
To: Joint Committee

On: 21 June 2019

Report By: Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Park Coordinator

Heading: Special Olympic Success

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform members of the Joint Committee of the success of the Special Olympic GB Sailing Team at the recent World Games held in Abu Dhabi who were trained at Clyde Muirshiel.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Joint Committee:
- (i) Note the success of the Special Olympic GB Sailing Team at the World Games held in Abu Dhabi and note the assistance provided by the coaches and facilities on offer at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park to support these activities.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Park Strategy 2016-2021 identifies the delivery of activities that contribute to Leisure Activity and Health outcomes as a key priority. This includes the provision of accessible outdoor activities.
- 3.2 The Park's Castle Semple Centre in Renfrewshire became an RYA Sailability Centre of Excellence in 2012 and is the only one in Scotland. The Centre delivers mainstream and accessible outdoor activities for pre-booked groups throughout the year, annually hosting the Sailability and the Scottish Multi-Class Regattas.

4.0 The Special Olympic Story

- 4.1 Staff within the Regional Park have developed opportunities for trying, training and then creating pathways for sailors with Additional Support Needs.
 - 4.2 Years of effort have now resulted in two local sailors from the Special Olympics GB Sailing Team, receiving bronze medals after competing in their first World Games in Abu Dhabi 2019. Jamie Cairns and unified partner Darren MacGregor were awarded a bronze medal in the Division 2 fleet. Their team mates Shannon McGhee and Laura Carrick were 4th in Division 3, Lewis Nicolson sailing with Mick Kelly from Riverbrae School, Linwood finished 5th.
 - 4.3 The team have shown great commitment having completed all their training over the last two years at Clyde Muirshiel with Senior Instructor and Head Coach David Hill at Castle Semple Visitor Centre.
 - 4.4 Fifteen countries with 40-50 sailors competed on the water, in four divisions in reefed down Bahia dinghies. Details and images are online at www.abudhabi2019.org
 - 4.5 Attending the Games was the result of successful partnership working with Able2Sail, a volunteer run charity based on the west coast of Scotland offering disabled sailing opportunities. The charity frequently makes use of the facilities at the Regional Park and organise fundraising events to purchase boats for training and to cover the cost of the team attending the World Games.
 - 4.6 Going forward, the aim is to attract more people into water sports and to develop more crews for other levels in Special Olympic Sailing. The next National Games will be held in Liverpool in 2021 and the next World Games in Berlin in 2023.
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5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The provision of accessible water sports provides a sense of achievement to many different user groups whatever their abilities. Fostering these development pathways will continue to be encouraged at Castle Semple and the valuable experience for those involved in the World Games is noted.
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