



Introduction

Hein was **born blind** and he matriculated at the Pioneer School for the Blind in Worcester. After school he completed a number of computer training courses, but initially settled in a mundane job as a **switchboard operator**.

His continued drive to improve his situation, together with his love of technology, lead him to start his **own computer business**. During 2001 he landed a job as **Key Accounts Manager** with the IT Company that was founded by Mark Shuttleworth, Thawte Consulting.

During 2002 he completed his **Advanced Professional Management Qualification** through the Open University of London. Within two years at Thawte Consulting he became the **International Sales Manager** for the group's Global Partner Program.

- In March Hein completed the **Hong Kong Marathon**
- Last year he completed the **New York City Marathon**
- Shortly before that he cycled 180km in the **Korea Ironman**
- Earlier in 2006 he **Sky Dived** from a height of ten thousand feet
- He became the first blind person in the world to **Cycle Solo** over a distance of 39 kms.
- He broke the **World Blind Land Speed Record** in September 2005 and set the new world record at 243 km/h
- He **Bungi-Jumped** from the second highest bridge in the world
- South Africa won the first ever **Blind Cricket World Cup**, held in India in 1998 Hein was a player in the country's official team that won the final
- Hein completed the **Cape to Rio Yacht Race** when he was only 22 years old
- In a recent television interview he spoke of his plans to become the first blind person to **fly a Boeing 747-400** from the United Kingdom to South Africa.

In 2005 Hein started his own company called **Visiontree**, focusing on full-time **motivational talks** and **corporate entertainment**. The company also assists other disabled people to find **fulfilling jobs** in the open labour market.

In addition to this he **manages a trust fund** that provides disabled employees with a variety of technologies to enable them to operate competently in their jobs and gives them the ability to reach their full potential.

Hein does not allow his disability to stop him from achieving on all levels. People often refer to him as "**a blind man with exceptional vision**" and he is here today to show us why...

