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**News Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**25 July 2023**

**MDL Marinas hosts OGR Captains' Dinner and charity auction  
to support three marine charities**

Offering a unique opportunity to dine with the intrepid skippers and crews taking part in the retro Ocean Globe Race (OGR) before they set sail, MDL Marinas is hosting a black-tie Captains' Dinner at the Harbour Hotel in Ocean Village on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

Celebrating the 50th anniversaries of MDL Marinas and the Whitbread Round the World Race, this exceptional evening of entertainment will include a charity auction to raise money for the Ocean Youth Trust (South), Blue Marine Foundation and The Maiden Factor Foundation, with a whole host of fantastic items up for grabs (details below).

“What better way to get into the spirit of this epic sailing challenge than to enjoy a delicious meal with the remarkable sailors who'll be setting sail from Ocean Village, where so many ocean races have started from before,” says Tim Mayer, MDL's Sales and Marketing Director.

“Absolutely everyone's welcome, and with skippers past and present joining in the celebrations, this is a real must for sailing aficionados.”

Among the 40 renowned sailors attending will be sailing legend Tracy Edwards MBE. Onboard *Maiden* in the 1989/1990 Whitbread Tracy Edwards MBE sailed the first ever all-female Whitbread crew home to Ocean Village Marina. As the after-dinner speaker, Tracy will be regaling the audience with tales of her on water adventures, and highlighting the valuable work of her charity, The Maiden factor Foundation, towards empowerment of girls through education.

Speaking recently about the partnership between MDL Marinas and the Ocean Globe Race, Tracy said: “It is an absolutely perfect partnership. I mean, you couldn't write it that MDL have their 50th anniversary the same year as the Whitbread.

“For me, MDL has been part of every ocean race that I've done. I couldn't have imagined us not being at MDL Ocean Village for the start of this race, that would've been quite

T: 023 9252 2044  
E: susannah@maa.agency  
www.maa.agency

MAA  
Units SF1-2, Endeavour Quay,  
Mumby Road, Gosport, PO12 1AH



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discombobulating for all of us. Southampton is the home of ocean racing and that's its banner if you like.

"We are just so, so happy to be back there and to work with the people at MDL who totally get what we need, when we need it. They really are part of that celebration of the Whitbread, I think that's been a hugely powerful part of this race."

MDL Marinas previously hosted the Whitbread in 1989, 1993, 1997 and 2001, and this year it will host the Race Village and the start of the Ocean Globe Race, bringing this iconic race back to Southampton as it turns 50.

Tickets for the Captains' Dinner at the 5\* Southampton Harbour Hotel at Ocean Village Marina on Friday 1st September cost £100 each or £900 for a table of ten. Tickets include drinks on arrival at 18.30, a delicious three-course meal with wine, and the chance to take part in the auction and meet the race teams face to face. Everyone's welcome.

To book tickets visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ocean-globe-race-2023-captains-dinner-charity-auction-tickets-660478076707>\*

### Charity Auction

The exclusive lots available to bid on at the Captains' Dinner charity auction are below, with all proceeds from the auction split between the three amazing charities: Ocean Youth Trust (South), Blue Marine Foundation and The Maiden Factor Foundation.

Bids can also be made in advance online on the Charity Auction webpage:

<https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/ogr23/auction/>

### Lot 1: Name on *Maiden*

When *Maiden* was restored in 2018 Tracy Edwards MBE wanted to pay tribute to her mother Patricia Edwards who had been instrumental in supporting Tracy in getting *Maiden* to the start line of the 1989/90 Whitbread Round the World Race. Tracy placed her mother's name on the hull along with Joanna Court, the daughter of a *Maiden* supporter who helped facilitate the new mission. Influenced by this, The Maiden Factor Foundation launched the 'Names Project', adding the names of inspirational women from around the world to the yacht's hull, including its ambassadors Whoopi Goldberg, Jamie Lee Curtis, Yasmeen Shabsough and Karmen Royal.



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And now, you could have one of a limited number of spaces and add the name of your loved one.

### **Lot 2: Overnight stay at Southampton Harbour Hotel**

Located in Ocean Village Marina, this iconic seven-floor super-yacht-inspired hotel rises above the other luxury boats of Southampton with its tiered terrace style decks, with views of the Solent. There is no better place to explore the south coast by land or sea.

The winning bid for this lot will receive a night's stay for two with breakfast. All rooms at the hotel include complimentary gin, a Nespresso coffee machine, free in-room Wi-fi, Bramley toiletries, complimentary use of HarSPA, 24-hour room service, and air conditioning.

