

ROYAL YACHTING ASSOCIATION

The National Race Officials Conference was held at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre on the 7th and 8th February 2015. National Conferences for all race officials are generally held every other year, alternating with the Regional Conferences and organised by the Royal Yachting Association.

This event was held every 2 years and was part of the CDP for RYA officials. Around 220 attendees came. Due to the range of specialism within the organisation the event needed a flexible programme which allowed attendees to select from a wide range of options. Over the two days the officials attended 6 sessions. In each session they discussed items of common interest. The programme then has over 40 workshop options, of which the attendees choose 5.



THE CHALLENGE

RYA was conscious of the variety of activities involved in the event. For example:

- Stand-alone activities and displays demanded a flexible venue with space but tight control and security with adequate space but all locations being close to hand
- A Central location was crucial as some attendees were travelling long distances
- A venue with convenient relaxation facilities for attendees to have short breaks was crucial



THE SOLUTION

As it was a CPD event, RYA were looking to enhance their members skill base and knowledge in specific areas. Therefore, the extensive choice in offering a variety of workshops and discussions over the weekend allowed all attendees to gain a greater knowledge of the organisations and a chance to reappoint regional and national qualifications. They used the main conference room in the Executive centre and all the training and syndicate rooms. On Friday 6th, 106 bedrooms were booked out at the Executive centre and Saturday 7th 154 bedrooms were booked at the Training Centre.



Wyboston Lakes is not only reasonably central for most of our officials, but it offers a large amount of accommodation on site, a big central hall and a large amount of breakout rooms close to the main area. The food is of a high standard and they are able to provide a formal dinner as well. Not many centres can meet these requirements.

Chris Watts, RYA Race Officials Education Officer