



Issue 1

Summer 2005

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Welcome...

To the first issue of the Gaidhealtachd Sailing (GS) newsletter – we very much hope that you enjoy this newsletter, and that it gives you a clear idea on what is going on in the sailing community in the Highlands.

We are working on bringing a website on line for GS, and creating an email newsletter – so if you think you would be interested in receiving information from us, please do email; paul.sleeman@btinternet.com

Gaidhealtachd Sailing and its Creation

Sailing has been very fortunate to have the very strong support from Coaching Highland (previously Gael Force Ten) for the last 4 years, and RYA Scotland and GS are very grateful for this support. To look after the interests of sailing, a Sailing Planning Group was created, with the intention of developing coach education in sailing clubs in the Highlands. Having been involved for 4 years, the Sailing Planning Group felt that it was important to start looking at other aspects of sailing in the Highlands and increase the remit of the group. In order that the interests of many aspects of sailing are represented appropriately, the group felt that a change of name and direction would be a good thing to do. So, once the appropriate Development Plan was created, GS was created, along with a constitution to ensure that the organisation was 'properly' created.

Thankfully the relationship between Coaching Highland and GS has remained the same. Coaching Highland have allocated funding for coaching scholarships (mentioned under Coach Action Plan later in this newsletter) of £2000, and have allocated funding for the Junior Group Lottery sailors, (again mentioned later in this newsletter) of £2750. This funding is essential to continue to develop training at all levels, and in relevant areas for clubs to continue to progress and encourage more people into the sport of sailing.

Brian Stirling (Nairn SC) is the Chairman of the organisation
Caroline Sterritt (Spey Valley SC) is the Vice Chairman
Donald McKenzie (Invergordon BC) is the Secretary
Richard Jenner (Chanorry SC) is the Treasurer



Greetings to all from the Office bearers and I to this important first newsletter and Gaidhealtachd Sailing.

GS has been formed to represent and assist clubs in the Highland Council area. Similar bodies represent the surrounding areas, it is not the intention however to exclude any individual from events such as the Highland Sailing Seminar if they live outside the Highlands.

You will see from Jane's preceding jottings the background, reasons and aims of this new organisation. There are no negatives here; GS will not cost clubs or individuals any money. It is all positive, development of Sailing (and that means Dinghies, Yachts, Motorboats, Ribs and all forms of boats) is the aim. **GS** will have the impetus and potential to significantly assist clubs, other bodies and individuals develop in the area. This is not difficult if club delegates put a wee bit of effort into **GS**. There will only be three or four meetings a year, spread around the Highlands. Please all clubs get someone to come to the meetings and report back to the club's committee and members. Let me have the nominations as soon as you can.

GS can certainly assist you but we have to know what you want.

The next delegate meeting is the 15th August at 19.00 in Invergordon BC, come on--- apathy is for losers.

If I can assist in any way please drop me e-mail.

Please freely distribute this newsletter, if anyone would like copies of future editions please get in touch.

May we only have storms when we are at work?

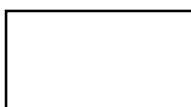
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RYA SCOTLAND UP-DATE

RYAS has been the recipient of some fairly substantial funding from **sportscotland** this year – in the region of £303,000. Much of this funding is ring fenced for previously allocated projects, such as high performance sailing, (which has the major amount of the funding), and several smaller amounts have been ringfenced for areas such as club development, university sailing, coach education and participation development.

RYAS recently appointed a Chief Operating Officer, Agnes Barclay, with the intention of bringing the organisation as up to date as possible, and attracting additional resource and funding to the organisation. Agnes can be contacted on 0131 317 7388.

RYAS is very excited about the development with GS, and the way that it is planning to develop sailing in the Highlands, and hopes to be as supportive as possible to this development.





COACHING HIGHLAND JUNIOR GROUP LOTTERY FUNDING 2005

Sailing has again been the fortunate recipient for funding from the Junior Group Lottery funding made available to Coaching Highland. We have 5 sailors in the programme this year, Daniel Cormack (Invergordon BC), Euan MacKenzie (Invergordon BC), Gregor Murray (Invergordon BC), Ross Sproule (Lochcarron SC), and Dougal Murray (Lochcarron SC). The guys are all Topper sailors, and are being coached by Stuart Ebdy, who is also working with the North of Scotland sailing Squad. The sailors have 3 training weekends available to them, 2 in the Highlands, and 1 in Largs, and are asked to attend 2 main events – The Scottish Topper Champs, and the UK Champs.

The overall funding given to this programme amounts to £2750, with the majority of the support given to training and developing the skills of these sailors.

Unfortunately the programme ends in September 2005, and there is no information available about any proposed programme to replace the Junior Group Funding from **sportscotland**, but should this change, GS undertakes to ensure that those who ought to be aware of the development are involved.

