

## **International OK Dinghy Class visit to Largs Sailing club – June 17<sup>th</sup> 2008.**

Mike Edwards (Chairman) and Andy Turner (Secretary) visited.

We were made to feel very welcome at the Sailing Club by David Kent – Sailing Development Co-ordinator ([davidssi@btconnect.com](mailto:davidssi@btconnect.com)) and at the Residential Centre by John Kent (no relation but ex OK Sailor from Derwent Reservoir) ([john.kent@sportscotland.org.uk](mailto:john.kent@sportscotland.org.uk)).

1. **Largs Sailing Cub:** the nearest equivalent Regatta Centre I've been to is Medemblik except that Largs is much bigger with a large modern clubhouse with an excellent lounge/restaurant, big changing rooms with lockers, committee rooms, shower rooms etc. A 700 boat marina, a shopping complex including restaurants, bars, chandlery, sailmaker, boat repair shop; a 1000 space car park; a very large hard standing area for caravans and motor homes and containers with electricity hook up stands. There was a marquee behind the clubhouse suitable for social events and as a measuring tent. There is a 300 space dinghy park and large launching ramp – to be supplemented by another for 2011.

However there is no camp site on the premises although there is an area large enough to camp on (by the large anchors). We have asked David whether he can find a way to allow us to use this space for camping. There is also a football field adjacent to the sailing club which is another possibility. We estimate 25 tent spaces are needed. The camp site half a mile away charges £10 per person per tent which would be too expensive for OK sailors who have paid a lot in travel costs and entry fees.

The sailing water is a huge expanse of water 10Km x 10Km in the Clyde estuary between the mainland and Bute. It's about 2Km from the sailing club to the race area. In extreme weather there is a sheltered sailing area between the mainland and the island of Great Cumbrae about a mile from the club. The tide does not run at more than 1 knot even on Springs.

Overall Mike and I had no doubts that this would be a great venue for the Worlds in 2011, although in the end this will depend on the entry fee for competitors being reasonable (David is to send us a budget plan based on holding the Laser Nationals.). Largs has recently had an evaluation by ISAF to run World events and David will let us have their evaluation.

### **2. The Sport Scotland Residential National Centre – Inverclyde.**

This is in the town of Largs a 5 min drive (2.5 miles) away from the Sailing Centre. There is a shuttle bus which could be used to take competitors to and from the sailing centre.

The National Centre has en-suite with shower two and four/five bed rooms available for £26 per night, including breakfast and can accommodate up to 120 people. There is also "informal" camping in the grounds (plus a golf course, tennis courts, sauna, physio, gymnasium). I guess we would locate the international jury at this centre. We would need to make a provisional booking at Christmas 2010 for people wanting to stay in the centre. There will also be cottages built in the grounds, each accommodating 2 people, by 2011.

The centre has a bar, sitting rooms, a large restaurant which might be used for the closing ceremony, and probably many other facilities which I have forgotten. Look at their website: [www.nationalcentreinverclyde.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreinverclyde.org.uk)

3. **Cumbrae Scottish National Sailing Centre.** This is located across the water on Great Cumbrae Island 1 mile from Largs. It is also residential and would be ideal for people who want to take their coach to the venue and to do some training.

This centre can provide ISAF approved mark laying and safety boats.

4. **The OKDIA checklist.** Below I have tried to match those items which relate directly to the venue with what we saw.

1. The sailing area is to the north of Great Cumbrae Island, 10Km x 10Km and 2Km from the dinghy park. There is very little tidal stream (max 1 knot). Winds are generally steady from SW, W or NW.

2. There is a major container port at Greenock on the Clyde (Glasgow) 20 mins away by road. The club has an arrangement with a local transport company to get containers to the club from the container terminal. Up to 20 containers can be stored on site.

- 4 Largs town is a 15min walk from the regatta centre. There is a variety of shops, cafes, restaurants, banks etc. and plenty of “sea side” activities for families. There is a ferry every 15 mins to the island of Great Cumbrae. The paddle steamer Waveney arrives every Wednesday and takes trippers around the isles. Trains leave every hour for Glasgow, and then to Edinburgh.

5. Up to 20 containers can be accommodated on site, which should meet our needs! There will be a large marquee with a wooden floor for measuring and social functions. There is plenty of space for caravans and camper vans with plenty of electricity hook ups. (campsite yet to be sorted)

6. Provisional dates are:

National Championships – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to Thus 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011

World Championships – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Jul 2011.

7. Entry fee – yet to be established. David Kent to send the budget for the Laser Nationals to give us an idea and we will then do further work to establish the entry fee.

8. Race Officer – Brian Anderson was suggested by David (top man very experienced). We need to check out whether he has run a Worlds. The club is also happy to work with a race officer provided by OKDIA e.g. Eric Vliegenhart.

13. Largs is the Scottish part of the UK National Authority (RYA) Training & Regatta Management structure.

16. The OKDIA AGM will be in the Training Room at Largs SC at 7pm on Weds 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

17. Travel to Largs: There are two international airports within 40 mins drive of Largs. One at Glasgow Prestwick (one hour and £26 return by Ryanair from London Stansted) and the other at Glasgow International.

Driving Largs is 7 hours from London, 3 hours from Newcastle, 6 hours from Hull, 9 hours from Dover, 8 hours from Harwich.

By train Largs is 30 mins from Glasgow, trains run every hour.

18. Accommodation options:

At Sport Scotland Centre - £26 per night per person B&B.

Camping – TBA

B&B – list on the Largs website – approx £35-£40 per night

Local Hotels.

22. Jury to be accommodated in the Sport Scotland Centre.

24. Measurement to be overseen by the OKDIA Chief Measurer and Technical committee, supported by British OK members.

25.

Free parking – yes

Camping – TBA

Accommodation at Sport Scotland Centre – shuttle bus

Showers – 8 in one changing room, 8 in another at Largs SC

Changing – 2 large changing rooms available.

Internet – “hot spot” for general use in the Marina

Broadband access for OKDIA and race officials in Largs SC

Launching ramps – 300 boats can be launched in half an hour with support from the club’s trained team of trolley dollies.

Tally system used – armbands and board with hooks.

Weather forecasts posted daily in the club

Official noticeboard – in the club already

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3. Chandlery, sailmaker and boat repair shop on site.

5. Ribs from Cumbrae Centre. Charter boats from the marina available for spectators.

14. Social events: opening ceremony with the provost (mayor) and pipe band sponsored by the local council. (Drinks and finger food)

Mid week barbecue preceded by Highland Games competition (get practising)?

Prize giving and sit down meal at the end of the week – possibly in the National Centre although this can be accommodated in the **marque** at Largs SC.