



## Organising a Green Event

### Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships 2006

### Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

This years Championships were held at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA), the venue for London's 2012 Olympic sailing events. The Academy itself has been built to incorporate a number of energy and water saving devices but the RYA were keen to introduce even more environmentally friendly measures into the event organisation to make it the greenest Youth World Championships so far and so teamed up with The Green Blue.

#### The Academy

Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy was formed in 1999 as a not for profit company, to take a lease on part of the Osprey Quay site and bid for funds, particularly from Sport England. WPNSA officially opened on 1st April 2000, with residence taken up in the converted ex-naval offices, whilst the plans for the new Academy were taking shape. In July 2003, after much hard work and planning, the National Lottery confirmed their support for the Academy along with The South West Regional Development Agency and many other organisations including those from the Royal Yachting Association, Dorset County Council, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, West Dorset District Council, Charitable Trusts and individuals.



Amongst the environmentally friendly practices already in place WPNSA has solar panels on their roofs to provide energy which collected and monitored daily. A large digital display informs visitors to the centre how much electricity is being generated from these panels at that moment, the total amount that has been generated since installation and the total carbon dioxide emissions that have been saved so providing a useful educational tool.



They have also fitted a concrete tank in their dinghy park to collect rainwater. This is then pumped through to taps around the park and used for washing down boats. With the park having a 500 boat capacity there are some instances when demand on the system is too great to maintain water pressure. In these cases, mains water is used alongside the grey water to keep the system running. Even using mains water occasionally, the amount of water savings that can be made from this system are huge.

#### The Event

Each year billions of plastic bottles are buried in landfill sites taking hundreds of years to decompose. With 281 sailors, coaches and supporters from around the world as well as numerous volunteers competing over 10 days, huge numbers of plastic water bottles would need to be disposed of. To avoid this waste, all those involved were given refillable water bottles to be used for the duration of the event

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Mains-fed and sealed water coolers, courtesy of PHS Waterlogic, were placed around the site so sailors and those involved in the event could fill their bottles before going afloat. The PHS Waterlogic dispensers have a 'sleep mode' which saves electricity and a compressor featuring eco-friendly R134A gas.

To ensure any waste that was produced was disposed of responsibly and to encourage recycling, The Green Blue provided recycling bins around the venue, stations were set in the main hall to take plastic bottles, paper and aluminium cans. There was also a large bottle bin in the dinghy park provided by Dorset County Council and Weymouth Borough Council to deal with any disposable plastic bottles that were used.



An event of the size of the Youth Worlds required around 25 RIBs to providing racing assistance and safety cover. Although best practice when using oil and fuel were encouraged, spill kits were provided on board every boat throughout the competition to deal with any minor spills. These included an absorbent sheet, gloves and instruction sheet in a re-sealable bag to dispose of used sheets in. Another bin for hazardous waste was situated at the top of the main pontoon so all boat crew could easily dispose of used kits on their way off the boat.

## Promoting environmental practices

With all these measures in place it was important to make sure competitors and visitors actually used them in the correct way! A Green Blue page was included in the competition programme given to all competitors explaining what types of waste had recycling facilities provisioned for. Instructions were also included in the welcome briefing.

As 63 nations were represented in competition, a number of different languages were spoken. So everyone knew which was the correct bin use, pictures were stuck on the side of each showing cans, bottles or paper.

The environmental theme was continued into the lay day of the competition with the attendance of World Champion Yachtsman, Mike Golding. Mike is an ambassador of The Green Blue and after speaking to the young sailors about the ins and outs of Open 60 sailing, he then spoke about environmental responsibility saying; "As a sailor you get to experience the power of the sea and the environment we live in. It's so important to protect what we have by picking up litter, cleaning up spilt oil, recycling and using environmentally friendly products."



## Measuring Success

It is hoped that the ideas initiated at this years competition will be remain in place for future events and that other event organisers may follow suit. However before this can happen it is important to assess what worked successfully and was practical, what ideas didn't work quite so well and how they can be improved. The Green Blue plans to discuss this with the organisers at the Academy and will follow this up with an evaluation article.

## **Further Information**

For more information about The Green Blue and products used in this project please contact Katherine Rowberry, Project Coordinator on **02380 604 227** or email **katherine.rowberry@thegreenblue.org.uk**. Visit **www.thegreenblue.org.uk** for more practical projects and case studies

Read all the results, reports and press releases from the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships at **www.youthworlds.org/base.php**

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Look at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academies web site for their current news stories and forthcoming events **www.wpnsa.org.uk**