

DATE: 10 September 2024

Kintyre Seasports

RYA Scotland is the recognised Governing Body in Scotland for all forms of sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. We are the predominant representative voice of multiple recreational water sports and work closely with bodies such as the RNLI, the Marine Directorate of the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and British Marine Scotland. Our strategic purpose is to promote and protect safe, successful and rewarding boating in Scotland.

RYA Scotland has supported Kintyre Seasports (KSS) throughout the planning and delivery of the project from inception; a relationship of nearly ten years. More recently we have been pleased to support KSS staff in their continued professional training and development and have worked closely with KSS to attain RYA Recognised Training Centre status enabling them to deliver internationally recognised RYA training and qualifications. This combination has been key to achieving KSS' outstanding track record of building the confidence and capabilities of young people, leading to a wide range of employability skills and positive career destinations.

Fundamentally, KSS is a community endeavour which has nurtured and strengthened links throughout the Campbeltown and wider Kintyre community. One of the central features is a close relationship with Campbeltown Grammar School. In a locality with two areas in the upper quintile of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, it has been commonplace for more than 10% of the 360 pupils to be Registered Young Carers. To date, KSS has trained more than 50 pupils, 40 of whom have attained valued RYA qualifications and with a participation retention rate of 70%. This programme is producing a growing network of confident young people who are qualified to teach sailing and support their community to deliver a greater number of water-based activities to individuals, schools and youth groups. It will be a significant addition to the recreational options for the community and tourists in Argyll & Bute.

This community-grounded model aligns well with national sporting policies and with RYA Scotland's strategy: People, Places and Communities. Our Strategy recognises that projects like KSS can provide a significant positive impact, locally and regionally, by delivering activities which improve health and well-being and can potentially provide life-changing opportunities through access to inclusive water-based activity. RYA Scotland continues to be impressed with the quality of community engagement, leadership, business planning and partnership that KSS has built. In 2023, the staff team at KSS were

awarded an RYA Scotland "Impact Award" recognising the positive difference they are making.

We believe that the model of community engagement and delivery exemplified by KSS is one that could be replicated in other locations through Scotland. A new and developing relationship with Tarbert Harbour Authority could see KSS' contribution to Kintyre extending northward. We support KSS' Full Business Case for Rural Growth Deal funding. If successful the RGD funding will meet the capital cost of new training and tourism facilities in Campbeltown, a major step in fulfilling the full potential of the project.

In the past three years KSS has achieved a lot with extremely limited resources. To sustain the momentum they have generated we would like to see their operational resources strengthened and we support their ongoing efforts to meet the additional funding needs for this project. Success for KSS will not only increase the opportunities for many young people in Kintyre, but through increased activity on the water will encourage tourism and inward investment into the Area.

Yours faithfully,



Finlo Cottier
Chief Executive Officer, RYA Scotland