



## Information for Competitors



### Welcome from the Chairman

'It is my humble honour and privilege to welcome each and every one of you to the first ever Autism on the Water regatta held in Crinan which is considered by many one of the most beautiful places on the West Coast of Scotland. When I came up with an idea like this to help raise funding and awareness for Autism on the Water (AOTW) – I was most keen to first of all see whether an event like this would be viable and I asked people to register interest beforehand – when that interest hit 70 boats, I said, well we have an event on our hands!

AOTW has grown leaps and bounds over the years assisting over 2500 people with autism the chance to go sailing or boating across the UK. We are absolutely determined to increase that number over the next 5 years and to do this, we need to raise vital funds to continue our operations on the par that we already have and so the first AOTW Regatta has been created to not just raise funds, but also to create a brand new sailing event in a newish place with a range of feeder races, windward leeward and coastal races for all to come and enjoy backed up by an incredible social scene.

Crinan has not hosted a sailing event for a long time now and with it being one my most favourite place in the world and two a primary base of many of our charity's activities – we did not hesitate in choosing this iconic beauty spot to host our first regatta. I am beyond grateful for the incredible support and advice of Ross Ryan and his mother Frances who own the Crinan Hotel which will play central stage to most of our social events. With that support has come other support from Scottish Canals who are providing a discount to boats berthing in the basin and transiting the canal, Crinan Boatyard for allowing use of their slipway and discount rated moorings and Polly's Coffee Stop who will be parked up in Crinan serving a fabulous range of coffees, home baking and other goodies to go throughout the day as well as the Crinan Coffee Shop also owned by the Crinan Hotel which will dish up excellent food and drink as well as the hotel itself which will serve up excellent local cuisine. I am so grateful to all of them for helping us bring this event to life.

On the racing side, we have developed some great ideas for courses to suit all boats with starts and finishes being held ashore off the Crinan Hotel between the flagpole and the black rock, Scotland's version of the Royal Yacht Squadron start line in Cowes! The event will start with the overnight race from Inverkip to Ardrishaig on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July which will take boats down the Firth of Clyde to a mark within the Ayrshire course and then back up north via Inchmarnock sound, Ardlamont point buoy and then up Loch Fyne to finish off the entrance to the canal at Ardrishaig hopefully within the early hours of Friday morning to grab a short sleep and then transit the canal to Crinan! Meanwhile early on Friday morning, we expect a strong contingent from Oban to race down to Crinan through the Sound of Luing, Dorus Mor and round an inflatable buoy in Loch Crinan to the finish.

Perhaps the most exciting addition to the regatta will be the incredible Para classes of Hansas, RS Venture Connects, Challengers and 2.4mtrs – this development for us working alongside World Sailing will see the incredible talents of Para sailors come to Crinan to be part of this inclusive event and we are delighted to give these sailors free entry to the event. The slightly bigger Para boats of Challengers and 2.4mtrs will have a

special passage race to and from Ardfern on Friday and Sunday with the remaining Para classes racing in Loch Crinan on Friday as well as Saturday. The main regatta day on Saturday will see the gun go off at 1055 for the first warning signal for the keelboats. The spinnaker classes will have three windward leeward races in Loch Crinan with the Restricted Sail classes doing two mini coastal races within the Sound of Jura. In the afternoon the entire fleet with exception of the Para Classes will take part in the big Coastal race which will see all spinnaker and restricted sail classes race round Mark 1 the windward mark and then sailing inside Rabbit island leaving it to Port and up the east side of Eilean MacAskin and Eilean Righ (a first for many) to an inflatable mark laid off the entrance to Ardfern Yacht Centre before heading back down Loch Craignish, back inside of Rabbit island leaving the island to starboard, round Mark 1 and to the finish line. If the wind direction is not suitable for this course then alternative courses will be used. Following the celebrations on Saturday night, the regatta will conclude with the 2.4mtrs and Challengers racing back to Ardfern whilst the remainder of the fleet will start the race in order of handicap back to Oban with the promise of champagne for the winners!