### **Lot 3: Thames champagne lunch cruise**

The winning bidder will experience a luxury cruise on the River Thames on board *Windrush IV*, a classic 47-foot teak motor launch, which has played host to a number of VIPs including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Starting at Bray Marina, you will enjoy fresh pastries and coffee before you head off downstream through Windsor and the Royal Estate. Moored at Eton (if possible), you'll stop for lunch overlooking Windsor Castle and enjoy a selection of delicious canapés, sandwiches and chilled Champagne. You'll then return to Bray Marina, taking in the River Thames' tranquillity and beautiful surroundings (duration six hours, for up to eight guests).

### **Lot 4: Overnight stay at the Hilton at the Ageas Bowl**

Overlooking a tranquil lake, the hotel is adjacent to the Ageas Bowl with sweeping views of the cricket ground. Inspired by cricketer Lord Ian Botham, the hotel's signature restaurant Beefy's serves up a range of modern British dishes, with light lunches and refreshments are available at the eforea Spa Kitchen the Lakeview Bar & Terrace.

The winning bid will have a night's stay for two at Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton with breakfast the following morning in Beefy's. Your stay includes free parking, free WiFi, non-smoking rooms, on-site restaurant, fitness centre, pet-friendly rooms and business centre. This winning lot is valid from 4th September 2023 until 4th March 2024.



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### **Lot 5: Pair of VIP tickets to Southampton Boat Show**

Add a touch of luxury with The Quayside Club VIP experience at this year's Southampton International Boat Show. At the Quayside Club you will enjoy first-class hospitality in the exclusive Waterfront Lounge with unparalleled views of the show's marina.

This winning lot includes: Entry to the show for two people, waterfront lounge, complimentary drinks, a premium served buffet lunch and a cloakroom.

### **Lot 6: Pair of tickets on SS Shieldhall to watch the start of the Ocean Globe Race**

Say bon voyage to the 14 Ocean Globe Race crews in style onboard the historic steamship Shieldhall, the largest working steamship in Britain.

The winning bidder will join friends and family of the crews onboard for a late breakfast at 11.00, before watching the Ocean Globe Race fleet cross the line as Sir Chay Blyth starts the race from the famous Royal Yacht Squadron. After following the yachts down the western Solent to The Needles, a hearty lunch will be served to all at 13.00 prior to cruising back to port.

### **Lot 7: Four tickets to tour and enjoy lunch on The Royal Yacht Britannia**

Explore each of the five decks of The Royal Yacht Britannia and discover what life was like on board Queen Elizabeth II's former floating palace, before enjoying a delicious lunch in the sumptuous surroundings of the Tea Room.

The winning bid includes tour tickets and a luncheon voucher for four people.

### **Lot 8: One track/road cycling experience**

Hosted by a GB Gold Medallist, the winning bidder can enjoy a day out at the Olympic velodrome in London.

Choose between the Road Circuit or the Track with both accessing the athlete Q&As, hospitality zones and taking home signed mementoes of the day. Each session comes with coaching and all equipment.



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### **Lot 9: One river rowing experience**

The winning bidder will be joined by a GB rower and take to the water at Henley on Thames, rowing along this famous stretch of the Thames while enjoying a 40-minute coaching session, followed by the opportunity to sprint! Athlete Q&As and mementos to take home are included.

### **Lot 10: One white-water rafting experience**

The winning bidder will enjoy a 75-minute session taking on the rapids of the Olympic course at the Lee Valley White Water Centre in the company of a GB gold medallist. There will be an athletes Q&A and signed mementoes to take home – just don't forget your swimmers and a towel.

Please don't forget to check the website regularly as more lots are being added.

To book tickets to the Captains' Dinner and charity auction visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ocean-globe-race-2023-captains-dinner-charity-auction-tickets-660478076707>

For more information on the Ocean Globe Race, or to register for free tickets to the Race Village visit <https://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk/ogr23/>

For more information on MDL and its marinas visit [www.mdlmarinas.co.uk](http://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk)

\*Tickets are sold through Eventbrite who apply a booking fee of 6.95% + £0.59 + VAT per ticket.

### **Ends**

### **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.
- Bringing ocean racing back to Southampton, MDL is hosting the Ocean Globe Race at its Ocean Village Marina in the heart of the city – as it did previously for so many editions of the Whitbread Round the World Race.



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- MDL Marinas is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, with Ocean Village Marina added to its portfolio in 1989 - one year before Tracy Edwards triumphantly brought home the all-female Whitebread Race crew of Maiden to Ocean Village Marina.
- 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.
- For more information visit [www.mdlmarinas.co.uk](http://www.mdlmarinas.co.uk)

## MAA

- MAA provides simple, no-nonsense solutions to companies' advertising, PR, media buying and marketing communications needs.
- From brand development to website design, digital marketing to PR, MAA offers a straightforward, knowledgeable and service-orientated approach.
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For media enquiries, more information, product tests, or hi-res images:

MAA

Susannah Hart

Email: [susannah@maa.agency](mailto:susannah@maa.agency)

Tel: +44 (0) 23 9252 2044.