



## **Steve Binns, MM Beneficiary and Former Parachute Regiment**

Steve Binns or Dusty as he is known to his mates, joined the Army in 1979 fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a soldier. In his own words, he 'stumbled' into The Parachute Regiment and during his time in 3 Para he served a tour of Northern Ireland and was one of the first to be deployed to The Falklands

Whilst in service, Steve successfully completed an arduous tour, which involved negotiating and searching for safe passage through the various minefields on the island. Whilst carrying out his duties he sadly witnessed comrades and friends being blown up and on more than one occasion found himself fighting for survival in gunfights.

Upon his safe return home, some three weeks post deployment, Steve was involved in a motorbike accident. The accident left him with severe spinal cord injuries rendering him paralysed from the chest down, losing all feeling and use of his legs. Steve's injuries meant he spent 6 months in



hospital recuperating and learning to live with his new disability. Sadly, his time in service was cut short and four years into his career he was medically discharged. It was not until later in life that Steve was diagnosed as suffering from PTSD.

Never one to give up or let his injuries prevent him from enjoying life, his hobbies include surfing and along with other veterans, he helped establish Bude Surf Veterans which provides friendship, camaraderie and support for other veterans and blue light services.

Steve can no longer catch waves but is pretty handy with a tennis racket as a keen participant in wheelchair tennis. He can also be found rowing on the Avon at Stratford. Another great love of Steve's is motorsport, and he can sometimes be found volunteering at charity track days.

It was an introduction from Help for Heroes which led to Steve becoming a popular member of the Mission Motorsport family. Of his time with Mission Motorsport, Steve says, *"Mission Motorsport is fantastic. Not only does it incorporate my love of cars, the people are great and I am treated like a normal person – they see beyond my disability and do everything they can to help me overcome barriers stopping me from enjoying my love of motorsport."*

*"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be able to get behind the steering wheel of a Morgan Plus Four, let alone drive in a Race of Remembrance. I am rarely left speechless, but I cannot put into words what it means. The last couple of years have been particularly tough and I have lost people close to me. Participating in RoR gives me a real focus and something to look forward to. The best part? My young grandson is incredibly proud and is telling everyone that his Grandad is becoming a racing driver!"*