

The background of the top half of the cover is a light teal color. Scattered across this background are several stylized kites, drawn in a simple, graphic style with black outlines and some internal detailing. The kites are in various orientations, some pointing upwards and others downwards. The text 'FORMULA KITE' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'EUROPEAN' is in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a solid black rectangular background. Below that, 'CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

FORMULA KITE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT January 2024



339 children took part in Beach Club activities during the event.



11% increase in positive feelings towards the water & water activities after participation in the Beach Club.



New water quality **monitoring and testing processes** piloted.



Event achieved **Platinum Level Clean Regattas** standard.



Event site powered by **100% low carbon energy**.



Long-lasting in-school **watersport-focused teaching resources** created.



New **community partnerships** established.



250 'learn to' continuation sessions planned.

Eastney Beach, Portsmouth September 2023

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and Portsmouth City Council partnered on the Formula Kite European Championships 2023, due to the potential within the event to deliver against a shared vision of creating connected and inspired communities through engagement with the water.

If harnessed effectively, major sporting events have the power to change people's lives. Therefore, unlocking the event's social impact potential was at the heart of the event throughout the planning and delivery stages, with the mission of:

Powering-Up Portsmouth: Lifting youth communities through inspiration and a passion for the marine environment.

For the RYA, social impact encompasses community engagement, focusing on younger people, bringing the sport to the people of Portsmouth, connecting and developing relationships, as well as the event's sustainability and environmental impact.

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1. Introduction

The RYA were proud to host the European Formula Kite Championship 2023, at Eastney Beach, Portsmouth.

The event took place between 18–24 September 2023 and saw 112 riders from 28 nations compete.

The event is the first international Formula Kite regatta to be hosted in the UK since the exciting new discipline was added to the Olympic roster for Paris 2024.

Delivering a world-class, environmentally responsible event that stimulated social change and showcased water-based opportunities to the next generation was an unprecedented approach for the RYA.

The RYA is committed to a sustainable future for recreational boating and recognises that the protection of the environment is an integral part of our sport. To read more about the RYA's sustainability ambitions, visit the [RYA website](#).

The Championships were an inspirational launch pad, enabling the RYA to connect and start the process of building long-term relationships within the community. It enabled a focus to tackle social challenges and to positively change the lives of local children from within the inner-city community.

From a social impact perspective, the RYA aimed to:

- Engage with 200 young people from Portsmouth, specifically targeting those who find accessing water-based activities more challenging such as those with disabilities, from diverse communities and within low-income families.
- Bring the Championship and the sport of kitesurfing to the people of Portsmouth.
- Connect and develop relationships within the city between community groups and watersports provision. Therefore, laying the foundations for long-term partnerships with the aim of creating pathways into marine-based careers, building a brighter future for the city's youth population.
- Run the event in a sustainable manner, leading by example and aiming to achieve Platinum Level Clean Regattas standard.

On each of these fronts, the event was a success, setting the possibility for long-term engagement and adoption.

More details on each of these ambitions is shared in the rest of this report.

2. Engaging with the young people of Portsmouth

The event aimed to engage with 200 young people during the Championship period, specifically targeting individuals facing barriers to participating in water-based activities, such as those with disabilities, from diverse communities, or within low-income families.

