

News Release

Yachting hero Sir Robin Knox-Johnston swaps high seas for Salisbury

Immediate Release

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World famous adventurer Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE will swap the high seas for Salisbury on **Wednesday 12th December at 7pm** when he will talk about his epic voyages of sailing solo around the world. He will be at Salisbury Arts Centre for the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Wessex Region's Annual Arnold Barks Memorial Lecture

Media are invited to film and interview Sir Robin before the event where he will share his experience of competing in one of the toughest competitions known to man, the Velux 5 Oceans Race.

The 68-year-old Londoner – from Putney – completed the world-famous race earlier this year and spent 150 days alone at sea, faced with hurricane-strength winds and raging seas. He single-handedly sailed his Open 60 yacht "Grey Power", which is described as the world's fastest and most powerful class of monohull.

During the race Sir Robin's yacht was plagued with weather-related damages which he was forced to repair. The veteran skipper even had to take a dip in the icy Southern Ocean to free his keel of a fishing net that became ensnared.

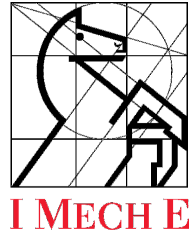
IMechE Salisbury Committee Member Nick Schulkins said: "It takes extraordinary physical and mental strength to race these yachts single-handedly which makes Sir Robin's achievements even more remarkable. The Velux5Oceans Race pushes the skippers' endurance, resilience and determination in some of the most demanding and extreme conditions."

Sir Robin first sailed into the history books when he became first person to ever circumnavigate the globe alone in 1969 while competing in the Sunday Times Race. He spent 312 days at sea, and encountered 25metre-high waves to win the Golden Globe Trophy. He later donated his £5000 prize money to the family of Donald Crowhurst, who tragically died in the same race.

Since then Sir Robin has continued to race in yachting challenges around the world and is considered by many as the 'ultimate pioneer'.



ENDS



Notes to Editors

- Media are invited to attend the event. Interviews with Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and organisers can be arranged before the event by contacting the IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6877 or 020 7304 6973 or 07730 644134 or email media@imeche.org
- The IMechE's Annual Arnold Barks Memorial Christmas lecture will be attended by the family of the late Arnold Barks, former chair of the Wessex Region, who devoted much of his life to engineering and was a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Salisbury College. This is the second year the event has been held and it aims to recognise engineering and technical excellence.
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE) was established in 1847 and has some of the world's greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 80,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit www.imeche.org for more information.