



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Record number of ILCA Laser dinghies to sail Sydney Harbour in May to celebrate 50 years of the one-design sailboat

**Sydney, Australia – 13 April 2021** – Double Bay Sailing Club will host a large exhibition of ILCA Laser dinghies sailing on the iconic Sydney Harbour on Sunday, 30 May 2021, to mark the 50th anniversary of the one-design class.

Double Bay Sailing Club Commodore, Andrew Cox, said, “The exhibition will be a visual spectacle, with up to 200 boats sailing en masse against the backdrop of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House, in what we expect will be the largest single fleet of ILCA Laser dinghies ever to sail on Sydney Harbour, and possibly anywhere in the world.”

The event is significant because of the popularity of the ILCA Laser class in Australia and globally, with over 218,000 boats sold in its 50 years of existence. It is the boat of choice for single-handed dinghy sailors worldwide, whether sailing competitively or for pleasure, because it is affordable, simple to rig, and easy to sail.

Since its first introduction as an Olympic one-person dinghy class in 1996, Australia has won three medals, including gold in the last two Olympics, making the ILCA Laser the ultimate goal of rising stars in single-handed sailing.

With one of the largest fleets of active ILCA Laser dinghy sailors in the world, Double Bay Sailing Club is inviting anyone who has access to a Laser across greater Sydney and beyond, to participate in this historic event, and sail from the Sydney Opera House to South Head, starting at 8.30am (time to be confirmed) on Sunday, 30 May 2021, followed by festivities at Double Bay Sailing Club.

“We are excited to be hosting this showcase event, which will highlight the popularity, the competitiveness, and the fun of the ILCA Laser class, and which we hope will inspire new and returning sailors to the sport”, said Commodore, Andrew Cox.

**– ENDS –**

### **About Double Bay Sailing Club**

Double Bay Sailing Club aims to be among the best Laser sailing clubs in the world, hosting the largest fleet in Australia with 50+ sailors participating every week, ranging from beginners to state, national, and world champions.

Racing is conducted on the iconic Sydney Harbour on Saturday afternoons (August - April), Wednesday evenings (October - April), and Sunday mornings (May - July). Safety is a priority with three support boats and regular training for all members.

The club is managed and run entirely by volunteers from a historic timber building in Steyne Park, Double Bay. Members of all ages and from all walks of life are unified with a common dedication to the enjoyment of sailing, and improvement of our club.

The club welcomes new members, and is open to anyone with an interest in dinghy sailing, offering various events and programs to make sailing accessible, including The Women’s Regatta, and our popular Learn to Race program, which includes the use of club boats.

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