

RYA Scotland

Performance Centre

Identification of potential partners



Background

RYA Scotland (RYAS) and the wider boating community in Scotland have benefitted greatly from the facilities at **sportscotland** National Watersports Centre Cumbrae, until its closure in 2020. In particular, the performance programme delivered by RYA Scotland has used the facilities at Cumbrae to nurture generations of young performance sailors who continue to be engaged with the sport years later, including those on have competed and medalled for Team GB at Olympic Games.

Since the closure of Cumbrae, Scotland has been without a National Watersports Centre and the performance programme (amongst others) have been adapting to try to continue to deliver the best training on and off water. However, there has been a compromise to both the scale and scope of delivery to work within the restraints of available facilities. There is a pressing need to secure suitable facilities to continue to support Scottish athletes to perform on the world stage. In addition, bespoke facilities would benefit the wider boating community by providing a high quality venue to support events and training across a range of water sports.

Desired Facility and Partnership

RYA Scotland is seeking interest from clubs and centres who have a desire to work in partnership with RYA Scotland to develop a facility which supports the environment of high performance sport across all aspects. The facility, which can be existing or require a new-build element, would be owned, managed and financed by the club/centre. RYA Scotland, through **sportscotland**, would support the club/centre in seeking required capital investment and commit to the ongoing usage of the facility, with considerable usage fees to contribute to the overall running costs of the venue. The venue must have easy access to the water to support sailors of varying abilities in gaining access to the water across a range of tide and weather conditions. In addition, RYAS are particularly interested in venues which can offer accommodation on site or in very close proximity. Importantly, the partnership will also bring about new, increased or more diverse community engagement opportunities.

Space requirements – see also appendix 1

RYA Scotland has a desire to deliver multiple performance team training events across coinciding dates and ensure that all those using the facility can access an equal high quality coaching experience.

Changing and briefing spaces

It is anticipated that three briefing rooms will be required and each room should be able to seat 10 sailors and a coach in a professional setting with the appropriate AV equipment to support the delivery of world class coaching. The rooms need to be suitable for wet sailors.

During RYAS performance team activity, it is vital that the sailors have exclusive use of assigned changing facilities, particularly from a safeguarding perspective. A suitable separate changing area for coaches is also required. The changing spaces should accommodate 30 sailors and comply with the latest **sportscotland** guidance on changing places.

In addition to the changing and briefing spaces, an area for general use is desirable. Such use will include fitness sessions, boat work and other inside activities. The ability to have a large indoor space which coaches can use when unable to get afloat would be invaluable. This is particularly important in a Scottish climate and is an aspect of other major training hubs in the UK that is well used.

Catering

A basic kitchen facility is necessary to allow sailors and supporters to prepare basic meals whilst training. In addition, it should support an external (or internal to the venue) caterer being appointed to provide food during training and events. The catering area should also provide seating/tables.

Secure space

A small secure storage area is desirable to store a variety of technical equipment, including VHF's, cameras, RIB keys etc..

Accommodation and Logistics Support

A significant benefit of Cumbrae was the ability to offer residential training and events. RYAS are therefore particularly interested in venues that can offer accommodation on site or at a nearby location (3rd party provision is acceptable). There will be a need to accommodate 30 people.

For performance activity, RYAS will primarily use its own RIBs. Venue support in launching and berthing the RIBs both onshore and in the water is necessary.

Next steps

RYAS are encouraging any club or centre that is interested in discussing a potential partnership to contact the RYAS Board by email admin@ryascotland.org.uk, following which a Board or Staff member will arrange a discussion.

Appendix 1

	Space Requirements
General Environment	A facility that supports the environment of high performance sport across all aspects and meets with the latest venue guidance from sportscotland
Three Briefing Rooms	Rooms to have seated capacity for ten people Full AV set-up for each room Plastic chairs and suitable floor to accommodate wet sailors Desirable: ability to convert join all three rooms to make one big room
Changing Facilities	Changing rooms, showers and toilets Drying room area Industrial spinners and dehumidifiers/heaters able to run overnight Separate changing area for coaches
General Area	Multi use to include, fitness, boat work, shore drills with boats
Catering	Kitchen area capable of producing basic food for up to 30 people
Dining Area	Large TV screen Collapsible tables / chairs to be able to seat sailors over lunch Plastic chairs and suitable floor to accommodate wet sailors Suitable for house parents to use during day Break out area away from main briefing rooms
Accommodation	On site or nearby accommodation for 30 people
Logistics	Onshore and offshore venue support for RIBs (launching, storage etc.)
Dinghy Park	Permanent tie down points and soft sail rigging area Multiple hoses and appropriate drainage.