**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Issued: 14th May 2018**

**Bart’s Bash Launches a New Global Fundraising Platform for Sailing**

Bart’s Bash, the world’s largest sailing event, is announcing that participating sailing clubs in 2018 will have the opportunity to raise funds for their own sailing projects, using the Bart’s Bash event as a fundraising platform.

Sailing clubs wishing to continue to raise funds through Bart’s Bash to support the Andrew Simpson Foundation will still exist as an option. Funds raised directly for the ASF will enable the Foundation to continue increasing participation and improving young people’s lives through sailing.

Bart’s Bash 2018 is being held at your local Sailing Club on the 15th and 16th September.

2018 marks thefifth Anniversary of Bart’s Bash, a global event organised by the Andrew Simpson Foundation: the sailing charity but delivered through local sailing clubs. The event was set up to honour Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson’s legacy, unite and connect the sailing community, encourage participation at sailing clubs, introduce new people to the sport and give people the excitement of entering a global sailing event.

Iain Percy OBE, Foundation Trustee commented "We’re all very excited about the opportunity to provide sailing with a global fundraising platform through the annual Bart’s Bash event. We see this as a great opportunity for all participating Bart’s Bash sailing clubs to directly raise funds to benefit their local sailing projects as well as continuing to support the Foundation in achieving its aims. Five years on, we couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved to date, and I know Bart would be proud too."

To find out more information on the ASF’s key charitable activities and projects supported to date visit <https://andrewsimpsonfoundation.org/what-we-do/>.

To find out more or to register a club to take part in Bart’s Bash 2018 visit [www.bartsbash.com](http://www.bartsbash.com)

**ENDS**

**Media Team contacts:**

[amy@andrewsimpsonfoundation.org](mailto:amy@andrewsimpsonfoundation.org) 07554 968968

**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.

Bart’s Bash

Bart’s Bash is one of the ASF’s key charitable activities and the funds raised by participants since its inception in 2014, enables the Foundation to deliver its mission of increasing participation in sailing and improving the lives of disadvantaged young people. To date, 847 venues across 80 countries have participated in the event.

**The Andrew Simpson Foundation**

<http://andrewsimpsonfoundation.org/>

[Facebook.com/andrewsimpsonfoundation](http://facebook.com:andrewsimpsonfoundation/)

[Twitter.com/AndrewSimpsonFo](http://twitter.com/AndrewSimpsonFo)