking its toll on the group. When we finally saw land on the horizon, everyone was so overjoyed we overlooked the fact that there was at least five hours left! The most extraordinary thing we saw during that passage was the dolphins, who decided to run between Black Panther and us in the middle of the force 7 – I got the shock of my life as they popped up! I'm still sure they were attracted to our bright-pink Highfield RIB. I have great admiration for Andy/Stuart (Merlin) and Jurgen (Searider) who managed to survive the 15-hour day with no music and all by themselves.

Some people have asked: 'How did two teenage girls manage to get around?' The answer to that is: because of our determination to prove everyone wrong and show that we could do it. There were times when we were both injured with bad knees and were very tired after long days on the water. However, we managed to carry on just to prove we could do it – being part of a team both on the boat, with Black Panther and in our 'small-boat' group helped as we stuck together and kept morale high! I'm sure there were moments when both of us thought 'I don't know how much more of a battering I can take', yet we managed to be one of only 14 boats to get round without trailing a leg. This, of course, was not

without the exceptional help of Steve and Dave on Black Panther. They were our buddy boat the whole way round and were always making sure that we were fine!

I would like to say, on behalf of Mo and myself, a massive thank you to Hugo and the crew for arranging the trip – even though Mo is part of this crew ... Also, a huge thank you to everyone who supported us throughout and believed we could do it, whether it was by dancing with us, buying us drinks or just following our progress. We couldn't have done it without the help from the other teams. Finally, thanks to Highfield Boats for providing an amazing pink boat that never failed us and will go down in ribbing history.

Hannah Glatzel, Pink Panther