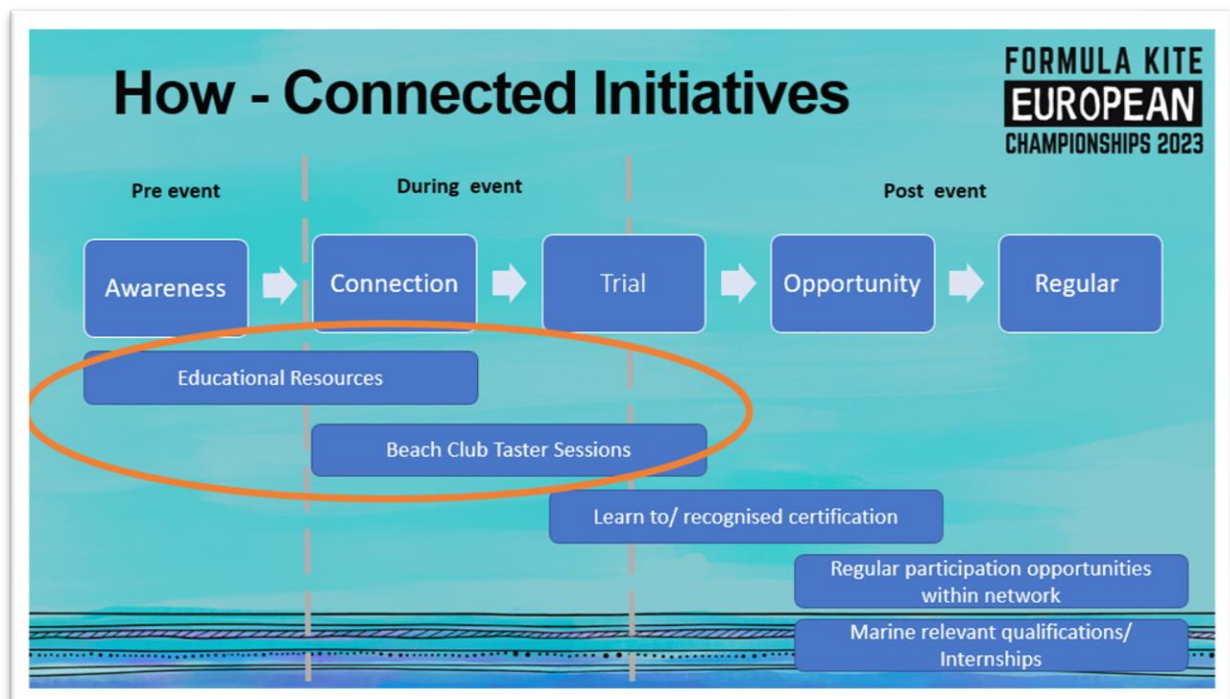
Three focus wards were selected by Portsmouth City Council, but a whole-city approach was taken.

- **Paulsgrove**, due to geographical positioning and limited connection to the water;
- **Charles Dickens**, as it has the highest level of deprivation in the city, and the largest source of youth anti-social behaviour;
- **Eastney & Craneswater**, as the local area to the event venue and being less connected to the rest of Portsmouth due to limited transport links.

With a focus on influencing future behaviour and starting a positive connection with the water, the target audience was narrowed to the age range of school years 4 – 9, ages 8 – 14.

A behavioural change methodology was used to map out connected initiatives.

Awareness was raised before the event through in-classroom educational resources. Connections were built with the water and watersports through a Beach Club during the event, leading to post-event opportunities to learn and gain recognised certification and beyond.



2.1. In-classroom educational resources – Awareness

Provided to 10 schools with a potential delivery audience of 2,400 pupils.

Free-to-access curriculum-based, STEM-linked classroom resources for Key Stage (KS) 2 and 3 teachers were developed in partnership with the British Kitesurfing Association with the aim of introducing the event and the science behind the sport to their pupils.

Learning objectives for these resources were:

KS2

- Identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces;
- Observe the effects of air resistance on parachutes;
- Explore the effects of water resistance by making and testing boats of different shapes.

KS3

- Recognise and identify forces associated with kite foiling;
- Describe how foils work;
- List factors that affect the size of drag forces;
- Investigate the effect of these factors on kite boarding;
- Give reasons for the use of foils.

In addition, the RYA and its environmental programme, The Green Blue, partnered with the RNLI and the Marine Conservation Society to provide educational resources that covered a range of water-related topics, from water safety messages to water conservation.

These were provided to the following primary and secondary schools within the city of Portsmouth upon request. The resources were also requested by two additional schools outside of the target area.

Primary

- Paul's Catholic Primary School
- Meon Junior School
- Cottage Grove Primary School
- Mayfield School
- Arundel Court Primary Academy
- St George's Beneficial CoE Primary School

Secondary

- Miltoncross Academy
- Ark Charter Academy
- Admiral Lord Nelson
- Castle View Academy

The RYA intends to make these resources available for further future activities.

