

NEWSLETTER

HOLT LEISURE GROUP
ESTABLISHED 1968

SUMMER 2018



SCOTLAND'S
PREMIER
MARINAS

WI-FI AT KIP GETS MAJOR INVESTMENT

The installation of a new state of the art Wi-Fi system is underway at Kip Marina as part of an initial £30,000 investment to deliver high capacity Wi-Fi to all our berth holders and across the full marina site, offering secure internet access and delivering a digital connectivity whether on a boat, in Marina Reception or The Chartroom Restaurant.

Installed and managed by Scottish company 802 Works, the first stage 'Beta' version is planned to be testing in mid-June with new fibre optic cables being run around the marina and pontoon areas to provide the infrastructure handling for the network. A high capacity dedicated broadband leased line into the Marina has also been commissioned and, as soon as this is in place, the full capacity Wi-Fi coverage will be available to berth holders.

Providing a 24-hour managed Wi-Fi coverage, 802 Works are experienced in delivering similar projects to large capacity outdoor areas with installations completed at Hamilton Park and Newcastle Racecourses, Perth Concert Hall and RSNO, Alloa and Denny Town Centres to name a few.

Key requirements of the project, which is a direct result of the feedback from the recent Kip Customer Survey, are to offer an improved berth holder experience and to add to the facilities available to visitors, with the option to provide further upgrades in the future such as dedicated direct network connections to individual berths and a premium service to suit those with a need for higher capacity.

Gavin McDonagh, Holt Leisure M.D. said, "We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our recent Berth Holders Survey and, as a direct response to suggestions on how we can improve our offering, we look forward to partnering with 802 Works as they deliver and manage our new Wi-Fi network which, we believe, will further enhance our reputation as Scotland's premier marina".



802 Works CEO Felix Gibson said: "802 are delighted to be invited on board to support Kip Marina's forward thinking team. Today, we're all living in an increasingly interconnected age and relying more and more on strong connectivity. That's why access to a superior Intelligent WiFi service is an everyday essential and people demand access to high performing WiFi wherever they roam. With 802 delivering cutting edge WiFi throughout the Kip site absolutely everyone visiting and working at the Marina will stay connected".



PELLE P KIP REGATTA 2018



The Pelle P sponsorship, now in its second year, continues to add excitement to Kip Regatta and an increasing array of prizes for the winning boats and crews including class prizes and high quality Pelle P sailing jackets for the overall winners.

Royal Western Yacht Club under commodore Ross Lang and his race team, headed by Principle Race Officer Rob Brown, provided excellent racing throughout the weekend with closely fought contests across many classes. Both RWYC & Kip Marina would like to thank the many volunteers who officiated during the event on various boats and ribs and without whose help it would not be possible.

The results are available online at: www.eastmore.biz/sailing/results_rwyc.php

On the shore side, Saturday night's Pelle P Party in The Chartroom saw the biggest attendance yet as crews and spectators enjoyed an incredible atmosphere thanks to the live music from Earl Blue & the Sessions plus the popular Street Food being served on the patio.

Sunday's prize giving was well attended, with the prizes presented by Annika Lidkvist, Export Manager of Pelle P, who had flown in specially from Sweden to support the Regatta.

Heath Gairns, Marina Master at Kip Marina said, "The Pelle P Kip Regatta was a fantastic success again this year and we would like to thank Pelle P for their sponsorship. We would also like to thank Royal Western Yacht Club for their race management, all the staff here at Kip Marina and of course the competitors who all combined to produce an outstanding regatta and a showpiece event for sailing in Scotland – see you next year!"



The Pelle P Kip Regatta took to the water from Kip Marina with boats and crews arriving from all over the UK and Ireland to take part in the first major regatta of the Scottish sailing season.

The 2-day event provided champagne racing weather for the race fleet with Pat Kelly's RC35 'Storm' celebrating in the sunshine after taking the coveted Overall Winner's trophy.



