
CLYDE MUIRSHIEL PARK AUTHORITY



Report to: Joint Committee
On: 1 December 2017

Report
By
Regional Park Manager

SUBJECT: - SPECIAL OLYMPIC SUCCESS

1.0 Purpose of Report:

- 1.1 To advise members of the Joint Committee of the success of the Scottish Special Olympic sailing squad, who were coached and trained at Castle Semple that won 2 silver and a bronze medal at the Special Olympic GB National Games in Sheffield August 2017.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 That the Park Authority supports the continued development of Special Olympic Training within the Park to local people and those from further afield.
- 2.2 That the Park Authority recognises the Park's continued efforts to increase income and provide a quality service to our current visitors and attract new visitors.

Members wishing further information regarding this report should contact Mr David Gatherer,
Regional Park Manager, Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority, 01505 614791.

3.0 Background:

Castle Semple was approached by Special Olympic Scotland West to explore the possibility of creating a sailing squad to go to the GB national games during 2016. This came about as result of our sailability programme which is recognised across Scotland as a sector leading example of accessible sport. A squad was duly formed from the current crop of sailors from all the groups doing the sailability programme and specific race coaching was carried out over the following few months leading up to the games in Sheffield during August 2017. Around 2,600 athletes with intellectual disabilities of all ages and abilities came together from across the UK. They were supported over 4 days of competition by 800 coaches, 1000 volunteers, 200 officials and over 7,000 family & friends.

The sailing squad did an amazing job for a first go in a major competition with our 3 pairs of sailors winning 2 silver and a bronze medal.

Following the games success our Senior Instructor David Hill, who was head coach of the sailing squad at the games, was asked to become head coach of the GB sailing squad for the 2019 World Games to be held in Abu Dhabi. Team selection will be taking place over the next 6 weeks and following that process we expect a sizable portion of team GB's sailing squad to be based at Castle Semple for the training prior to the world games.

3.1 Measures of success will include:

- Having our current SO sailors selected to be part of the GB squad for the SO World Games in Abu Dhabi in March 2019.
- Securing funding to support the SO programme development.
- Increasing access to sport for people with a disability.
- Further raising the profile of the Park as a leader in accessible sport.

4.0 Conclusion:

- #### 4.1
- This shows again the effectiveness of the Park at capturing a niche market and developing services to stay ahead of competitors and through this bring more visitors to the Park and surrounding area.