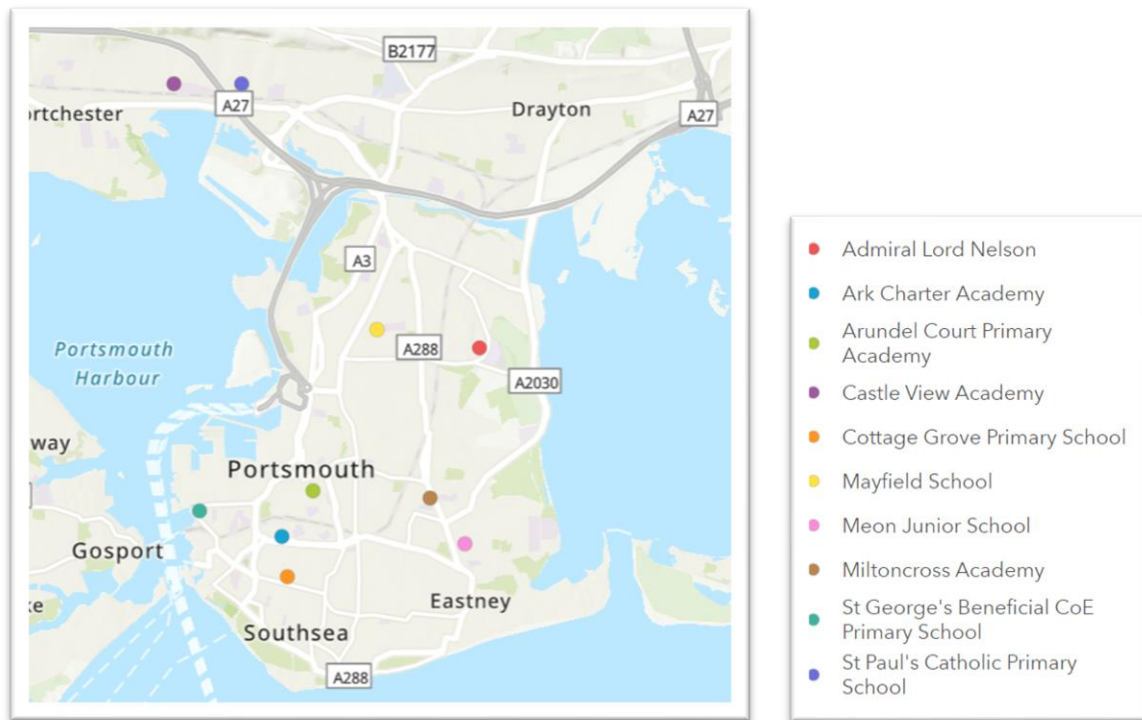
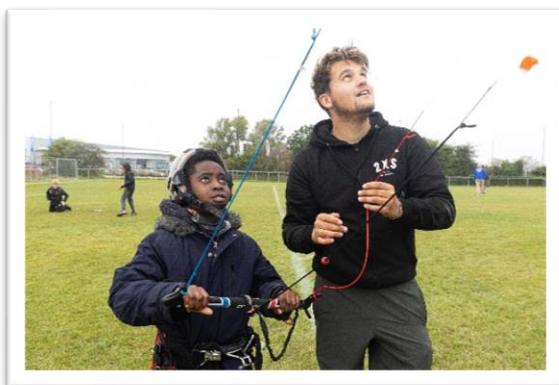


Figure 1: Map showing the locations of schools requesting resources.

2.2. Beach Club – Connection & Trial

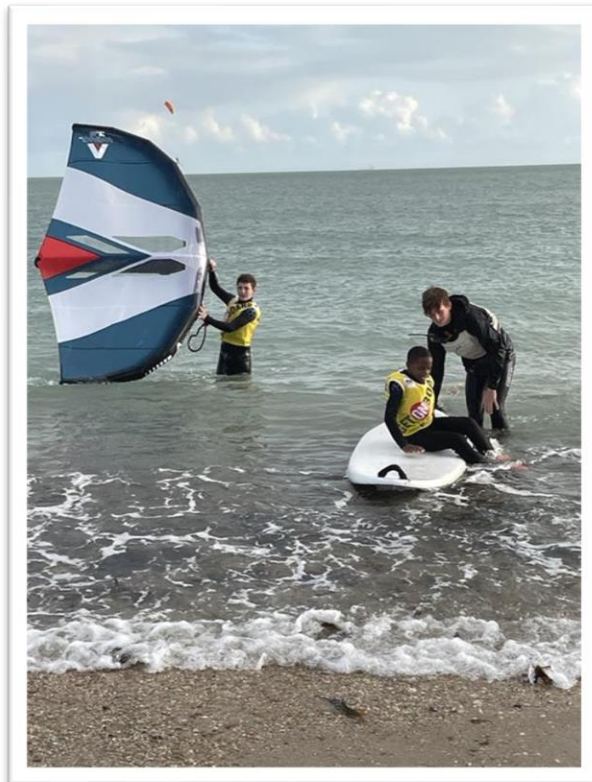
339 participants took part in Beach Club activities during the Championship period, 134 above target.

