



MDL MARINAS

News Release
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MDL Marinas partners with Ocean Globe Race to bring iconic sailing race home to Southampton

After almost a quarter of a century, it is with great excitement that MDL Marinas announces it has partnered with the Ocean Globe Race to bring the iconic sailing race back to Southampton.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Whitbread Round the World Race, the fully crewed retro Ocean Globe Race will be run in the spirit of the original 1973 race, starting and finishing at MDL's Ocean Village Marina in Southampton, as so many editions of this epic sailing challenge did before.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have MDL onboard for the 2023 Ocean Globe Race and starting from Ocean Village in Southampton is a personal dream for me," says Don McIntyre, Ocean Globe Race Founder and Owner of McIntyre Events.

"When I conceived this event as a 50th Anniversary celebration of the original 1973 Whitbread Race, I desperately wanted a start in the UK as this is where it all began. Now, in September, the UK public and sailors everywhere will be able to celebrate an important part of their maritime culture as 15 yachts set sail to re-create that first ever fully crewed race around the world."

On 10 September 2023, over 160 sailors will depart Ocean Village onboard the 15 yachts to complete the four leg, 30,000 mile race around the world via the three great capes; Africa's Cape of Good Hope, Australia's Cape Leeuwin, and South America's notorious Cape Horn.

Onboard the privately-owned, pre-1988 sailing boats, the international crews will have no GPS, no high-tech equipment and no computers and will navigate using only a sextant, charts and the stars.

Six of the boats competing have taken part in one or more of the Whitbread races to which they are now paying homage. One of the most notable is Tracy Edwards' Farr 58 *Maiden*. In 1990, Tracy triumphantly brought home the first all-female Whitbread crew onboard



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Maiden to Ocean Village Marina. At the time, it was estimated that almost 50'000 people came to witness this momentous event, which helped to turn the tide on women's participation in sailing.

“What better way to celebrate MDL Marina's 50th anniversary than to join forces with Don McIntyre to bring the Ocean Globe Race to life to celebrate the iconic Whitbread Round the World race as it also turns 50,” says Tim Mayer, Sales and Marketing Director at MDL Marinas.

“By hosting the start and finish of this retro edition of the historic race at our Ocean Village Marina, we're hoping to recreate the jubilant atmosphere of the early races, welcoming crowds of supporters, capturing the imagination of visitors and inspiring the next generation of round the world sailors.

“Working closely with Southampton City Council and McIntyre Adventure it's an honour and privilege to be part of this event, building on Southampton's already proud maritime heritage. And there's plenty of opportunities for businesses, both marine and non-marine, to be front and centre of all the action at the Race Village.”

The Race Village at Ocean Village Marina will open on the 26 August 2023, two weeks prior to the start of the race on 10 September. During the run up to the start, the Race Village will host speakers, pre-race activities, past race screenings, hospitality and entertainment as well as the media centre and sailors' briefing area.

Any business interested in getting involved and partnering with this historic event should contact Tim Mayer via t.mayer@mdlmarinas.co.uk

For more information on the Ocean Globe Race visit <https://oceangloberace.com>

For more information on MDL and its marinas visit www.mdlmarinas.co.uk

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Notes for editors:

MDL Marinas Group Ltd

- MDL Marinas Group is the UK's leading marina and water-based leisure provider and one of Europe's largest marina groups, offering members over 160 destinations to cruise to in the UK, France and Spain. Currently MDL Marinas manages 18 UK marinas and one in Spain.
- MDL Holidays is part of the MDL Marinas Group, offering waterside holidays in luxury lodge and holiday park accommodation.
- New to the MDL Marinas Group, MDL Fitness is a range of green gyms where the fitness equipment converts human kinetic energy into electricity.
- MDL Marinas Group is proud to be landlords to over 500 marine businesses, with over 260 staff delivering the unique MDL experience to all berth holders, visitors and commercial partners.
- The company also advises on worldwide marina developments.
- For more information visit www.mdlmarinas.co.uk

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For media enquiries, more information, product tests, or hi-res images:

MAA

Susannah Hart

Email: susannah@maa.agency

Tel: +44 (0) 23 9252 2044.