



## PRESS RELEASE

RS Marine Group

26 June 2024

### RS Sailing leads the way with truly inclusive Championships for 2024

The globally renowned brand RS Sailing is thrilled to be supporting a combined Worlds and International Championship that features classifications so virtually any sailor can compete – making it the first of its kind for a truly inclusive, unified event.

Running from 30th September to 3rd October 2024, both the **RS Venture Connect World Championship** and the **International Inclusive Keelboat Championship** will be hosted by Rutland Sailing Club, racing on England's largest reservoir, proving that inclusion really is the solution.

#### RS Venture Connect World Championship

This will be the first Class Worlds to take place in the United Kingdom. As in previous years, the popular sailing class event will feature a World Sailing-sanctioned '**Para**' category for teams consisting of two sailors both with World Sailing Minimal Disability (MD) Para Classification status at the time of the event, as well as an '**Inclusive**' category, aimed at increasing opportunities for participation by disabled sailors whose disability does not meet the Para Classification criteria.

Teams wishing to enter the World Championship in this 'Inclusive' category will need to self-certify that at least one sailor in each team is a sailor with a disability.

Ensuring that no sailor is excluded in this all-inclusive event, the 2024 RS Venture Connect World Championship will also feature a newly created '**Open**' category, designed for participation by all, including non-disabled teams.

Crews wishing to enter in this 'Open' category will compete head-to-head with those teams sailing in the 'Para' and 'Inclusive' categories, including multiple World Champions in not only the RS Venture Class but also from other Para Sailing Classes.



Taking accessibility to the next level, the **RS Venture Connect SCS** boat is designed with plug & play Para inclusive sailing equipment options that can be set up for almost any disability, removing barriers to entry and putting all sailors on a level playing field.

With simple, modular ways of adapting the boat to a variety of disabilities, everything can be retrofitted on the same boat. Additionally, all controls lead towards the cockpit and a weighted keel and masthead float makes the boat self-righting for added safety.

“For sailing to be truly inclusive and for disabled sailors to feel that they are not being treated differently to those sailors without disabilities we need to ensure that everyone can sail and compete side-by-side, with the equipment being the ‘leveller’ and not the disability,” says Dan Jaspers, Manufacturer Representative for the RS Venture Connect Class.

“The RS Venture Connect class has been a long-term supporter of the term inclusivity but it is only by opening up our events to everyone to be able take part in that we can say that we are actually doing what we have been preaching about, that being that sailing is a sport for all!”

### **International Inclusive Keelboat Championship**

New for 2024, the International Inclusive Keelboat Championship will take place at the same time as the RS Venture Connect Worlds and will be raced on the ultimate one-design keelboat; the RS21. The inclusive championship is created specifically for disabled sailors whose disability does not meet the Para Classification ‘Minimal Disability’ (MD) criteria, helping increase opportunities for participation in international-level sailing events.

Sticking to the ‘fair competition’ Corinthian ethos, sailors will compete in identical **RS21** boats, levelling the playing field and intensifying the competition.

These modern vessels have revolutionised keelboat racing. Designed to be handled by sailors of varying skill levels, RS21s are rapidly gaining in popularity thanks to their emphasis on close, tactical racing. Success on the racecourse, therefore, is determined by the skill and strategy of the crew rather than the difference in equipment. This fresh approach engages seasoned sailors with a dynamic racing experience while, at the same time, attracting a new generation to the sport.



Hannah Stodel, Para World Sailing Manager at World Sailing, comments: “As we step forward into a new World Sailing strategy that focuses on inclusivity, it is really positive to see classes like the RS21 embracing this new direction, putting in fantastic efforts to support and grow inclusive sailing through their class activities.

“RS Sailing is one of the few manufacturers of equipment that is suited to both Para and Inclusive sailing and have been instrumental in keeping the development of our sport at the heart of their activities. Having Rutland Sailing Club host this event alongside the RS Venture Connect Class Worlds is also fantastic. I am looking forward to seeing some truly inclusive racing taking place.”

Speaking on behalf of Rutland Sailing Club, Olympic medallist sailor David Wilkins comments: “It is truly a great honour for Rutland Sailing Club to be hosting the International Inclusive Keelboat Championship 2024 event in RS21s alongside the 2024 RS Venture Connect World Championship.

“We are really looking forward to offering a warm welcome to all of the competitors and their supporters. We are hugely proud of the facilities our club is able to provide and, in conjunction with Rutland Sailability, we regularly host and support visitors from around the world. So, it will be an exciting opportunity to share our community and expertise alongside these two fantastic international championships.”

For more information on RS Sailing, their range of boats or individual races and events, visit [www.rssailing.com](http://www.rssailing.com).

To register for either of the World Sailing events being held on Rutland Water this Autumn, visit the events portal [www.rssailing.club/event-listing](http://www.rssailing.club/event-listing). Registration closes 31 August 2024.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- Within the RS Marine Group, RS Sailing is internationally renowned for producing durable, award winning, and fun sailing dinghies. RS Electric Boats works towards reducing emissions from chase boats. The Pulse 63 is 100% electric, uses emissions-free propulsion, and is made using sustainable materials. Cheetah Marine and RS Electric Boats joined forces in 2022 to develop a



new generation of electric workboats. The companies are working together to accelerate the evolution of dependable electric boats for commercial, and leisure use. Ocean Play is a collaboration between RS Marine Group and Jo Richards to manufacture Picos, Bugs, Bahias and Vagos. As well as manufacturing to Richards' original design, Ocean Play offers worldwide customer services for all four boats.

[www.rsmarinegroup.com](http://www.rsmarinegroup.com) | 01794 526760

[www.oceanplay.club](http://www.oceanplay.club) | [www.rselectricboats.com](http://www.rselectricboats.com) | [www.rssailing.com](http://www.rssailing.com) | [www.cheetahmarine.com](http://www.cheetahmarine.com)

- Cheetah Marine launched its first catamaran in 1990. Designed by founder Sean Strevens, who was then a commercial fisherman, it was made to handle rough seas and beach safely in surf. Since then, the company has built over 600 catamarans for commercial seamen, fisherman, divers, patrol personnel, hydrographic surveyors, expedition skippers and more.  
[www.cheetahmarine.co.uk](http://www.cheetahmarine.co.uk) | 01983 85239
- RS Electric Boats' parent brand, RS Sailing is internationally renowned for producing durable, award winning, and fun sailing dinghies. RS Electric Boats was born from the company's desire to reduce emission from chase boats. Production facilities for its Pulse 63 – a RIB with fully integrated electric hard drive – has recently moved to the Hamble. The Pulse 63 is 100% electric, uses emissions-free propulsion, and is made using sustainable materials.  
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