The Beach Club was made up of a range of activities including STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and environmental educational sessions, as well as sporting tasters in wingsurfing, power-kite flying and water confidence. The activity offering took previous experience with the beach, water and watersports into consideration offering a suitable opportunity regardless of the audience's current relationship.



With the Beach Club hosted as part of the event village, attendees were able to experience and connect directly with Formula Kite as a sport and the atmosphere of the Championships. The young people were hosted right in the mix of this international sporting event with athletes preparing, launching and competing around them, naturally facilitating this inspirational platform's ability to inspire at a grassroots level.

This approach also provided additional opportunities when poor weather resulted in the cancellation of the first two days of competition. Attendees at the Beach Club were able to meet three of the British Team including Ellie Aldridge, who became European Champion, at the event on the first day, and on the second day international athletes came to meet and speak with the young people in Q&A sessions.



The athletes involved with these sessions commented on how much they enjoyed the experience themselves and how rarely they got the opportunity to utilise their position to inspire the next generation.

In total 339 participants took part in Beach Club during the Championships period, 139 above target. This equates to 1,170 session places with participants taking part in 2 – 4 activities per visit.

The demographic makeup of those that took part in the Beach Club was:

- Gender breakdown - 55% female, 44% male, 1% preferring not to say.
- 17% considered themselves to have a disability or long-term health condition.
- 21% of attendees are from diverse ethnic backgrounds
- 56% eligible for Pupil Premium, compared to 40% of the city's pupils overall known to be eligible (as of October 2023¹).

These results come from an optional Equality Monitoring Survey, where we obtained a sample size of 25%.

Participants were reached through support from Portsmouth City Council to create partnerships with schools and Portsmouth-based charities, engaged groups are listed below;

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Arundel Court Primary Academy | • Meon Junior School |
| • Beacon View Primary Academy | • Miltoncross Academy |
| • The Victory Primary School | • Somerstown Playground |
| • St Paul's Catholic Primary School | • Urbon |
| • Highbury Primary School | • Motivate |
| • Gatcombe Park Primary School | |

Changing individual attitudes

- **9% decrease in negative feelings**
- **11% increase in positive feelings towards the water**

Participants' connection with the water was measured pre and post their engagement, focusing on how they felt towards the water, with the option for '*negative and not wanting to be in or around the water*', '*neutral I'll take it or leave it*', and '*I love to be in and around the water and want to do it more*'. Despite a relatively short engagement time of 2 – 4 hours, overall negative feelings decreased by 9% while positive feelings and wanting to do more increased by 11%.

Participants expressed high levels of connection with the water as well as motivation to continue their journey.

¹ [Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2023-24 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2023-24)

Feedback from participants included, wanting to:



"Go in the sea more and to be brave swimming"

"Be in the ocean more"

"I love to fly a kite again"

"Be more in the water and learn how to do wingsurf better"

"Do more swimming and wingsurfing"

Some indicated the possibility of wanting more of a professional connection in the future stating a desire to:

"learn to swim and teach too"

"become an Olympic kitefoiler"

"be a windsurfing teacher"



Whilst we set out to drive a greater connection to the water, we were also aware of the wider benefits that watersports can have on young people such as increased confidence, a greater ability to work as a team, and improved communication (RYA Impact Report 2019).

Comments from teachers and group leaders regarding their groups' experience not only expressed a similar level of increased connection with the waterfront and the sea, but also indicated that they had seen improvements in these wider benefit areas:

'Children gained so much from activities and have a better understanding of water cleanliness'

'I've seen some of my pupils smile today for the first time'

“The activities my group covered supported the learning we are currently teaching in Science on Forces. Children’s self-esteem and feelings about the sea etc have been boosted. The children had a great time and learnt so much about the sea from the day – the beach clean was great.”

Teacher and group leader comments also highlighted the level of current connection that their young people have. Showing that our approach reached the target audience outlined by the council. In conjunction these comments also show high levels of interest in future opportunity.

“Some of my group have never been to the beach before, it’s great to be able to bring them into this new environment.”

“Most of our children never had the opportunity to do water activities prior this due to financial reasons. Some of the young people we work with have difficulties to engage with adults they are not familiar and struggle to engage with physical activities. However, the staff ensured everyone felt comfortable, safe and had a wonderful time. All the young people and staff loved learning new skills and expressed how grateful they were for the opportunity.”

