

Flagging a top of world arctic adventure for kids' charity

Flags manufactured by a south coast firm have made their way across the North Pole thanks to explorer Kevin Sheppard's successful completion of a challenging race to raise money and increase awareness for a children's bereavement charity.



Right from the outset Hampshire Flag supported the 39 year old from Gloucestershire's ambitious 15 day, 350 mile race across the High Arctic to the Magnetic North by providing three bespoke 68 x 38cm flags, two featuring the Team Sheppard/Winston's Wish logos and one for another of Kevin's sponsors, R&H Interiors, which Kevin took on his expedition.

As one of only 42 who took part in last month's race, Kevin had to pull his sledge across frozen wastelands battling against severe storms and high winds reaching 35mph at times, he also had to navigate with visibility as low as 20-30ft, sometimes even finding his way in a complete arctic whiteout. Kevin said: "I am ecstatic to have completed what was the most challenging 15 days of

my life. The conditions were far harsher than I had ever imagined and I lost eight kilos in weight, trekking for up to 23 hours a day to ensure I reached the finish line on time.

"Knowing I was raising money and awareness for Winston's Wish however was all the motivation and encouragement I needed to press on. Flying the flags at the North Pole was emotional and much dreamed about and I really appreciate Hampshire Flag for making this a reality." Kevin lost his brother 27 years ago due to a motorbike accident when he was just 13 so Winston's Wish, a leading authority in childhood bereavement, is a charity close to his heart. He aims to inspire young children from all backgrounds to achieve their own aspirations, goals and ambitions through Team Sheppard.

Hampshire Flag's managing director Graham Wilkinson said: "We are delighted that Kevin has successfully and safely accomplished his incredible mission. The entire Hampshire Flag team congratulates him and it is wonderful to think that our flags have travelled so far, and for such a worthwhile cause."

The multi-award winning firm has a team of 21 and produces hand-sewn national and international flags and digitally printed banners. The Waterlooville-based company also offers a bespoke flag design service, PVC banners, marine flags, bunting, table flags, exhibition graphics and event systems in addition to the supply and installation an extensive range of flagpoles. Its prestigious portfolio of clients includes Selfridges, the BBC, Channel 4, Portsmouth Football Club, IBM and British Airways.

Beyond Team Sheppard Hampshire Flag



supports various charities and expeditions including Action for Kids, Samaritans, Gumboots and swimmer and environmentalist Lewis Pugh's on-going activities.



For further information about The Hampshire Flag Company contact Graham Wilkinson on 0845 644 3129

To find out more about Kevin's Polar Challenge and one man's journey to the Magnetic North Pole visit: www.teamshppard.co.uk