



Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

- MEDIA RELEASE -

Red Arrows to join Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week

The RAF's Red Arrows will take to the skies above Falmouth during Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week 2009 thanks to the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners (FHC).

FHC announced this week that the Red Arrows have been secured for an aerial display during the town's most popular event, Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week.

Provisionally set to perform at 6pm on Wednesday, 12th August, midway through Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week, it is anticipated that the event will attract several thousand people to Falmouth and become one of the highlights of this annual event.

FHC Chairman David Ellis commented: "We wanted to invest in something for Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week that would leave a lasting impact on residents and visitors alike, and that everyone could enjoy; particularly as the last year has been quite hard for many individuals and businesses in the area. The Red Arrows seemed like the perfect idea, and I'm sure that the sight of them performing over Falmouth Harbour will be something spectacular."

The Red Arrows are renowned throughout the world as ambassadors for both the Royal Air Force and the United Kingdom. 2009 is the 45th display season for the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team. Since the Team was formed in 1965, it has performed 4,173 displays in 53 different countries.

Wing Commander Jas Hawker, in his last year as Officer Commanding and Team Leader of the Red Arrows, said: "We have a fantastic team including our pilots, engineers and support staff who have done an exceptional job during our winter training months to prepare for the summer display season ahead.

“We are looking forward to a hugely successful summer as ambassadors for Great Britain, demonstrating the skills and excellence of the Royal Air Force personnel and equipment – both in the UK and Europe.

“We hope to inspire, enthral and captivate many thousands of people with this year’s display, and are looking forward to meeting fans of the team at airshows around the country.”

Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week 2009 takes place from 9 to 15 August and is expected to be even bigger and better than last year. Chair of the newly formed shore side events team, Samantha Groom said: “We are re launching Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week shore side events programme and therefore to have the Red Arrows secured is a fantastic addition to the week’s activities. This is bound to bring in even more visitors and raise the profile of this significant event in Falmouth. We are very grateful for Falmouth Harbour Commissioners’ support of Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week.”

Steve Nicholls, Chairman of the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association added: “As well as new shore side events we have also reworked the water based activities for 2009. With the Falmouth working boats back in the harbour and final weekend races at St Mawes on Friday and Flushing on Saturday the addition of the Red Arrows will be the icing on the cake. I’d like to thank FHC for their continued support.”

Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week has developed into the largest regatta in the South West, rivalled only by Cowes Week. It boasts a racing schedule to challenge the most competitive sailors, yet retains a ‘fun and friendly’ feel which also attracts families and the less experienced.

The Mayor of Falmouth, Cllr Michael Varney said: “Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week is such an important event for the town that it is vital we all work to ensure its long term success. The economic benefit of holding an event of this scale can not be questioned. The Red Arrows display will be an amazing highlight for 2009, the support from FHC over the years has been invaluable and their contribution to 2009 is fantastic.”

During Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week, around 450 yachts and dinghies race in three fleets across eight days. The town welcomes more than 80,000 extra visitors during

the week, compared to every other week in August and total visitor numbers usually exceed 100,000 during the week itself.

David Pollard, Falmouth Town Centre Manager added: "Every year the town and businesses get behind Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week and it is this support and sponsorship from local businesses that has helped put this event firmly on the map. Without the dedication and support from the local businesses the event could never be the spectacle that it is. With FHC's ongoing support and their efforts in securing the Red Arrows 2009 looks set to be even bigger and better this time round."

David Ellis concluded "We are committed to Falmouth and thought that by bringing the Red Arrows to Henri-Lloyd Falmouth Week in 2009 we would be giving something back to the town that will provide a truly memorable highlight to the event."

Ends.

09 April 2009

Notes to Editors:

Falmouth Harbour, including the Carrick Roads, is reputed to be the third deepest natural harbour in the world. Falmouth Harbour Commissioners are a statutory port authority with responsibility for the Inner Harbour at Falmouth (excluding Falmouth Docks), the Penryn River up as far as Boyers Cellars, the southern part of the Carrick Roads and a large part of Falmouth Bay. As well as providing regulation of its Harbour Area the Commissioners provide small craft facilities for residents and visitors.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners is a statutory port undertaking created by an act of parliament in 1870. It operates as a trust port and has a board of eight commissioners who act as trustees. Falmouth Harbour Commissioners are committed to operating the harbour in an open and accountable manner and welcome feedback from harbour users.

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