



RYA Press Release

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Volvo RYA Keelboat Sailors to attempt world sailing record with TV presenter Ben Fogle

On Monday 10 July the Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme and TV presenter Ben Fogle will attempt to set an official world sailing record from Portsmouth to Cork, Ireland. Competing in the first ever Big V Sail, the team will race Farr 45 'John Merricks' from Gillkicker Point off Portsmouth across the Irish Sea. Ben Fogle, after completing the Atlantic Rowing Race, has gained valuable experience with the conditions the sea can offer.

Ready to sail down a world record are Jonny Marshall of Lymington who will take the helm accompanied by Ed Hill (Guildford), Bethan Carden (Lymington), Jamie Holmes (Bath), Charlotte Lawrence (Edinburgh), Ben Pym (Cardiff) and Nikki Sharp (Manchester) who will all take turns trimming sails. Manager for the Volvo RYA Keelboat programme's southern squad, Luke McCarthy, and Manager for the National Squad, Nigel King, will also join the amateur sailors.

Jamie Holmes, a student at Southampton University is looking forward to the two-day race. "The whole crew are massively excited about taking part in the race and trying to set this world record. It will be great to have Ben onboard as we try to set an unbeatable time.

"This will be our first offshore over 24 hours this season and it will be a good chance to test out our watch system and see how we work as a team."

Keen to get the race underway, Ben Fogle explained, "I've got some of the best young sailors in the country on my side, so I'm optimistic we can put one over on the other boats."

The Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme provides a pathway for young sailors to break into the world of big boat racing. After receiving top-level coaching and access to grants, sailors on the programme go on to successfully compete in international keelboat events, such as the recent the Rolex Commodores' Cup.

The Big V Sail sets off from Gunwharf Quay, Portsmouth on Monday 10 July and will be recorded by the World Sailing Speed Record Council.

Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme sailors are available for interview during the race; please contact:

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Notes for Editors

About the Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme

- The Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme is an exciting initiative set up to provide training, coaching and grants to a small but select number of young sailors who in turn will be pivotal to future British keelboat projects.
- Allied to the programme is the Volvo RYA Crewsearch Programme, which looks to match Volvo RYA Keelboat Team Members, and others who have come through the training weekends, with keelboat owners who run viable campaigns.
- In time it is hoped that keelboat owners will select crewmembers for their campaigns from the Volvo RYA Keelboat Team and so far opportunities have been provided onboard a variety of boats for regattas such as the Farr 40 worlds, Skandia Cowes Week and the Admirals' Cup.

About the RYA

- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is the national governing body for all forms of sailing, windsurfing, and powerboat racing.
- The RYA is recognised by all government offices as being the negotiating body for the activities it represents. It continually fights for the rights and freedoms of its 100,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters.
- It represents a further estimated 500,000 boat owners nationally through its 1600 affiliated clubs and boat owner associations.
- Olympic and Youth sailing is a beneficiary of the Lottery funded World Class Programmes (WCP) and administered by the Sports Councils. The Programmes focus on performance sport with the aim of achieving sporting excellence on the world stage. Further information can be found on the UK Sport website at www.uksport.gov.uk and Sport England's website at www.sportengland.org. The Volvo RYA Champion Club Programme and Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme are supported by Volvo.
- Further information can be found at www.rya.org.uk

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