

NORTHUMBERLAND YACHTSMEN SET TO COMPETE IN BELL LAWRIE SCOTTISH SERIES

Nik Atkinson from Hartford Bridge in Northumberland is set to take part in the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series, Scotland's premier yacht racing event which takes place from Friday 23 May to Monday 26 May. Nik, a sailing veteran of 30 years, will be returning to take part in the event for his fifteenth year.

With up to 200 yachts expected to be on the start line in Tarbert at this year's event it is anticipated to be the most competitive yet. Nik, who made an appearance on local news after crashing into the Millenium Bridge on the river Tyne, will be sailing his boat CORKANUT in this years Scottish Series crewed by co-owner Carol Dougherty and friends. Nik is a regular competitor on the yachting circuit and also competes at Cowes and Cork Week.

A strong contingent of yachtsmen from the North of England is expected at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series this year with 7 boats from the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club making the journey to Tarbert.

When asked to comment on what attracts him back to Tarbert year after year Nik said, "The Scottish Series is the regatta to look forward to all year long and the exciting social progmmme ensures a lively event for both participants and spectators alike".

The Scottish Series has thrived during Bell Lawrie's eight year sponsorship, with record numbers of yachts expected take part this year. The event, which generates around £1 million each year for the local economy, has been running for over 30 years and attracts over 1,200 competitors to the picturesque West Coast village of Tarbert, over the May holiday weekend. As usual a strong Irish contingent is expected to participate in the event with a feeder race coming in overnight from Bangor, Northern Ireland on Wednesday 21 May.

Competitors are being encouraged to sign up early. Further details and race entry forms for this year's Bell Lawrie Scottish Series are available now from the Clyde Cruising Club website: www.clyde.org.

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For further media information please contact Lorraine Alonzi or Susan Anderson at Smarts on 0131 555 0425

Notes to editors

The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series

- The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series has racing for 14 separate classes on three different race courses. There are also pre-regatta Tarbert Inbound Races, which sets off from Bangor, Northern Ireland and Inverkip on the West Coast of Scotland.
- The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series includes racing for the following classes: IRC Classes 1-4, CYCA Classes 6-10, Sigma 33, Impala 28, Sonata, Cork 1720, and Sportsboats.
- This year will see the introduction of the new CYCA 'Scottish Round the Island' Race which will follow a route around the outside of the two mid and south loch fleets and down Loch Fyne before returning to Tarbert for the finish.
- The inbound race feeders will come in from Bangor, Northern Ireland on Wednesday 21 May and Inverkip on the Clyde on Thursday 22 May.
- Clyde Cruising Club, along with the Tarbert Enterprise Company and the Tarbert Harbour Authority guaranteeing an array of activities for spectators and participants to enjoy after a day on the water.
- With easy flight links between Irish airports and Glasgow and Prestwick and marina berths at Troon, Inverkip, Largs, Ardrossan, there is the opportunity to base a yacht on the Clyde for an extended period and enjoy cruising around the islands too.
- The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series attracts around 200 visiting yachts to Tarbert, plus over 1,200 crew who bring the quiet village to life over the racing weekend.
- Bell Lawrie has been the title sponsor of the competition for the past eight years.

Clyde Cruising Club

- Clyde Cruising Club was established in 1909 and is the largest sailing club in Scotland with over 2,000 members.
- The club runs a full cruising programme and publishes the renowned Sailing Directions to the Scottish Islands and Coast, it operates a sailing tuition programme at Bardowie Loch near Glasgow and prestigious offshore and passage racing events in the summer months and a range of social programmes.
- The club has been organising the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series for 33 years since inception.

Bell Lawrie

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