**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Sailing Charity the Andrew Simpson Foundation to Open its First International Sailing & Watersports Centre on the Shores of Lake Garda in Italy**

The Andrew Simpson Foundation (ASF) is delighted to announce that from April 1st 2018, they will be opening a new not-for-profit sailing and watersports centre based at Campione del Garda c/o Univela Sailing, the world-class sailing venue situated on the shores of Lake Garda in Italy. The Centre will be the first ASF centre to open outside the UK and will act as a European hub aiming to attract sailing enthusiasts, beginners to experts, from far and wide.

The Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre – Lake Garda will offer a full residential package as well as RYA sailing, windsurfing and powerboating courses, foiling experiences and courses, high level sailing clinics, RYA Instructor training, regatta support and boat charter. The Centre will cater for individuals, groups and families looking for the ultimate in sailing and watersports training as well as schools looking for a top-class adventure trip.

Importantly, all the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centres act to enable the Foundation to deliver its mission, in memory of Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson, to increase sailing participation and improve the lives of young people through sailing. The Centres ultimately provide the Foundation with a sustainable method of delivering charitable benefits over the long-term that are not totally dependent on grants and donations from the public.

The new centre at Lake Garda, like all Andrew Simpson Watersports Centres, will deliver the Foundations Charitable Community Sailing Programmes aimed at improving the lives of disadvantaged young people within the surrounding areas. In 2018, the Foundation aims to get over 10,000 disadvantaged young people on the water through its centres so that they may experience the benefits of sailing.

Paul Goodison, Olympic Gold medallist and ASWCs Director commented *“*It is amazing to see a sailing and watersports centre open on Lake Garda in Bart’s name. He would be hugely proud to see the work that is being done in his name, and the tens of thousands of young people benefitting from a sport which he truly loved.”

Arianna Mazzon, Univela Owner added: “ The team at Univela are very excited to welcome the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre to Campione del Garda. We have worked for many years to ensure we have the best facility possible for sailors and watersports enthusiasts. It is an honour to be linking with such a fantastic charity and we look forward to a long relationship where we will be focusing on offering the most incredible experiences for our customers on Lake Garda.”

For more information on the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centres please visit [www.aswc.co.uk](http://www.aswc.co.uk)

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

Andrew Simpson Foundation: The Sailing Charity (ASF)

ASF is a registered charity. Its overarching objective is to increase sailing participation and improve the lives of young people through sailing. The ASF uses the challenges of sailing to develop young people by promoting health & wellbeing and building the personal skills that will improve their ability to succeed in life and work.

To achieve its objectives the ASF is engaged in the following charitable activities: i) the delivery of the annual Bart’s Bash event (the world’s largest mass-participation sailing event), ii) research into the benefits of regular sailing participation, iii) delivery of Community Sailing Programmes and iv) the training of Volunteer Coaches / Instructors. It also provides practical assistance and small grants to other, likeminded, not-for-profit sailing organisations.

To deliver its Community Sailing Programmes and provide a sustainable source of income, the ASF currently runs three Andrew Simpson Watersports Centres (ASWC). The centres are located at Portland (UK National Sailing Academy), Portsmouth and Reading. The watersports centres are all part of a wholly owned, not-for-profit, subsidiary of ASF.

[www.andrewsimpsonfoundation.org](http://www.andrewsimpsonfoundation.org)

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**Campione Univela**

Univela is a not-for-profit sailing organisation affiliated to the Italian Sailing Federation (FIV) and is a CENTRO FEDERALE Federazione Italiana Vela. It owns a world-class sailing facility at Campione on Lake Garda, Italy, hereinafter referred to as the Facility. The Facility includes a 42-bedroom hostel, restaurant, bar, slipway, pontoons, boat storage yard, changing rooms, showers/toilets, training rooms, gymnasium, reception area and offices.

Univela hosts national and international training camps and organises national and international sailing events and regattas at the Facility.

Univela wishes to enter into a long-term agreement with a sail training organisation, that has international profile and reach, in order to increase sail (and other watersports) training at the Facility.