

# 'Team E-Lites' launch 2,000-mile Round Britain Charity Challenge

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An intrepid group of powerboat racers called Team E-Lites are tomorrow embarking on the adventure of a lifetime – a

2,000 mile journey around Britain to raise funds for children's hospices.

Team E-Lites will launch from Salcombe, in Devon, on Thursday morning (21st June) and aim to circumnavigate the country in just 11 days, returning on Sunday 1st July.

Throughout their clockwise route, the team will make 10 stops to hand over to hospices a share of the thousands of pounds that the project is expected to generate. E-Lites, the UK's leading electronic cigarettes manufacturer and founder of Team E-Lites, has already donated £3,500 to the cause and hope this can be doubled by auctioning rides in the powerboat along the way.

Team E-Lites, supported by BananaShark Racing, had been hoping to compete in this year's historic RB12 endurance race but when that was postponed a few weeks ago they launched a phoenix-style mission to complete the course on their own in aid of children's hospices.

E-Lites co-founder and director Adrian Everett said: "This is an ambitious undertaking – not just in terms of logistics but in the physical and mental challenges the crew will face as they race over rough seas for several hours a day at high speeds. But determination is in the DNA of E-Lites and we'll do absolutely everything we can to see this through on behalf of the thousands of sick children who will benefit from the money we are raising."

The schedule is as follows:

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Thursday 21st June Depart from Salcombe, Devon Arrive in Newlyn, Cornwall

Friday 22nd June Depart from Newlyn, Cornwall Arrive in Swansea

Saturday 23rd June Depart from Swansea Arrive in Douglas, IoM

Sunday 24th June Depart from Douglas, IoM Arrive in Troon

Monday 25th June Depart from Troon Transit Caledonian Canal

Tuesday 26th June Arrive in Inverness

Wednesday 27th June Depart from Inverness Arrive in Edinburgh

Thursday 28th June Depart from Edinburgh Arrive in Grimsby

Friday 29th June Depart from Grimsby Arrive in Chatham, Kent

Saturday 30th June Depart from Chatham Arrive in Portsmouth

Sunday 1st July Depart from Portsmouth Arrive in Salcombe

A crew of three experienced drivers and navigators – including championship winners John Cooke, Graham Lawton and Jeremy Gibson – will guide the 38ft BananaShark Stirling powerboat around the route, covering distances of up to 260 nautical miles per day, which will mean several hours spent battling often difficult conditions and high waves.

Beneficiaries will include Little Bridge House in North Devon; Children's Hospice South West; Ty Hafan, near Cardiff; Rebecca House Hospice, in the Isle of Man; Friends of the Beatson, in Glasgow; Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS); St Andrew's Children's Hospice, in Grimsby; Demelza Hospice Care for Children, in Kent; and Naomi House, in Winchester.

CHAS fundraiser Amy Telford, CHAS Fundraiser, said: "We are so grateful that CHAS has been nominated and thank the whole powerboat team for their efforts. We wish them the best of luck for their adventure."

In addition, E-Lites hopes to educate smokers around the country about its leading range of electronic cigarettes, which offer a healthier, use-anywhere, smoke-free alternative to conventional tobacco cigarettes.

To underline this 'clean air' message, the team has ensured carbon neutral status for its powerboat, with highly efficient Yanmar BY260 engines that will drive the craft despite a capacity of only three litres each.

The Round Britain Charity Challenge, supported by Raymarine navigation technology, will be covered online by a GPS tracking system that will chart the crew's progress in real time, while video specialist Veho is supplying cameras that will film the action for viewing via websites and social media.

BananaShark director and co-driver John Cooke said: "Following the postponement of the Round Britain race we were incredibly disappointed but thanks to the incredible generosity and support of E-Lites and our other sponsors we will not only complete the challenge but also make a difference in the local communities."

A map of the full route can be viewed by clicking here

(<https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?msid=209680434691122648109.0004bcc34b4c27debbfce&msa=0&ll=54.007769,-2.504>)

To follow the progress of the Round Britain Charity Challenge as it happens, go to [www.bananasharkracing.co.uk/tracking-live](http://www.bananasharkracing.co.uk/tracking-live)

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#### About E-Lites

E-Lites was established in the UK in 2007 and is already a leader in its field, producing some of the most advanced electronic cigarettes on the market. The company is expanding nationally and internationally as demand grows for its innovative products. E-Lites' revolutionary products are the result of extensive UK research and development. The evolution of E-Lites has been supported by significant investment in design and testing to ensure its electronic smoking devices are made to the highest standards and deliver the most authentic and luxurious smoking sensation possible. The company's manufacturing facility uses the latest state of the art micro-electronic technology, ensuring E-Lites set the standard within the electronic smoking industry. E-Lites is a keen supporter of specialist sports and sponsors a number of individuals and teams in the UK and abroad.

### About BananaShark Racing

Kevin Stephens and John Cooke have been building boats together since 1999 and formed BananaShark Ltd in 2003. What has followed is nothing short of incredible with a total of nine British Championships and two speed records. Performance is paramount. The current model, the Stirling 34, is built entirely at the company's factory in Devon and, with the help of electronics sponsor Raymarine and engines by Yanmar, is not only one of the most technically advanced in terms of technology but also boasts a cutting-edge hull design. For more information, visit [www.bananasharkracing.com](http://www.bananasharkracing.com)

### About the Stirling 34 Powerboat

- Length: 37' overall (11.27m)
- Beam: 7'6"
- Powered by: two Yanmar BY 260 3 litres each using 110 litres per hour at 70mph - approximately 1.5 litres per mile
- Drives: Arneson 1721 Surface drives
- Top Speed: 70mph
- Cruising Speed: 50 – 60mph depending on conditions
- Electronics: two networked Raymarine E140 W multifunctional displays linked to a pair of ST70 displays. Two VHF radios. Full AIS system AIS650. - Seating: Four bucket seats all with 6 point harnesses and 3 litre pony bottles, intercom system and harness cutters.
- Safety: Flare pack. Six man liferaft. Glow in the dark cockpit signage. Led inversion operated lighting. Buoyancy bags. Two manual and one automatic fire extinguishers.
- Photos can be found at our Photobucket page

### About Raymarine

Raymarine is proud to specialise in marine electronics; this focus ensures it offers equipment that combines industry-leading technology with intuitive robust design, ideally suited to withstand the range of marine conditions that would spell disaster to lesser electronic ranges. Raymarine's world-class test facilities put products through their paces. We shake, bake, freeze and flood products and components to their limit so buyers don't have to find out what those limits are the hard way. Test boat 'Raymariner' and dedicated teams of testers around the world spend thousands of hours at sea to ensure that Raymarine products achieve the high standards set for them and expected by customers. Visit [www.raymarine.co.uk](http://www.raymarine.co.uk)

### About Veho

Veho was founded in 2006 in the UK with ambitions to create a fresh and energetic consumer electronics brand. Today, with five global offices and sales distribution in more than 100 countries, Veho is fast becoming a household name for electronics and technology worldwide. Veho does things differently. The company manufactures products that make a statement and stand out from the crowd. Boring is bad and run-of-the-mill is not in Veho's dictionary. All products are manufactured to the highest standards and conform to worldwide safety regulations. For more information about Veho's diverse and innovative product range, visit [www.veho-uk.com](http://www.veho-uk.com) .

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