“We could only wish for these activities to run more often so more young people could benefit from them.”

“Increased engagement in STEM subjects from students who attended, enthusiasm for future trips from others unable to attend.”

2.3. Learn to sessions and recognised certification – Opportunity

Following the conclusion of the Championship events, the RYA intends to facilitate continuation through ‘Learn to’ on-water sessions within the local delivery network.

250 sessions will be available in early spring 2024, enabling a minimum of 40 young people to learn to sail or wingsurf and develop the skills to be able to engage with activities within the local club network.

3. Bringing the event to the people of Portsmouth

The RYA brought this new Olympic sport to the doorstep of the Portsmouth community.

3.1. Fan Zone/ Wingsurfing Tasters

During the finals weekend, the public were encouraged to attend a free to access Fan Zone. An estimated 1000 attendees were able to view the event first hand from the shore as well as watch the action close-up with the racing shown live on a big screen.

The Fan Zone not only gave the opportunity for the public to learn about this new Olympic sport, but also to learn more about local watersports providers and how they could get out on the water themselves. Free wingsurfing taster sessions were made available during the weekend and sold out with 90 people giving this new sport a go.

It was important that the site and the view of the competition was accessible to all. Temporary matting was laid around the site to give access to those using wheelchairs and mobility scooters. This also gave a better experience to families with young children using pushchairs.

The outcome of giving this access was so much more than just giving people the opportunity to see the Formula Kite European Championships. Please meet David, who can explain what we mean by this.

3.2. Meet David



David attended the event due to the big screen facility to watch the kiting. The floor matting allowed David to access the beach and experience the event just like anyone else and connect with his local beachfront which he wasn't aware was possible. David was pleased to learn that Portsmouth City Council has other locations on the beach with accessible pathways and he felt this would add significantly to his quality of life.

In addition, David was able to connect with the RYA through the Fan Zone area of the event. He didn't believe that getting out on the water was a possibility for him due to his health and use of a mobility scooter. Through the [RYA Sailability](#) programme David was able to connect with local providers and he has since been out on the water.

David's story has inspired the RYA South sport development team to explore boating provision within the Portsmouth area for those with additional needs, and to look at how this local community can access the water through boating.

3.3. Local Volunteers

The other way that the RYA looked to connect with the residents of Portsmouth was to enable them to support the delivery of the Championships themselves. People from Portsmouth volunteered in roles from driving powerboats to supporting the race office, many of whom were new to volunteering and specifically to volunteering within sporting and sailing events.

3.4. Connecting and developing relationships

This event was delivered through the power of partnerships. On the social outreach elements Portsmouth City Council, The Green Blue, Marine Conservation Society, Andrew Simpson Centre – Portsmouth, 2XS, Swim England, RNLI, URBOND, Motivate & Gunwharf Quays all played major roles, with many other connections made which could be developed in the future.

Through working with partners, lessons from the project have been learned by a much wider group of people and organisations. As a result, changes in local opportunities are being seen. The Andrew Simpson Centre – Portsmouth has adapted its offering to include the Swim Safe water confidence sessions on a long-term basis, reducing barriers for new participants. To implement this, the Centre has utilised the new skills that their staff gained from training in the delivery of the Swim Safe initiative as part of the Championships.

The RYA's aspiration of setting the foundations for ongoing activities has been reached and, with the right support, we can continue to work with our partners to develop long-term legacy opportunities, increasing our impact on the local population of the city.

4. Clean Regattas

The following sections describe the efforts to achieve Platinum Clean Regattas by adopting sustainable best practices recommended by the [Sailors for the Sea – Clean Regattas Programme](#). Each section addresses the 20 required practices.

4.1 Elimination of Single Use Items

4.1.1 Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

To eliminate single-use water bottles, the RYA encouraged all those attending the event (volunteers, athletes, coaches etc.) to bring their own reusable bottles and communicated that water refill points were available onsite. The Race Office had a small supply of reusable bottles and flasks available for those who needed them.

The event site created a challenge with water supply and access. Options considered varied from connection to the mains water (although initially this was not thought possible), supplying cans of water and the use of large 'boxed' water containers (although historical events have shown it to be hard to predict water requirements). After discussions with multiple suppliers, a way to access the mains water was found to be possible and agreed.

