



For up-to-the-minute updates from the BT Sport Relief Challenge: Hell on High Seas including images and video content follow [Twitter](#) and [BBC Live](#)

## TIDE'S UP!

**Celebrity crew complete the BT Sport Relief Challenge: Hell on High Seas and raise a staggering £944,288**

Six exhausted and weather-worn celebrities crossed the finish line of the BT Sport Relief Challenge: Hell on High Seas at 7pm today (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March), having clocked up an incredible 800 n/m in a challenge which saw them sail from Belfast to London, in a feat of pure physical, mental and emotional endurance. The challenge, which is sponsored by BT - a long-term supporter of Sport Relief challenges since 2009, has already raised £944,288 for Sport Relief 2016.

The One Show's **Alex Jones**, TV presenter **Angellica Bell**, Comedian **Hal Cruttenden**, Actress **Doon Mackichan**, and TV presenters **Ore Oduba** and **Suzi Perry** set sail from Belfast Harbour at 7am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. On reaching the finish at the HMS Belfast, docked on the Thames in London, the celebrity crew said "this challenge has been sublime, it's been ridiculous and we have experienced more than most sailors will do in a lifetime".

During the week, the celebrity crew were pushed to their absolute limits as they battled against gale-force winds of 29 knots, waves of up to 10ft, relentless sea-sickness, lack of sleep, not to mention a terrifying moment on day two where the boat nearly capsized.

The elements were against them from the outset and with no respite from the brutal conditions, even the most menial tasks, like brushing their teeth, became impossible. The phenomenal feat hit its climax on day three when they were forced to attempt to outpace impending storms by racing the yacht at phenomenal speeds with 30+ knots of wind, steep waves and low tides, in order to make it to shelter safely.

The team were living, sleeping and working on the Volvo Ocean 65 - a carbon-fibre speed machine that has been optimized for maximum performance. At 65 feet, and weighing in at 12,500 kgs the vessel is as long as five cars and weighs the equivalent of twelve great white sharks.

- The crew still need the public's support to spur them on at sea by sponsoring them now at **[sportrelief.com/highseas](http://sportrelief.com/highseas)**
- Inspired by the challenge? Then take on your own challenge by signing up to the Sport Relief Games, go to **[sportrelief.com/events](http://sportrelief.com/events)** to find out how.

As of 7pm on Friday the team had raised an incredible £944, 288 for Sport Relief, which will help transform the lives of some of the most disadvantaged people both at home in the UK and across the world's poorest communities.

The BT Sport Relief Challenge: Hell on High Seas isn't the first Sport Relief Challenge BT has sponsored. From Davina's Beyond Breaking Point, John Bishop's Week of Hell, David Walliams' epic swims, not to mention Jo Brand's Hell of a Walk earlier this year where she trekked an incredible 135 miles from one side of the country to the other; BT has been there all the way.

**-Ends-**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Comic Relief Media Team

0207 820 2500/ [media@comicrelief.com](mailto:media@comicrelief.com)

**BT:**

BT Newsroom, 0207 356 5369

[newsroom@bt.com](mailto:newsroom@bt.com)

**FOR IMAGES CONTACT:**

Katie Michell

020 7820 2673 / [K.michell@comicrelief.com](mailto:K.michell@comicrelief.com)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ABOUT SPORT RELIEF:**

- As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to get active, raise cash and change lives.
- Since 2002, Sport Relief has raised over £262 million. The money raised by the public is spent by Comic Relief to help people living incredibly tough lives, across the UK and the world's poorest communities. It all leads up to the Sport Relief weekend and an unmissable night of TV on the BBC, broadcasting live from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- Comic Relief is a UK charity, which aims to create a just world, free from poverty. The money raised by Comic Relief, through its fundraising campaigns Red Nose Day and Sport Relief as well as other initiatives, is spent at home in the UK and across the world to help people, families and whole communities stand on their own two feet.
- Comic Relief is a registered charity 326568 (England/Wales); SC039730 (Scotland)