

PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

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- **YACHTING SPECTACLE MAKES THE PERFECT DAY OUT**

Event: Bell Lawrie Scottish Series, sailing regatta

When: Bank holiday weekend, 23 - 26 May 2008

Where: Tarbert, Loch Fyne, West of Scotland

Website: www.clyde.org

Final preparations are underway for this year's Bell Lawrie Scottish Series, Scotland's spectacular sailing regatta. The Series, which runs from Friday 23 May to Monday 26 May, takes place in the beautiful West Coast village of Tarbert on Loch Fyne. Come rain or shine, it is set to be a weekend of fun for all the family. A perfect blend of stunning setting, plentiful supplies of delicious locally produced food, endless shore-side entertainment for spectators and of course an array of impressive yachts racing, makes for a great day out.

An exciting line up has been devised by the Clyde Cruising Club, along with the Tarbert Enterprise Company and the Tarbert Harbour Authority. There will be a wealth of musical talent on show with a selection of top bands secured to perform in the Talisker marquee. And the competition won't be confined to the water, with a football tournament set to provide battle on dry land. Bars and restaurants look set to be jam packed over the holiday weekend, with an estimated 25,000 pints of beer being drunk and 5,000 oysters consumed.

For more information on the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series please visit www.clyde.org

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For more media information or images please contact Lorraine Alonzi or Susan Anderson at Smarts on 0131 561 0401

The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bell Lawrie has been the title sponsor of the competition for the past eight years.

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FRANCE'S COMMODORE'S CUP TEAM SKIPPER AIMS FOR BELL LAWRIE SCOTTISH SERIES VICTORY

Double winning captain of France's successful Rolex Commodore's Cup Teams Gery Trentesaux returns to Tarbert, Loch Fyne over the Whitsunday Bank Holiday weekend in search of his first ever overall Class win at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series.

It will be Trentesaux's sixth time racing on the esteemed Scottish waters. In 2002 he was second overall with his IMX 40 Courier Nord, just pipped by Ireland's former Commadore's Cup team captain Colm Barrington on his Gloves Off.

Lille based entrepreneur Trentesaux, who has kept his string of 'Courier' named yachts in picturesque Brittany for many years, admits that his love of the picture postcard Scottish surroundings far outweighs the imminent opportunity the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series will present to test the form of several of Ireland's top yachts who will likely prove formidable opponents again when the Rolex Commodore's Cup takes place on England's Solent in June.

The Rolex Commodore's Cup is the most sought after international three boat team event raced under the worldwide IRC handicapping system.

Among the Irish Commodore's Cup representatives who will be pitched up against Trentesaux's brand new First 45 Lady Courier, is Anthony O'Leary and the crew of Antix Eile, a new Ker 39, which will be sailed by past winners of the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series Trophy. Also in IRC Class 1 are the defending Bell Lawrie Scottish Series Champions Jump Juice (Conor and Deniece Phelan) which will have Tarbert's Ruairidh Scott on board again as tactician.

Trentesaux's French compatriot Jacques Pelletier is no stranger to Tarbert and has twice represented France in the Commodore's Cup. The retired Paris businessman has seven Figaro Transatlantic Races to his credit, and is racing to have his new Mark Mills designed 43 footer ready to race in Tarbert. But the boat arrives only in Rotterdam this week. In reserve Pelletier has an X43 to race if his new boat is not ready in time. Pelletier has raced twice in Tarbert before, including last year.

"My whole crew love Tarbert more than just about any other regatta. It has everything, lovely people, lovely surroundings, good racing, a great atmosphere, there is nowhere we would rather be. It is very like Benodet in Brittany." Trentesaux remarks, "What is good for us in terms of build

up for the Commodore's Cup is that the days are long and there is usually lots of racing over a short period of time and that is good for training."

Lady Courier's schedule means she leaves Tarbert immediately for the Grand Prix du Crouesty which takes place in Brittany just three days after the end of the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series.

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