It will be a busy weekend, but we hope that this relaxed format will give all boats a great time and competitive racing. For those not partial to racing for example a motorboat – we are delighted to invite the Royal Scottish Motor Yacht Club to come along and join us for an informal muster in company around a fixed route with prizes for various endeavours.

The social program for the event is in development and we will release this as soon as possible but be assured it will be fantastic with food, drink, music and great company and hopefully sunshine! In the meantime, I invite any competitors who have any questions to please contact us by email at [info@aotw.org.uk](mailto:info@aotw.org.uk) – meanwhile also we are working on hopefully securing more deals to make this event even more attractive to you such as marina or mooring rates for those taking part in the CCC Tobermory Race the day after the event or West Highland Yachting Week a couple of weeks later and even the Round Mull Race which takes place a couple of weeks before!

I look forward to welcoming many of you to the event, raising awareness of our work and most of all having a great weekend in a beautiful place with great company!

**Murray MacDonald**

**Chairman and Director of Autism on the Water**

## **Regatta Trophies**

*A comprehensive range of trophies and prizes will be awarded during the regatta – there will also be seven special trophies –*

*The D&K MacDonald Memorial Bucket – awarded for the best overall corrected time from Oban to Crinan*

*The Dave Sturrock Memorial Trophy – awarded for the best overall corrected time from Inverkip to Ardrishaig*

*The Tralee Bay Trophy – awarded for the first boat to finish the Ardfern to Crinan Passage Race*

*The Positivity Trophy – awarded to the first boat home in the Coastal Race*

*The Inclusion Jacket – awarded to the furthest travelled boat*

*The Murray Magnum – awarded to the first boat across the line in the Crinan to Oban Pursuit Race*

*The Autism on the Water trophy – awarded for the best overall performance*

## **Local Information**

### **Berthing in the basin & Canal Transits**

Scottish Canals have very generously offered a 10% discount on boats berthing in the canal basin at Crinan over Friday and Saturday nights as well as a 10% discount on those transiting the canal or leaving their boat there until West Highland Yachting Week. Berthing in the canal **must** be booked in advance before the event on a first come/first served basis – you can book your berth or canal transit by emailing Scottish Canals at [transitcrinan@scottishcanals.co.uk](mailto:transitcrinan@scottishcanals.co.uk) and quoting the Autism on the Water regatta.

### **Moorings**

Moorings are available at a discounted rate on a first come/first serve basis by the Crinan Boatyard. Please telephone them on 01546 830232 for more information.

### **Anchoring**

Anchoring is permitted off the Crinan Lighthouse and Pier – please ensure that when you are anchoring that you are not interfering with boats that are still racing.

### **Accommodation**

Crinan and the surrounding areas of nearby Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Kilmartin etc have a number of hotels/B&Bs/self-catering/backpacker accommodation available. It is advisable to book in advance due to it being high season. Please be advised that some of the location of the accommodation is not regularly served by public transport and own transport or local taxis maybe needed.

*Crinan Hotel – Tel: 01546 830261*

*Crinan Canal Cottage – Tel: 07831 259990*

*Shelburne Lodge, Cairnbaan – Tel: 01369 706591*

*Kilmartin Hotel, Kilmartin – Tel: 01546 510250*

*Argyll Backpackers, Ardrishaig – Tel: 07786 157727*

*The Empire Travelodge, Lochgilphead – Tel: 01546 602381*

*The Grey Gull Hotel, Ardrishaig – Tel: 01546 606017*

### **Local Transport**

*KJ Cars – Tel: 07970 158406*

*Tarbert Cars – Tel: 07930 884851*

*West Coast Motors - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/timetables-directory/timetable/425426-lochgilphead-achnamara>*

**Sail Repairs**

*Owen Sails are the nearest sailmakers in the area for any sail repairs and can be contacted on 01631 720485 – collection and delivery maybe possible, please discuss with them.*

**Chandlery**

*Crinan Boatyard has a well-stocked chandlery as well as engineers and general boat repairs. The chandlery also stocks basic groceries, fruit and vegetables.*

**Fuel**

*Fuel can be purchased from Crinan Boatyard and also the two filling stations in Lochgilphead – the Riverside filling station and Tesco Express Esso filling station.*