

CHARITY

Steve swims for BLESMA



STEVE WHITE

Steve White will be thanked for his charity fundraising efforts by the Duke of Westminster, who has invited him and other dedicated fundraisers to a special reception in the Capital.

Steve has successfully completed two open water swim challenges in the US over the past two months – the latest being a 10km swim in the Hudson River in Manhattan (Saturday 22 September), to raise awareness and funds for the national charity British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, BLESMA – The Limbless Veterans, of

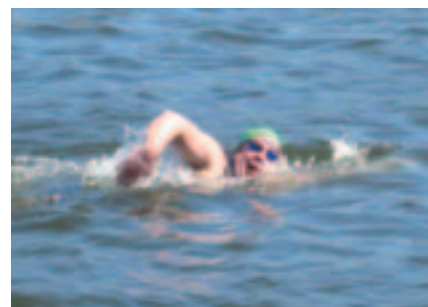
which Steve is an active member.

Steve is the only above the knee amputee from the UK to have taken on the challenges, which also included a 1.5 mile swim from the jetty of the infamous Alcatraz prison in San Francisco to the mainland, back in August.

He met the Duke, who is national President of BLESMA, in September at an evening 'thank you' reception for fundraisers and Paralympians in recognition of their work for the Duke's charity.

Steve's latest effort saw him take on the Little Red Lighthouse Swim in New York – a 6 mile swim up the Hudson River, which took him alongside some of the city's famous landmarks, which he completed in 2 hours and 59 minutes.

Steve, who has been open water training for the past nine months, including taking part in two competitions in London and Ipswich, decided to take up swimming again, four years after losing his leg due to infection



following surgery.

From Newport, Steve, age 47, is CEO of the housing provider, the Hyde Group, where he has been in the post since January 2011.

He said: "I wanted to do a challenge that was a bit different but for a charity that is very personal to me. To be recognised and thanked by the Duke of Westminster is incredible but I am just really happy to have completed both swims and to have raised as much as I have for BLESMA."

Steve has raised more than £1,500 to date. **NN**

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