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Patron Capital hosts inspirational explorers at Greatness Lecture

Patron Capital, the pan-European institutional investor focused on property-backed investments, last night welcomed Conrad Humphreys and Baz Gray for the latest of its Greatness Lecture Series, which celebrates inspirational individuals and achievements. They recounted stories from their pioneering voyages to a packed room at Patron Capital's London headquarters.

British yachtsman Humphreys, who has circumnavigated the world three times, was the professional skipper on a 23-foot boat, successfully recreating the voyage made by William Bligh and a group of 18 loyalists in 1789, sailing 3,600 miles across the South Pacific. Bligh and his men spent seven weeks at sea in a wooden sailing boat, eventually reaching the Indonesian island of Timor where they were rescued. Their ordeal, known as the Mutiny on the Bounty, is considered to be one of the most epic – and unlikely – survival feats in history. Humphreys and his crew recreated the voyage as authentically as possible, surviving on a starvation diet of biltong and ship's biscuits, only replenishing supplies on the rare occasions they caught fish or came across land.

Humphreys recounted how the constant rain on the first few days affected the crew - some developed trench foot symptoms on their hands, struggling to manage the sails for fear their hands may peel away. He also navigated the boat in complete darkness managing to avoid a reef, not knowing whether they would survive the night as the wind battled to steer them off course.

Royal Marine Gray sailed from the edge of Antarctica to South Georgia to cross the island's mountains, recreating Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1916 rescue mission a century later when his trans-Antarctic expedition became stranded after the ship Endurance was crushed by ice. Gray explained that to keep their recreation of the original mission as authentic as possible, the team used only the clothing and equipment available to Shackleton's men, sailing across 800 miles of violent ocean before crossing 20 miles of rugged South Georgia to reach the former whaling station at Stromness. A replica of the James Caird was also built in Lowestoft with space inside the boat no larger than a double bed with around three feet for headroom.

Having battled arduous and debilitating conditions, both men highlighted the importance of teamwork, hope and humility in the face of extreme danger. The two voyages were filmed, heightening the experience for all those who took part, with Humphreys' *'Mutiny'* shown on Channel 4, and Gray's *'Shackleton Death of Glory'* broadcast as a Discovery Documentary.

Keith Breslauer, Managing Director of Patron Capital, said:

"Our Greatness Lectures celebrate inspirational individuals and it was an honour to have Conrad and Baz join us, both of whom have achieved extraordinary feats. Their voyages are truly incredible examples of what can be achieved in the face of adverse conditions, with the importance of preparation, teamwork and resilience shining through in their stories."

The Patron Greatness Lecture Series is an ongoing programme of captivating talks from inspirational individuals. They are not part of a fundraising exercise; instead, they are intended to motivate, educate, inspire and enrich for the Patron team, its friends and partners.

Each evening consists of an early evening talk followed by a Q&A session and an opportunity for informal conversation over drinks and light refreshments. For more information about The Greatness Lectures, e-mail Denise Goodwin on denise@patroncapital.com.

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Notes to Editors

About Patron Capital Partners

Patron represents approximately €3.4 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments, investing in property, corporate operating entities whose value is primarily supported by property assets and distressed debt and credit related businesses.

Since it was established in 1999, Patron has invested in over 69 investments and programs involving over 65 million square feet (6 million square metres) in 16 countries, with many of these investments realised.

Investors represent a variety of sovereign wealth funds, prominent universities, major institutions, private foundations, and high net worth individuals located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The main investment adviser to the Funds is Patron Capital Advisers LLP, which is based in London, and Patron has other offices across Europe including Barcelona, Milan and Luxembourg; the group is comprised of 76 people, including a 43-person investment team.

Further information about Patron Capital is available at www.patroncapital.com.

