

Press Release

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Sailing charities come together to provide an inspirational sailing project in Portsmouth

The official charity of the America's Cup World Series Portsmouth, The 1851 Trust is to partner with The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation to deliver inspiring sailing taster sessions to school children in Portsmouth and the surrounding areas throughout the summer holidays.

The Portsmouth Sailing Project is funded by Travis Perkins plc and will be hosted by Portsmouth Sailing Club from Monday 27 July until Sunday 30 August 2015. The project has a target of providing sailing taster sessions for up to 1000 young people aged 9-14 years during the 5 weeks of operation.

Through using specially adapted boats this project will also allow both disabled and able bodied young people to sail together during the 3 hour sailing session. This unique and exciting project aims to inspire a new generation into sailing, breaking down barriers to participation and create an opportunity for young people of diverse backgrounds to take up the sport in the local community.

This will be achieved by providing the initial taster session for free and then signposting the opportunities to attend affordable sailing sessions with local providers, giving them the chance to attend regular sessions and progress in the sport.

Based at The Camber, Old Portsmouth, next to the home of Ben Ainslie Racing, the temporary sailing centre will be officially opened at the America's Cup World Series event in July 2015 and provide an opportunity to grow grassroots participation in sailing.

Speaking on behalf of the 1851 Trust, CEO Alasdair Akass said "The 1851 Trust is a charity of huge ambition and one of our core objectives is to open up sailing to the widest possible audience of young people. It's great to be partnering with the Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation on the Portsmouth Sailing Project, who have such an impressive record of delivering transformational sailing experiences to young people nationally and internationally, to give youngsters from the Portsmouth and the surrounding area the chance

to set sail on one of the most iconic stretches of water in the world. We are so grateful to Travis Perkins for making this project possible ".

John Carter, CEO Travis Perkins plc; "Travis Perkins plc is committed to supporting charities including WhizzKidz, which carries out amazing work for disabled children. Now through our funding of the Portsmouth Sailing Project, operated by the 1851 Trust, we are really pleased to extend our support to more young people in the south of England through a series of sailing experiences. We are delighted that we can also involve WhizzKidz in this project, enabling up to 30 young people with disabilities to have their very own sailing day on 20th August 2015."

Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation Trustee and Patron of the 1851 Trust, Sir Ben Ainslie added "Having two great charities working together to get young people from Portsmouth out on the water and experience sailing is just fantastic. Next week the BAR team will move to our new home on The Camber, and we are very much looking forward to seeing lots of young people out in boats over the summer. It's great that two charities with similar objectives of helping young people get onto the water, to experience this amazing sport, are able to do so during and after one of the most memorable sailing events Portsmouth has ever seen".

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For further information contact:

Amy Harvey- Communications
Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation
amy@andrewsimpsonsailing.org
07554 968 968

To express interest in the Portsmouth Sailing Project please email info@portsmouthsailingproject.org

The 1851 Trust

The 1851 Trust aims to inspire and engage a new generation through sailing and the marine industry, providing young people with the education, skills and training to become innovators of the future, and stewards of the marine environment.

The Trust is supported by Ben Ainslie Racing, the team to bring the America's Cup back to Britain – a trophy that left these shores in 1851, a trophy that Britain has never won. HRH The Duchess of Cambridge and Sir Ben Ainslie are patrons of the 1851 Trust and the charity is chaired by Sir Keith Mills.

Ben Ainslie Racing will host a Visitor Centre for the Trust at its Portsmouth headquarters. It will be an interactive showcase for the sport, sustainability and innovation. The Visitor Centre will provide one of the Trust's educational resources, supporting the programmes that the Trust will run in partnership with other charities. The Visitor Centre will support the STEM agenda – to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in schools and universities.

The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation

The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation was founded in memory of, and inspired by, Olympic Gold medallist, sailor Andrew 'Bart' Simpson. The Founding trustees are Sir Ben Ainslie, Iain Percy OBE and Andrew's wife Leah.

The Foundation honours the life and legacy of a sailor who was passionate about encouraging and helping others fulfil their aims. Its simple objective is to "inspire the next generation" by using sailing to transform the lives of young people across the world.

The Andrew Simpson Sailing Foundation offers the challenges of a sailing environment to promote health and wellbeing, and to develop personal skills that will improve a young person's ability to succeed in life.

In 2014 a global sailing event took place to raise funds for the Foundation. Bart's Bash took place on September 21st across over 50 countries. Over 30000 people took part and raised over £360,000. The event is now firmly in the global sailing calendar and will continue to raise money annually for the Foundation's work and encourage as many people on to the water at one time to enjoy the benefits of sailing.

A twice yearly grant giving process from the charity offers a wide range of support, both financial and/or practical to not for profit sailing initiatives and organisations across the world. With each project assessed against the Foundation's objectives of ensuring that every young person is given a chance to sail, and in a way which will develop them as individuals, in line with Andrew Simpson's own values and achievements.

Travis Perkins plc

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