A water refill point was made available within the event site, as well as an additional tap within the landing area for rinsing equipment. The water was also connected to the toilets onsite. During the event a total of 5,270 litres of water was used. In addition, Portsmouth City Council had previously installed a refill point adjacent to the event site which was accessible to the public.

4.1.2 Eliminate Plastic Straws

The supply of plastic straws has been banned within the UK since October 2020. No straws, either plastic or paper were used by or provided by the event organiser. All concessions on site were asked to only use sustainable sourced and/or recyclable packaging, with one concession stand having paper straws available to use on request.

4.2.3 Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

Due to the limitations of the event site, it was not possible to use reusable dinnerware. The RYA provided lunches for volunteers and staff at the event. These were purchased from Eastney Cruising Association, a local RYA Affiliated Club with catering facilities, and were requested to be plastic free.

The lunches arrived in recyclable paper bags, the sandwiches were wrapped in paper and the drinks were in cans.

When booking concession stands for the site, the RYA contacted a local food collective called 'Love Southsea' for recommendations. To be part of this collective, each concession stand must meet a list of environmental criteria which included using plastic-free service ware. The concessions invited to attend the event were all within this collective. Beyond food concessions, within the vendor registration forms for stall holders, the RYA requested "Due to the sustainability ambitions of the event, single-use plastic is to be avoided wherever possible, including in any giveaways." This was followed at the event.

4.2.4 Use or Provide Reusable Bags

The Local Organising Committee discussed giving volunteers a reusable tote bag to use at the event. After consideration, it was decided it would be more sustainable not to provide a bag to everyone, as most people have access to many reusable bags already. Instead, the Green Team ensured some of The Green Blue tote bags were available to use onsite in the preparation, set up, duration and pack down of the event.

Reusable storage containers were used when transporting equipment for the event.

4.2.5 Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

Thanks to the RYA sponsors, the finalist athletes were gifted with a pair of Sebago shoes. The competition required trophies to be awarded: after much research the chosen design was a wooden trophy, produced from FSC wood. No balloons or confetti were used during ceremonies.

4.2. Community Involvement

4.2.1. Publicise Your Sustainability Efforts

Sustainability has been a core feature of the Formula Kite event and was a key focus within marketing and promotional pieces around the event. The Green Team engaged with the event communications team throughout the event, to ensure sustainability was featured and considered.

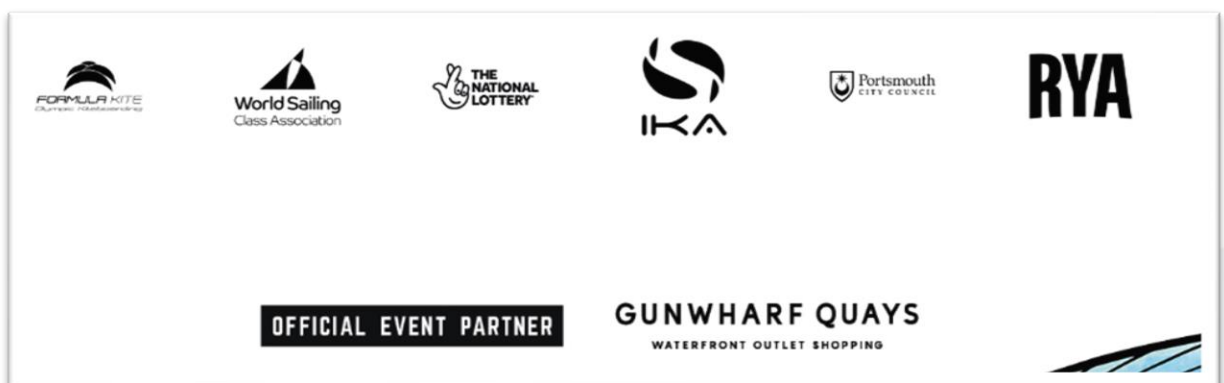
The Formula Kite event webpage, hosted on the RYA website, featured details of the sustainability efforts in place, including the ambition to achieve Platinum Clean Regattas and to working in partnership with local businesses.

The RYA Spring magazine, which is sent to 88,000 people, featured an article focused on the events sustainability actions and ambitions 'Formula Kite's sustainable ethos'.

