



2006 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2005 Scottish Championships will be sailed for under the burgee of East Lothian Yacht Club and will take place on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August 2006. This briefing note is provided purely as information for competitors and does not constitute the notice of race.

East Lothian Yacht Club

The club is based in the picturesque seaside town of North Berwick. Close to Edinburgh and easily reached from the A1, North Berwick provides a super family orientated venue for our Scottish Championships, and we are delighted that ELYC have agreed to host the Championships for us.

The Yacht Club is located by the harbour and offers ample dinghy parking. Car parking is available close by. There is a large slipway for launching, which is possible at all states of the tide.

Accommodation

North Berwick offers a wide range of accommodation, including some very swish hotels, a considerable number of B&B's and a wide range of self catering accommodation. There are also 2 campsites. Accommodation providers are generally well used to the needs of hungry and wet sailors!

The town is small enough to mean that most of the accommodation is within walking distance of the club.

Shops

The town offers a good range of shops, including bakers, butchers, newsagents, greengrocers etc. There are a number of 'high street' chains represented here including Boots, WH Smith, Woodworths, Threshers etc.

For the Non Sailors

As a seaside town, the main attractions for families are the glorious beaches of East and West Bay. Within 10 miles there are even more glorious expanses of sand, with some (for example Ravensheugh sands) offering 2 mile stretches of beach which are ideal for kite flying.

The Scottish Seabird Centre (www.seabird.org) is situated just behind the ELYC Clubhouse. The seabird centre allows landlubbers to view birdlife on the islands of Bass, May and Fidra through remote camera links and it's discovery centre provides a chance to have a hands on look at environmental issues.

For those who want to get closer to the seabird action, boat trips are available to Fidra and Bass (landing is sometimes possible on Fidra depending on tide times) to view the colonies of puffins, gannets, razorbills and guillemots that occupy the islands - often these trips also include the chance to spot seals.

The area is well known for its golfing, and there are a number of courses in North Berwick itself, with the famous Gullane course just 10 miles away.

Swimming (leisure) pools can be found in North Berwick and Dunbar, with the commonwealth pool in Edinburgh offering serious swimmers an all star location! For the hardy and young in age there is a sea filled paddling pool (up to 2 ft deep) on the East Bay. Sadly (some of us remember all too well the freezing cold water) the outdoor, salt water pool which used to be a magnet on hot summer days has been filled in and is now the dinghy park!

The Kirkport park provides quiet spaces for contemplation, reading of papers in shady corners and the thrills and spills of swings, slides, climbing frames and roundabouts for the smaller members of the family.

Historic Scotland manages a number of properties in the area, including Dirleton Castle (which has the longest herbaceous border in the UK) and Tantallon Castle (which is perched atop high cliffs overlooking the Bass Rock and is not for those prone to vertigo!).

Edinburgh, with all its metropolitan delights is just 30 minutes away by train, with a direct link from North Berwick. Offering culture by the bucket load, Botanic Gardens, the world famous Zoo and shops by the dozen, it should provide a worthwhile distraction for a day (or more) for the non-sailors!

For those who are old enough to remember collecting silver foil, one of the Blue Peter inshore lifeboats is stationed at North Berwick.

Entertainment

The Clubhouse will be open throughout the event and there will be a Saturday evening BBQ and social for club members, competitors and their families. The entry fee will include a light post-sailing meal on the Sunday.

Eating Out

There's a good range of places to eat in the town, including Chinese and Indian Restaurants and take-aways, bistro's and more formal hotel dining rooms.

Racing

The club uses the West Bay for launching, and there is a clear (and generally car free) route from the dinghy park to the slipway. There is plenty of space on the beach for trolleys to be left whilst competitors are racing.

The club are not tide dependent as launching and recovery is possible at all states of the tide. The club has access to a large area for racing and is able to set courses to suit all wind directions and tidal conditions.



It is hoped to run 6 races over the weekend (3 on Saturday afternoon, 3 on Sunday), with 5 races to count. Further details will be provided as to start times etc in due course. The club aims to set the race times to allow for competitors to travel to North Berwick on Saturday morning and to get away from North Berwick at a reasonable time on Sunday.

Further Information:

For further information about this event please contact Bernard Clark (01904 705126)

North Berwick Tourist Information Office can be contacted on 01620 892197 and there's a useful accommodation website at www.north-berwick.co.uk/nb_map/accommodation.asp