News Release

For Immediate Release

19th July 2019

**MDL partners with British Keelboat League and RS Sailing**

MDL Marinas is the ‘Official Marina Partner’ of the British Keelboat League and RS Sailing.

This partnership will see MDL Marinas providing the new fleet of RS 21 keelboats with easy access to the water during the British Keelboat League events taking place throughout 2019. This support ensures that the teams are located close to the start line at its Hamble Point Marina with direct access to the Solent and Queen Anne’s Battery minutes from Plymouth Sound. The participating sailing crews and organisers will also enjoy access to the marinas’ excellent facilities to support their racing including slipways, boat repairs, and chandlery.

The British Keelboat League was established in 2016 to encourage participation in keelboat racing across the United Kingdom and comprises a series of regional events. At each event, sailors compete in multiple short sprint races against teams from other clubs in their region. The winning teams from each region then come together for a national final to determine the British Keelboat League champions.

“We are delighted to be able to support the British Keelboat League. Getting sailors out on the water and promoting sailing in such an inclusive way is something that MDL whole heartedly endorses,” says Mike Glanville, MDL Marinas Managing Director.  “We look forward to welcoming the teams to our MDL marinas.”

“RS Sailing is delighted that MDL Marinas has come on board as the Marina Partner for the British Keelboat League. MDL Marinas’ support means the British Keelboat League has access to some of the best facilities in the UK which allows us to maximise the time the competitors get to spend on the water and in turn it gets more people involved and participating in our awesome sport.” Jon Partridge – CEO RS Sailing.

All the boats for the events are provided by the British Keelboat League which ensures fair competition across the board. The new RS 21 keelboat makes up the majority of the 2019 fleet and it is ideally suited to the task.

The RS 21 was developed specifically to provide a simple and affordable solution for keelboat clubs to bring wider availability and popularity back to keelboat racing. RS Sailing also put a great emphasis on sustainability when designing the boat. The hull’s core is made from recycled material and, to reduce its carbon footprint, the RS21 is sized to fit six boats into a 40-foot shipping container.

Mike continues: “Looking after our marine environment is a must for anyone working in the marine industry. RS Sailing have committed to this which makes our partnership with the British Keelboat League all the more important to us, as their sustainability efforts complement ours.”

To further support keelboat sailing MDL’s Hamble Point and Queen Anne’s Battery marinas offer competitive annual, summer and monthly ‘trailer sailor’ packages designed specifically with keelboat sailors in mind.

To find out more about the British Keelboat League visit <https://www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk> or for more information on MDL and its marinas please visit <https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk>

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors:**

**Image attached**:

1. **MDL Marinas**
* MDL Marinas is the UK’s leading marina and water-based leisure provider and one of Europe’s largest marina groups, offering members over 120 destinations to cruise to in the UK, France, Italy and Spain through Freedom Berthing. Currently MDL Marinas manage 18 UK marinas, 1 in Italy and 1 in Spain.
* MDL Marinas is proud to be landlords to over 500 marine business companies, with over 260 staff delivering the unique MDL experience to all members, guests and commercial partners.
* The company also advises on worldwide marina developments including Europe and China.
* For more information visit www.mdlmarinas.co.uk

**MAA**

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