Two articles were published on the RYA website and shared on RYA social media channels: "[Formula Kite Europeans 2023 to support climate and social causes](#)" and "['Absolutely magical' Formula Kite Europeans hopes to inspire](#)". A further article was published by The Green Blue, "[The Green Blue sparks creativity at Kite European Championships](#)". All articles referenced the sustainability ambitions and actions at the event.

A member of the Green Team was on site daily during the event to answer any questions and raise awareness of environmental best practice to athletes, volunteers and spectators. During the finals weekend, the Green Team set up a stand within the Fan Zone promoting The Green Blue to spectators, giving away educational resources and raising awareness of the importance of protecting sensitive habits such as seagrass.

4.2.2 Involve Local Organisations



The event was founded on a partnership with Portsmouth City Council who invested and supported the delivery of the social impact project associated with the event. The event sponsor was Gunwharf Quays, a waterfront outlet shopping area in Portsmouth.

An event objective included inspiring local communities around the marine environment and water-based opportunities. (See sections above for further details of the social impact work with local communities.) A large part of this work involved partnerships and engagement with local groups such as schools and youth groups, supported and delivered with The Andrew Simpson Foundation - Portsmouth and 2XS. wherever possible, to support local businesses and reduce the carbon impact associated with travel. For the infrastructure and operational delivery, the team sought out local companies and contractors, based in Hampshire or the South of England, to support the event.

It was important for the event to work with local companies, such as marquee providers, as well as the energy, water, and waste management suppliers. The event opening ceremony was held at The Queen's Hotel, Southsea, a local independent business.

Vendors supplying catering and supporting the fan zone (face painting, activities, shopping) were also sought out based on their locality, which included the sports apparel brand Rooster (based in Fareham). The catering vendors were all based in Portsmouth and part of the local Love Southsea collective.

4.2.3 Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Signage was displayed around the event site promoting sustainability efforts as well as encouraging environmental best practice. This included signs promoting the use of HVO fuel and solar panels to power the site, promoting the event's ambitions to achieve Clean Regattas, and promoting The Green Blue. The signs were printed on recycled paper and attached using reusable cable ties where needed. Some signage, which can be reused at future events (no littering and water refill points), was printed on recycled and recyclable PVC Palight Re-Nu boards.

In the Race Office, during registration, [The Green Blue Boating Pledge](#) banner was on display and athletes were encouraged to sign the Pledge.

For the finals weekend, The Green Blue had a stand in the Fan Zone, this was staffed by a member of the Green Team. The stand displayed resources and guides from The Green Blue promoting green boating practices. The stand also promoted an environmental project on which the RYA is a partner, focused on seagrass restoration ([Save our Seabed- LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES](#)), with a seagrass related activity and an informative seagrass video.

4.2.4 Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

The catering vendors on-site were all based in Portsmouth:

- Three Cuts Burger: Southsea based, served locally sourced food. They use Astles butcher for their meat who are also located in Portsmouth and sell UK-sourced meat.
- The Cornish Cookhouse: confirmed to use locally sourced food wherever possible.
- Pollito Loco: Portsmouth based and have a sustainability mission available online. They are "totally committed to becoming a truly

sustainable zero waste, street food concept.” Pollito Loco serve only free-range chicken from Devon, south-west UK. In addition, they support other sustainable, ethical, and local suppliers, as well as avoiding products that contain palm oil.

The bar concession on site during the finals weekend was Portsmouth Distillery, an independent company established in 2018, based on Portsea Island.

4.3 Responsible Waste Management

4.3.1. Organise a Green Team

The RYA Sustainability Team was part of the event Local Organising Committee and were therefore involved throughout the planning and delivery of the event. The Green Team attended the event daily, raising awareness of actions in place, supporting effective waste management, promoting The Green Blue, and leading the delivery of the Environment Beach Club sessions, as well as running the beach cleans. When recruiting for volunteers, the role of a Green Team member was also included. This was promoted via RYA volunteer streams but also locally.

The event Green Team included:

RYA Staff:

Phil Horton, Olivia Wells, Kate Fortnam, Cat Palmer, and Emma Cotton.

Athlete: Maddy Anderson.

Technical Advisors and Delivery Partners:

Richard Hill and Tom Crawford (Marine Conservation Society); Peter Bone.

Volunteers: Catherine, John, Alex

4.3.2 Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

The RYA worked with a local waste management company to ensure there were enough bins onsite, with suitable signage, and to provide a recycling waste stream. The waste company were also contracted to carry out an event site litter pick each day, to ensure any accidental litter, from the event or members of the public, was collected.

