**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Andrew Simpson Foundation to Unite Cyclists & Sailors!**

Andrew Simpson Foundation: The Sailing Charity are to unite sailors and cyclists with a brand-new fundraising and cycling event in memory of Olympic Gold Medallist and America’s Cup Sailor Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson. Bike4Bart will take place on Sunday 2nd September 2018 from Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, Dorset.

Cycling inland from the Isle of Portland and the home of the Andrew Simpson Foundation, the three different route options will head into Dorset’s Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, offering a real treat of a ride whatever your ability level. With a mixture of spectacular views, leg-pumping climbs and historical scenery the route will always have something to keep everyone interested.

Alongside the Cycling event, the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre – Portland, (also based at the National Sailing Academy) will throw its doors open to the public offering a variety of free sailing and water-based activities, culminating in a great fun day for all the family.

Bike4Bart aims to help raise awareness of the amazing work that is currently carried out by the Andrew Simpson Foundation around the world, and to raise funds, allowing the sailing charity to both continue increasing participation in the sport and improve the lives of disadvantaged young people.

CEO Richard Percy said “Like many others within the sailing community, Andrew was a keen cyclist. We therefore decided it would be a fitting tribute to organise a cycling event in his honour which will start and end at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, the home of the Foundation, and where he trained for his Olympic campaigns. The principle of this event is to help introduce cyclists that don't currently sail, into the sport of sailing - and there’s no better place to do so than the home of the British Sailing Team”.

To sign up to Bike4Bart as an individual or as a team please visit [www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk/events/bike-4-bart-charity-sportive/](http://www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk/events/bike-4-bart-charity-sportive/)

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

Andrew Simpson Foundation: The Sailing Charity (ASF)

ASF is a registered charity. Its overarching objective is to increase sailing participation and improve the lives of young people through sailing. The ASF uses the challenges of sailing to develop young people by promoting health & wellbeing and building the personal skills that will improve their ability to succeed in life and work.

To achieve its objectives the ASF is engaged in the following charitable activities: i) the delivery of the annual Bart’s Bash (the world’s largest mass-participation sailing event) and Bike4Bart cycling events, ii) research into the benefits of regular sailing participation, iii) delivery of Community Sailing Programmes and iv) the training of Volunteer Coaches / Instructors. It also provides practical assistance and small grants to other, likeminded, not-for-profit sailing organisations.

To deliver its Community Sailing Programmes and provide a sustainable source of income, the ASF currently runs three Andrew Simpson Watersports Centres (ASWC). The centres are located at Portland (UK National Sailing Academy), Portsmouth and Reading. On April 1st 2018, a fourth ASWC will open in Lake Garda, Italy. The watersports centres are all part of a wholly owned, not-for-profit, subsidiary of ASF. More information on the sailing and watersports centres can be found at [www.aswc.co.uk](http://www.aswc.co.uk).

[www.andrewsimpsonfoundation.org](http://www.andrewsimpsonfoundation.org)

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