

Scot awarded prestigious position as one of the Top 50 global influencers in newly formed 'The Explorers Club 50'

Founder of Scottish based charity The Polar Academy, Craig Mathieson from Bo'ness is one of only 50 Explorers globally from over 400 nominations to be inaugurated into the newly formed 'Explorers Club 50' part of the illustrious Explorers Club based in New York.

The Explorers Club was formed in 1904 and has over 100 years of exploration legacy behind them, empowered by the most extraordinary accomplishments of human history: First to the North Pole, first to the South Pole, first to the summit of Mount Everest, first to the deepest point in the ocean, first to the surface of the moon—all accomplished by their members.

The Explorers Club 50 was created to give voice to a special group of individuals who are exploring, inspiring, and creating the future - the future of the planet, the future of food security, of palaeontology, of biology, what our communities should look like, and so much more. The Explorers Club 50 was established to not only reflect the great diversity of exploration, but to give a voice to these trailblazing explorers, scientists, and activists doing incredible work.

Craig Mathieson, Founder of The Polar Academy said 'I feel extremely humbled today to find out that my work with the Polar Academy has been recognised in the inaugural Explorers Club 50: Fifty People Changing the World that the World Needs to Know About.

It is of course all the Students, Parents, Staff, Trustees, Friends, Patrons and Sponsors who have supported me and believed in The Polar Academy that really deserve this award. For me, true exploration isn't about self-promotion, planting flags or feats of endurance. Instead, it's about the furtherance of knowledge and understanding of our wonderful and fragile planet and the positive effect it can have on people. It's a huge privilege to be an explorer, a privilege which must be shared for the benefit all.'

Craig was nominated by two people. The first is Lisa Fox Keating an American Teacher and Archaeologist 'I work with young adults every day, and have a particular interest in social anxiety, depression and esteem issues. When I first heard about The Polar Academy, I was struck first by what a wonderful idea it was and a great way to reach those harder to engage with teenagers. However, as my relationship with the Academy has grown, it is the kindness and humbleness of Craig as a human being that I find particularly inspiring. I loved his vision, purpose and dedication and was never in any doubt that he would be a top nomination. Every country in the world should have a Polar Academy!'

Mark Wood, Chair of The Explorers Club GB & Ireland said "Modern day exploration is about utilising technology to expose the true worth of our planet. Explorers have a tremendous responsibility to inspire the next generation to reconnect with the environment and modern day pioneers like Craig Mathieson are leading the way with these ethics. Craig combines his

own experience and understanding of the polar regions to improve the lives of others. The Polar Academy is unique in the way that it doesn't hold your hand- it allows you to make mistakes - to fall over and then get back up - to re-focus and keep moving forward. Craig is an understated - modest explorer who has a direct impact on the lives of young people, and this is why I backed him. "

ENDS

Contact for further interviews/photography to Viki Mendelssohn on behalf of The Polar Academy and Tiso Group viki@bigbluepr.co.uk or call 07980744048

Notes to Editors:

www.thepolaracademy.org

The Polar Academy is a Scottish children's charity based in Bo'ness. It was established in 2014 by professional Explorer Craig Mathieson.

The Polar Academy identifies 'invisible' 14-17 years old secondary school children, crushed by a lack of self-esteem and gives them the chance to redefine their physical and mental limits.

Participants are put through a rigorous ten-month training programme before being immersed in the wilds of Greenland, navigating through some of the world's remotest terrain for ten days. Their confidence soars with every step.

On their return to Scotland, each pupil shares their experiences with their peer groups, speaking to more than 20,000 school children in their region. They are living, breathing proof that dreams are attainable and that ordinary pupils can achieve the truly extraordinary.

*Due to Covid in 2021 the expedition will take place in Scotland.

The Explorers Club

<https://explorers.org>

The Explorers Club is an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. Since its inception in 1904, the Club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide.

Founded in New York City in 1904, The Explorers Club promotes the scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space by supporting research and education in the physical, natural and biological sciences. The Club's members have been responsible for an illustrious series of famous firsts: First to the North Pole, first to the South Pole, first to the summit of Mount Everest, first to the deepest point in the ocean, first to the surface of the moon—all accomplished by our members.

Link to EC50 document - https://www.explorers.org/news/news_detail/announcing-the-explorers-club-50