

# *HM Tower of London*

*A formal signing of the MOU  
13th September 2018*



# Memorandum of Understanding



For the third year running, MPCT were hosted once again by the Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Tower of London on 13th September 2018. Patrons and VIPs of both MPCT and the MLT were invited to experience an MPCT sponsored event including a fireside talk by Tom McClean, which was then followed by dinner and the witnessing by all of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was signed to establish the working relationship between MPCT and Headquarters Army Recruiting, and Initial Training Command (HQ ARITC), and to set out the mechanism by which MPCT can help increase the number of successful applicants joining the Army. The stakeholders who signed the MOU were Huw Lewis MBE (Managing Director MPCT), Major General Paul Nanson CBE (GOC ARITC) and Cath Possamai (Chief Executive Officer RG). This agreement will mean that by working together, many more young people will be supported, nurtured and educated, allowing them to achieve their ambition to serve their country.

The evening was a very successful and enjoyable event, where Learners from our MPC London Colleges delivered excellent Icebreakers and impressed all in attendance.



## Huw Lewis MBE



Our MD, Huw Lewis MBE opened the evening, expressing how delighted he was about the amazingly eclectic mix of guests in attendance. Guests who are at the very top of their field, from the corporate world and the world of Education, the Armed Forces, Government and the Police Service. He then went on to say that the purpose of the dinner was simply to say thank you on behalf of our Learners and staff and that the evening was our way of communicating to our supporters how much we appreciate them, without which, the college would not be as successful. He added, "Simply, I work on the basis surround yourself with great people and great things happen".







## Tom McClean

Tom McClean also gave a presentation about his experiences at the event.

Tom's career reflects an extraordinary capacity for succeeding against all odds. He has a resilience bred into him from childhood in a tough orphanage and 9 years serving with both the Parachute Regiment where he was involved in military campaigns in Aden, Malaya and Borneo and active service in the S.A.S Regiment.

Towards the end of his military service he decided at the age of 26 years old to row single handed across the treacherous North Atlantic Ocean from Canada to Ireland.

Embarking on his epic voyage, passing between icebergs, seeing whales, surviving several storms with 50 ft high seas he made landfall in the land of his birth, Ireland. His sheer determination helped him to plan and carry through what was to be the first of many adventures. He completed his epic voyage navigating with a sextant to become the first person in history to row across the North Atlantic Ocean alone from West to East and in a world record 70 days.

After the row, Tom left the Regiment to start up his own Outdoor Centre and found the perfect place at Ardintigh Bay, a rugged wilderness location right on the shores of Loch Nevis, near Mallaig.

When Tom arrived at Ardintigh during early 1970 he pitched a tent in the old ruin and set about putting up buildings and developing the centre which has been open since 1973. Over the years almost every type of Army unit has passed through Ardintigh Highland Outdoor Centre. Tom also welcomes many adult and youth groups to the centre and is a role model to the groups of disadvantaged and challenging youths who he guides and encourages. His motto being "If you think you can, you will".



Since Tom's army career and between running his Outdoor Centre in the West Highlands Tom has made world news with his extraordinary feats of daring and endurance, which include five epic lone Atlantic voyages in unusual crafts including sailing the world's smallest yacht at just 7' 9" in length across the Atlantic Ocean. Another adventure was a lone intrepid expedition, Tom lived on Rockall (a pinnacle of rock in the Atlantic) for 40 days to re affirm Britain's rights to the rock and its surrounding oil and mineral wealth.

Tom's current project is a boat he helped to build that is shaped like a sperm whale and is called Moby, Prince of Whales; Tom's intention is to raise awareness of environmental issues by using Moby as a marketing platform. Tom and a crew have completed a 2,000 mile voyage sailing Moby around the coastline of Britain, calling into 50 harbours en route.

Married to Jill and with two sons James & Ryan and also two granddaughters. Tom's family are part of the crew, giving him the logistical and moral support that he knows is critical to his safety and success.



# VIP Guests



## Lieutenant Colonel Sulle Alhaji

Sulle is responsible for the Army Youth Outreach Team, part of the Army Engagement Team situated in Sandhurst. He was incredibly complimentary of MPCT as he had previously seen them at our college Launch in London, and described MPCT as a “one-stop-shop” for preparing young people for the British Army. He also said that he will now be directly referring MPCT when engaging with young people, as we prepare them to such high standards.



## Major General Paul Nanson CBE

Paul was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in January 1986. He became Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in 2006 and was deployed to Iraq. He became Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in September 2015. Paul was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for distinguished services in Afghanistan on 26 February 2015. He is now responsible for the army’s recruiting and training for all officers and soldiers. He stated he was “delighted to be supporting MPCT, in particular all the great work that they do to develop young people in allowing them to realise their potential”.



## Erika Bannerman

Erika is the CEO of Workplace Services Division at Capita. Erika’s role is to lead a business of experts to collectively create high impact sustainable solutions to clients as well as overseeing major, large-scale recruitment contracts within private and public sectors such as the Recruiting Partnering Project with the MOD to recruit into the British Army. Erika was very impressed by our Learners, and took the time to talk to them individually throughout the evening.



## Lieutenant Colonel Gary E Green OBE Royal Marines

Gary is the former Corps Colonel, and was responsible for all recruiting and outreach events for the Royal Marines. When interviewed at the event, he expressed his high opinions of the MPCT Learners saying they were “astounded by the quality of the young people that MPCT can produce,” he also added that “the courses at MPCT are fantastic and prepare young people very well for the Armed Forces”.



## Cath Possamai

Cath is the CEO of the recruiting team for Capita and the British Army. Cath said “I am delighted to commit to a closer working relationship between the Army’s Recruiting Group and MPCT. They are doing great work equipping young people from a variety of backgrounds with the skills they need for careers in the armed forces or elsewhere”.





# MPCT Learners



There were five Learners selected to be at the event. Asmita Rai of MPC Aldershot delivered her Icebreaker, after Huw Lewis had introduced her as part of his speech. Asmita spoke confidently of her many achievements including national titles in Tae Kwon Do and her highly successful application to the Army Air Corps. Four Learners from MPC's Edgware and Battersea then delivered their icebreakers within which they gave detailed insights into their daily college lives and their admirable achievements thus far. Learner Mchale spoke of his inspiring weight loss journey and his goal to join the Irish Guards, Learner Church spoke about his desire to wear a Green Beret and be a Royal Marine, followed by Learner Norris who expressed his aspirations to be in the Royal Military Police. Learner Mehmet then closed the icebreakers, explaining his desire to join the RAF and the skills needed to do so. All Learners spoke confidently and thoroughly impressed all attendees who frequently burst into applause throughout each icebreaker.



A previous Learner of MPCT, Dan Sheen was also in attendance and took the time to talk to the current Learners about his military experiences. Mr. Sheen is an amputee, and since his battle injuries is in training for the next Paralympics. Mr Sheen also said grace at the event and gifted Huw Lewis with a momentum as a thank you, this was a truly special moment.