The Pelle P Kip Regatta is sponsored by Pelle P, the Swedish clothing company based on the lifestyle of Pelle Petterson and his accomplishments as a top-level sportsman. Pelle's sailing career has given him two Olympic medals and dozens of World Championship medals in sailing races.

He is a two-time challenger in the America's Cup and the talented designer behind the iconic Volvo P1800 sports car famous for being driven by The Saint on TV! Adding to this list is a cutting edge design of golf putter that was on show ashore during the regatta.

BEE'S KNEES AWARDS - THE RESULTS ARE IN!



Chartroom Front of House staff, led by manager Ruairidh Aitken, have been shortlisted for a prestigious customer service award at the annual Bee's Knees Business Awards 2018, a major highlight in the Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce calendar of events.

Thirty finalists will line up on the night for the 15th annual challenge for Inverclyde businesses at a glittering awards ceremony and gala dinner held in the Marquee at Kip Marina on Friday 9th June hosted by one of



Scotland's best-known comedy actors, Karen Dunbar.

Delighted with the nomination, Ruairidh who has over 16 years' experience in the hospitality industry around Scotland, said "We pride ourselves on our staff and this award nomination reflects their popularity with our customers and our training standards here at The Chartroom. We're also excited about the awards evening although we will all probably be working!"

Tickets are now available for the Bee's Knees Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner on Friday 8 June at www.inverclydechamber.co.uk.



ORCAS ON THE CLYDE...



Photo courtesy of Grant Gillon

There was a flurry of activity both in and on the water as a pod of killer whales, also known as Orcas, passed close to the entrance to Kip Marina recently as they headed eastwards towards Gourrock.

The pod of six, made up of one bull, four females and a calf, were following shoals of fish up the river and hunting seals and porpoises, of which there are many currently in the Clyde (although probably a few less now).

Normally to be found off the Shetland and Orkney isles, these incredible mammals are very social and can travel in pods of up to 50 whales, roaming together for hundreds of miles

looking for food. They are a rare sight on the upper Clyde with the last report being of a single Orca visiting four years ago.

David Nairn, from the Clyde Porpoise marine mammal project, said: "It's rare for them to come up into the main part of the Clyde but they're looking for seals and porpoises. We have so many porpoises on the Clyde, we even know individual ones that hunt outside Kip. It's open season for catching them and one of our spotters said it looks like they're teaching their young how to hunt which is really exciting."

After a day enthralling spectators and boat owners locally, the Orcas were last reported heading back out to sea in the deep-water shipping lane passing Cloch Caravans Holiday Park and onwards between Kip and Inellan on their way to their more regular waters.

Pictures courtesy Captured By GG One of the advantages of being located at Kip Marina is being able to view the amazing sights on the River Clyde



Photo courtesy of Keith Hodgins

IN BRIEF

SUMMER 2018 COLLECTION

See the latest technical and outdoor clothing designs with the brand-new summer collections from Pelle P, Lighthouse & Holebrook now in store at Kip Marina's Chandlery.



MORE NEW FACES...

There are a few new faces to be seen around Kip Marina as we welcome Kerris & Chantal to our Reception team. The ladies are already finding their feet and always have a wealth of knowledge about the marina plus a welcoming smile.



AND AN OLD ONE!...

Having lived the life of a vampire as part of the Night Security team for the past few years, Colin Scott has emerged into daylight leaving his old position to become an Assistant Marina Master here at Kip. Not exactly a new face, but Colin is renowned for his cheery demeanour and is a welcome addition to the team.



SHOCK TREATMENT AT KIP

Management and staff at Kip Marina and The Chartroom have recently qualified in the use of a Defibrillator and associated CPR as part of the company First Aid Training standard.

To provide emergency CPR coverage across the marina two new Portable Defibrillator units are now in place at Kip, one situated in Marina Reception and the second in The Chartroom Bar - so be careful if you order an After Shock!



