



Promoting sailing throughout the Highlands

North of Scotland Sailing Squad

Summary of Activities 2007/8

Date	Venue	No. of Sailors	No. of Coaches	Comments
Oct 07	Chanonry SC	8	2	Laser Transition day on Friday before weekend
Nov 07	Invergordon BC	11	2	
Dec 07	Lochcarron SC	6	1	
Mar 08	Invergordon BC	8	2	
Apr 08	Chanonry SC	11	2	Laser Transition day on Friday before weekend
May 08	Chanonry SC	5	1	

Sailors attending from	Sailors prepared to travel:
Shetland	Yes
Lochcarron	No
Thurso	Yes
Chanonry	Yes
Invergordon	Yes
Dingwall	Yes
Kingussie	Yes

Tangible Squad Results	1 Topper sailor retaining Scottish squad status
	2 Topper sailors selected for Scottish squad status
	1 Laser sailor selected to represent Britain in 4.7 Youth Worlds in Croatia
	Majority competing in Scottish Traveller series
	1 Parent qualifying as Club Racing Coach

Commentary

The 2007/8 NoSSS season has proved successful even with a decline in participants. The squad has seen a number of participants leaving the squad due to various reasons e.g. exam commitments, travelling distances, concentrating on different sports and reaching the upper age range limit.

This season has seen a significant number of Topper sailors progress into Laser Radials. With these two classes of boat being the accepted junior/youth NoSSS boats.

NoSSS has, over the past 2 years, gravitated towards 3 core host clubs; Chanonry SC, Invergordon Boating Club and Lochcarron SC. Whilst all 3 core clubs offer excellent hospitality, the numbers attending Lochcarron have continued to fall and the local sailors have so far failed to travel to any other NoSSS weekend. Invergordon currently have no new junior/youth sailors that would be suitable for NoSSS weekends. With this in mind, and the fact that RYAS Regional weekends held in the South and West operate from one club, RYA Scotland has agreed that NoSSS should select Chanonry SC as its primary training venue. This doesn't exclude weekends from taking place at other venues but it will take a club to volunteer to host a weekend and an assessment of the demand likely to be realised at that venue (Sept 08 NoSSS will be held at Nairn SC). This new policy gives some stability to NoSSS and its participants.

All the host clubs that NoSSS has used have been very accommodating and have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome. We have good working relationships with the clubs and the 'system' is working. There are fringe benefits to the host clubs, with a number of the Laser Radial sailors taking out Chanonry SC membership in addition to their normal club, in order to take part in Sunday racing.

Whilst it would be advantageous to travel to 6 different host clubs during the winter season, it is uneconomical and a strain on parental and coach resources as outlined above. The NoSSS regional squad is there to develop racing talent to ultimately feed the national squad system both in Scotland and Great Britain. In order to fulfil this requirement, young sailors must be prepared to travel in order to compete and train. The North of Scotland is different from many areas as the population is spread across a large area with limited concentration. This means that parents and sailors must commit to the training weekends, which is currently the major problem.

RYAS and GS need to continue promoting NoSSS activities and participation in order to attract and retain new squad members.