

N e w s R e l e a s e
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Ancasta supports Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust pre-season fundraising activities

Strengthening its partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, the Ancasta Group sponsored the charity's pre-season fundraising sailing regatta which took place in the Solent on Friday (5 May).

Taking to the water in twelve high performance, one design J70 boats, the crews enjoyed a series of short, fun but competitive races in the Solent, just off Cowes on the Isle of Wight, starting and finishing on the famous Royal Yacht Squadron line to the sound of the iconic sailing club's William IV cannon.

Celebrating the support for the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust ahead of the start of the Trust's 2023 sailing season, each four-person crew comprised of a professional skipper, a volunteer who were themselves supported by the charity after cancer, a guest, and a Trust team member.

Over the next three years, the Trust has the ambition to be even more accessible and inclusive to all young people who have a cancer diagnosis in the UK and ensure every young person it supports experiences belonging and improved mental wellbeing with the charity.

Last year, 519 young people enjoyed a Trust sailing or outdoor adventure. By the end of 2025, the charity aims to double the number of young people it supports in one year.

Further to its sponsorship of the Trust's fundraising and awareness-raising activities on the Isle of Wight, Ancasta Group wants to assist in making its recently announced 'Bigger Impact, Brighter Futures' Ambitions a reality.

"We're all very proud to be able to support the marvellous work of the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust in its 20th anniversary year," says Nick Griffith, Ancasta Group Managing Director. "Over the last two decades, the Trust has helped almost 3000 young people following a cancer diagnosis.

“After they’ve sailed with the Trust, they come back to shore feeling more accepted and optimistic, and able to take the next steps towards getting their lives back on track and re-establishing their place in the world.

“We hope that our partnership with the Trust will enable the team to help as many young people as possible, now and in the future.”

Participating in the event is 20-year-old Emily Wright. In 2011, Emily was diagnosed with an optic pathway glioma - a kind of brain tumour that affected her vision - and is now registered blind. She spent two years receiving chemotherapy, and still experiences fatigue from the treatment.

Now studying for an MSci in Physics with Scientific Computing at Bristol University, Emily first sailed with the Trust aged 13 from Cowes.

She has since joined four sailing adventures, including the charity's multi-leg voyage around Great Britain in 2017 and with Dame Ellen in 2022's Round the Island Race. This summer she will volunteer on a trip.

Emily discovered a new passion for sailing through the Trust, and having been training with GBR Blind Sailing, last year competed at two World Championship events in France and Oman.

Speaking at the Ambitions launch, Emily said: "The Trust helped me gain confidence and feel like a normal young person again, and in getting back into especially active hobbies, which was an amazing thing to be able to do.

"The Trust isn't about making people love sailing, but the trips made me fall in love with sailing, so I now sail whenever possible without impacting too much on my uni studies. It's a brilliant way to find what you love doing and meet other people who are going through it with you.

"Being in the scenario where things like disabilities don't hold you back shows that the things you thought often make you different, do make you different, but for good reasons. And you can bring that and be a really unique and valuable person wherever you go."

For more information on the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust visit <https://www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org> or follow @EMCTrust across social media.

For more information on the Ancasta Group visit <https://ancasta.com>

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Notes to editors

High-res images are available online at <https://maa.agency/media-centre>

About The Ancasta Group

- Ancasta International Boat Sales has 22 offices across the UK and Europe.
- Ancasta Race Boats is a specialist branch of Ancasta International focusing on performance yachts.
- Ancasta Multihulls is a specialist arm of Ancasta International Boat Sales.
- Ancasta is the largest Beneteau Power and Sail dealer in the UK.
- Ancasta is the largest UK dealer for Prestige Luxury Motor Yachts dealer and Prestige Yachts in the Balearics.
- Ancasta is exclusive UK dealer for Lagoon Catamarans.
- Ancasta is exclusive UK and European dealers for Protector Boats and Scorpion Ribs.
- In addition, Ancasta is a new boat dealer for CNB Yacht Builders and McConaghy Yachts.
- The Ancasta Group incorporates Sanlorenzo UK, PB Europe, Ancasta Yachts Services, Ancasta International Boat Sales, Spencer Rigging and Advanced Rigging and Hydraulics, both operating from Port Hamble.
- For more information on Ancasta visit www.ancasta.com

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