NEWLY QUALIFIED MARINA MASTER

Congratulations to Ian Rodger who, as one of the new generation of marina management at Kip, qualified with flying colours from British Marine's Marina Masters Intermediate course held recently in Windsor.

Ian covered modules in Maritime Law, Finance, Health & Safety Management, Customer Service, Leadership Development and Environmental Compliance which all add to his skills as an Assistant Marina Master here at Kip.

Ian said; "It was a really relevant course and helps me improve my role working with Heath to run the marina and assisting customers with any queries or advice. It was also interesting to visit some of the marinas in the South of England, but better to be back home at Kip!"



CRAOBH MARINA GOES 4G

Arguably Scotland's most picturesque marina, Craobh Marina has expanded its reach in to the digital age with the installation of an upgraded wi-fi system to improve coverage for berth holders and visitors to this spectacular part of the west coast.



The addition of new Wi-Fi access points together with 4 sender units broadens coverage across A, C, D & E pontoons and increases connectivity around the whole marina area. Adding to the improvements in internet access is the completion of a new telecom mast which means Craobh Marina now enjoys full 4G mobile coverage – a particular advantage for those who may be 'working' from their boat!

Elsewhere around Craobh the infrastructure investment programme continues with the installation of the new access bridge which allows for a shorter and more convenient route from the reception and shower facility buildings on to the pontoons – coincidentally it also shortens the distance to the Lord Of The Isles pub!

Berth holders and visitors will also find a redesigned Chandlery including new rope racks and a dedicated clothing store area stocked with the latest ranges from Holebrook and Lazy Jacks together with high quality sailing jackets, boots and every other item you need to enjoy the stunning waters around Craobh.



On the water and following last year's Drascombe Scottish 30 50 celebration rally, the month of May heralds the return to Craobh of these highly popular boats for their annual weekend festivities. Described by the Drascombe Association as "possibly the best location for a Drascombe event on the West Coast of Scotland" Craobh has become a regular fixture on their event calendar with previous rallies attracting over 40 of these iconic boats from all over the UK.

After the Drascombe event, July brings the Serpent Yacht Club's annual Craobh Saturday night boatshed BBQ and Sunday Loch Melfort race before the excitement of West Highland Week arrives at Craobh in late July.



To discover more visit www.craobhmarina.co.uk or www.craobhmarinacottages.co.uk

SPRING LIFTS AT FAIRLIE QUAY

Fairlie Quay's 80-ton hoist, the biggest on the Clyde, has been operating at full speed recently with the relaunching of some of our larger winter visitors as they get back afloat for the summer season. Now heading away to tour the Western Isles, the beautiful Fife Classic sailing yacht Kenra has just relaunched after another winter undercover at Fairlie Quay, while another boat attracting attention during relaunch was the 40' catamaran 'Illusion' (pictured). With these departures and the extra space available, now is the perfect time to contact us if you plan to undertake any major refurbishment this summer inside Scotland's largest undercover boat storage facility before they return for winter storage.



Contact us on:
01475 568267

FAREWELL TO A FAMILIAR FACE

The Scottish sailing scene is about to lose a familiar (albeit well used) face at the end of June following the retirement of Brian Rowley, Assistant Marina Master at Kip Marina.



Famous throughout the marina for his unique headgear choices – the hard hat that looked like a Stetson was particularly impressive – Brian's dry wit and fast retorts will be missed by all who worked with him and the customers who he looked after throughout his tenure.

After 22 years of service at Kip Marina, Brian is looking forward to a well-earned rest and a return to family life with his wife Valerie Anne and daughters Emillie & Penne.

Brian started at Kip on 17th June 1996. He is originally from Gourock & joined the Army at a young age. On his return from service he worked for the Port Auxiliary Services, followed by a period in Stranraer docks before moving to Kip.

Brian has been a popular fixture within the Holt Leisure Group for two decades prompting Managing Director Gavin McDonagh to say "Brian was a great asset to the company and over the years he provided an outstanding service to customers along with a sense of humour, something we will all miss, and we wish him a long and well-deserved retirement".



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