



WYBOSTON LAKES

The Royal Yachting Association

FACT FILE:

COMPANY: RYA

EVENT: National Race Officials Conference

DATE: Friday 6th February- Monday 9th February 2015

GROUP SIZE: 220

VENUE: Executive Centre; Main conference room, Robinson room for exhibition, all training and syndicate rooms.

BEDROOMS: 106 at Executive Centre on Friday 6th; 154 bedrooms at Training Centre on Saturday 7th.

TIMELINE:

INITIAL ENQUIRY DATE: In July 2013 the contract was sent (after placed on hold on 11th Feb 2013 after their 2013 conference.

DATE VENUE SECURED: Contract received on 23/07/13

FINAL DETAIL MEETING: Final details meeting on 12/01/15

The Background

The National Race Officials Conference will be 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. They are organised by the RYA.

Attendance at a Conference (or Seminar), once every four years, is a requirement for re-appointment of Regional and National qualifications.

This event is held every two years and is part of the CPD for RYA officials. They usually host around 220 attendees. As there are many forms of specialism within the organisation, the event has to have a flexible programme and allow attendees to select from a wide range of options. Over the two days officials will attend six sessions, during these sessions they will discuss items of common interest. The programme then has over 40 different workshop sessions, from which the officials choose 5.

The type of guests that are invited to the event are RYA qualified race officials and representatives from other foreign yachting associations. So far this year the conference will be attended by 23 race officials from 13 overseas countries.

The Challenge

RYA was conscious that the variety of activities involved in the event; stand-alone displays and activities, demanded a venue which would give flexibility with space but tight control and security,

with all locations providing adequate space while being close to hand.

It also needed a venue with convenient relaxation facilities in which attendees could have short breaks. With some attendees travelling significant distances, RYA wanted a venue that was as centrally located as possible.

“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



The Solution

It is a CPD event and so RYA were looking to enhance member's 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 re-appoint regional and national qualifications.