If you would like more information on the programme for sailing, please email; iane.scott@rva-online.net.

COACH ACTION PLAN – 2005 – 6 – COACHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Coaching Highland have funding available to help those interested to access training in coaching. This funding amounts to £2000 for the year, and is allocated on the basis of the allocations made in the Coach Action Plan for the sport. GS has created an Action Plan, which has tried to be as wide reaching as possible, encouraging development in Dinghy and Powerboat Instructor training, through to Shore-based Instructor training (in any discipline) and Yacht Master Instructor training (Sail). Funding for coach education has been distributed through this medium, but there has been recognition made of the need for good and safe practice courses, such as Child Protection, First Aid and VHF training – whilst funding has not been made available for these areas, support is available through GS and RYAS to help with the setting up of these courses, and encouraging local clubs to support these events, and send along interested candidates.

Any coaching scholarship application that is made to Coaching Highland will then be checked to see if it matches the criteria given by the Coach Action Plan for sailing, before any funding commitment is made.

Coaching Scholarships will be given retrospectively, and will not be funding the entire cost of attending a course, but will make some considerable contribution towards the costs of attending training. If you would like to see a copy of the Coach Action Plan please contact Caroline Sterritt?



GAIDHEALTACHD SAILING DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2005 – 2007

GS put together a Development Plan, which they believe encompasses as many aspects of sailing development in the Highlands as is practical. The plan itself is rather long to be included in this publication, but a synopsis is below, and the plan itself is included in with this publication for your information.

GS Development Plan Synopsis

The plan looks at 3 main areas;

- Communication
- Coach Development
- Club Development

Communication

- Improve communication at all levels, from individual sailors, through to club officials, and relevant bodies in the Highlands
- Use the tools available much more effectively – websites, emails, newsletters, club newsletters etc
- Greater publicity of sailing and sailing events to the public at large

Coach Development

- Set databases and encourage clubs to share coaches, and encourage coaches to move around venues – sharing expertise and knowledge
- Flexible Instructor training available throughout the Highlands
- Funding to help with Instructor training
- Disability awareness training

Club Development

- Develop links between different types of boats and between clubs – sharing resources and ideas
- Help clubs deliver good quality structured training at all levels (where required), and develop a strong coach education strategy
- Good and safe practice training for clubs
- Encourage greater participation from the wider community, by developing relevant links with local community groups and organisations

If you would like more detail, then please refer to the actual plan itself, which has been enclosed with this newsletter. Alternatively email jane.scott@rya-online.net to get a copy sent to you.



CLUB REPRESENTATION

Earlier in this newsletter we talked about the creation of GS and the reasons behind it. It is essential that the organisation has representation from all the clubs in the Highlands, both in person and by correspondence. Clubs can nominate an individual to attend meetings, and take part in voting procedures (should they be required), and we would welcome nominations from all clubs to that end. If your club already has an office bearer on the committee of GS, then the club should nominate another person to attend the meetings, as the office bearers cannot represent their clubs. Feedback on issues can be given by letter, phonecall or email, so if you have a potential nominee, please don't worry them by suggesting that they have to travel to each meeting. Agendas and minutes will be sent out in good time, and will give each club opportunities to contribute, even if they cannot attend.

Nominations should be sent to Brian Stirling or care of Jane Scott, RYA Scotland, Caledonia House, 1 Redheugh Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh EH12 9DQ PLEASE MARK NOMINATION FOR GS ON ENVELOPE.

Club Up-Date

Lochcarron Sailing Club

Lochcarron sailing club held their annual training week 4th – 8th July, where 33 juniors and 10 adults had training. The training courses ranged from junior stage 1-4, adult start sailing, sailing with spinnakers, powerboat level 1 and first aid course. With the training completed on the Friday a trip across the loch was organised for a picnic and games, fun was had by all.

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'SAILING IN THE CITY' GETS WARMED UP!

The RYA Scotland initiative, 'Sailing in the City' (SITC) recently received funding from Invisible Heating Systems (IHS), a company based in Ullapool, Ross-shire. The funding was given to provide quality waterproofs for the Instructors delivering the programme.

'Having all the right kit makes it much easier for the Instructors to do a great job, and keep smiling', says Jane Scott, RYA Scotland Development Manager, 'It also helps us to maintain a really professional image, and it makes the Instructors easily identified by members of the public. This sponsorship has been invaluable in helping SITC develop further and we are delighted to be able to help IHS develop its image throughout Scotland'.

IHS has also paid for 2 days of training to be delivered in Ullapool, and this will take place in August with the local school and sailing club getting the opportunity to get out on the water with the SITC Instructor and Tazs, and get some serious sailing action!

For more information on Sailing in the City, please email; jane.scott@rya-online.net, or call 0131 317 4610.

For more information on Invisible Heating Systems, please go to www.invisibleheating.co.uk, or call 01854 613161