

'Ocean's Four' tough it out on Trailwalker challenge

Forget Hollywood blockbuster "Ocean's Eleven" starring the likes of George Clooney and Brad Pitt. Shipping has its own heroes and is going one better — or should that be seven less — with "Ocean's

Four". As you read this, four brave industry souls are probably still trudging their way along the wilds of Hong Kong's mountainous trails.

Spare a thought for Tribini

Capital managing director Thomas Soderberg, Clarkson's Asia managing director Martin Rowe, Bjorn Hojgaard, chief executive of Univan Ship Management, and his son, Marcus, who will be tackling the infamous 100-kilometre (62-mile) Oxfam Trailwalker as part of four-man shipping team Ocean's Four.

Hojgaard senior perhaps has the more difficult task. After his knee gave out during training, he volunteered to act as "crew" to the team. Frank Jensen from Hong Kong's Modern Terminals has stepped into his place as a late replacement in team 0610.

Soderberg says just giving money to charity was not enough this year, so he decided it "should be blisters, sweat and tears".

'GINORMOUS MISTAKE'

But Soderberg adds that he soon realised he had made "a ginormous mistake" during a training session that involved scaling the 1,700 steep steps of the famed Needle Hill in the New Territories.

First run in Hong Kong in 1981 by the British Army, the Hong Kong Trailwalker is described as the "mother and father" of all endurance events, taking in Hong Kong's highest mountain and comprising over 5,000 metres of climb and descent.

Other shipping industry teams, including Harry Banga-led Caravel's "Shuffle+Deal" squad are also believed to be taking part.

FUND-RAISING TARGET

Ocean's Four is aiming to complete the course in 24 hours out of a total allowable time of 48 hours and raise HKD 70,000 (\$9,028) for charity.

They have already sailed past this total and have racked up an impressive list of sponsors, which includes names from the great and just slightly less-than-great of the shipping world.

One comment on their sponsorship page reads: "It may be painful but it beats cp [charter party] details..."

Time will tell.



► **SHIPPING TEAM:** (From left) Marcus Hojgaard, Bjorn Hojgaard, Martin Rowe and Thomas Soderberg on a night hike in the Hong Kong wilderness. Below, the group took on the 1,700 steps of the famed Needle Hill in the New Territories in a training run. **Photos:** THOMAS SODERBERG