4.3.3 Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

Due to the management of the event very little, if any, food waste was created. Lunches for staff and volunteers were ordered as needed based on dietary requirements. If there were any lunch packs remaining, these were then taken home by those onsite or given to athletes.

Over the finals weekend, the catering vendors onsite, which had been selected for their sustainability ambitions, sold out of food.

4.3.4 Use Paperless Event Management

It is standard practice at events to use online systems as much as possible. All registrations were online. The IKA event webpage contained any news and updates including all documents, a virtual notice board and a live feed of results. Participants, event volunteers and staff were emailed details with attached documents for reference. We ensured that the Race Office on site contained Wi-Fi and a suitable 'office' set up to allow effective working practices, reducing the need for using paper. Whiteboards were frequently used in meetings related to the event. There was also an accessible Sharepoint (document sharing centre) created, giving access to those involved in the running of the event, to live copies of event related documentation.

4.4 Environmental Stewardship

4.4.1 Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

The first beach clean was carried out by members of the Local Organising Committee, before the event took place. The location was recommended by Portsmouth City Council as an area that gets missed from the city-wide cleaning services, being the coastal path along Whale Island Way, Portsmouth. The collected litter was recorded via [Marine Conversation Society](#), and a report was produced. A total of 10kg of rubbish was collected, consisting of 615 items. The most common found items were small plastic pieces and wrappers.

As part of the Environment Beach Club session, a beach clean was undertaken by the visiting young people. A total of four were carried out, with day one and day two undertaken at the Andrew Simpson Foundation, Portsmouth (a relocation due to the event site being closed from adverse weather), and day three and four carried out at the event site, Eastney Beach.

The collected litter was also recorded via Marine Conservation Society litter survey. A summary of the collected data is in the table below.

	<i>Total Weight Collected (kg)</i>	<i>Total number of items</i>	<i>Most commonly found items and materials</i>	<i>No. volunteers</i>
<i>LOC pre-event Beach clean</i>	10	613	Plastic / Polystyrene (86%)	6
<i>Day one Beach Club – 19th Sep</i>	49	183	Plastic / man-made concrete and building materials	21
<i>Day two Beach Club – 20th Sep</i>	52	209	Plastic / man-made concrete and building materials / metal	22
<i>Day three Beach Club – 21st Sep</i>	5	28	Plastic	21
<i>Day four Beach Club – 22nd Sep</i>	7	159	Plastic	22
<i>Totals</i>	123	1192	Plastic	92

4.4.2 Promote Alternative Transportation

Promotion of greener alternative travel was considered in the early planning of the event. The key areas were to measure travel, which contributed towards the event's carbon footprint; to raise awareness of greener travel modes to all involved, and to encourage car sharing from staff and volunteers. Travel was also reduced by arranging for key staff and volunteers to stay in local accommodation for the duration of the event, and then car share to the event site in the RYA's hybrid pool cars.

An online travel survey was created to record travel data and sent to all those attending the event: athletes, staff, volunteers, media, coaches, and contractors. This was also used in the run up to the event for any LOC meetings and site visits. The data from the form will be used to calculate the associated carbon, as well as understand travel patterns, and any opportunities to make improvements for future events.

A Teams group chat was set up with the staff members attending the event, but not staying in accommodation, to support the arrangement of car sharing where possible. To support this further a spreadsheet was made detailing the days on site and the location travelling from.

The event team met with the local electric scooter hire company, VOI. It was arranged that more scooters would be located and based near the event site, for the duration of the event, to ease accessibility and to encourage their use. Bicycle storage was arranged to be onsite and made available to all attending, which was also publicised.

A travel plan was created detailing travel information related to the site to promote greener travel. This included location of the nearest EV chargers, location of bus stops and suitable bus routes, as well as train stations and routes. It also gave information on the VOI scooters and the app needed to use them.

In addition, in communications to attendees we promoted a local travel app (Breeze UK), which provides multiple mode options, mapping and booking for travel routes, to support and encourage the use of public transport. On the event website green travel information was provided within the FAQs.

4.4.3 Increased Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

With the event site being on Eastney Beach, which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site, it was important to ensure no damage was caused, and to use the event location to increase awareness and protection.

The actions taken to mitigate any harm is outlined in the Habitats and Wildlife – Notice of Impact at the Formula Kite European Championship document (see Appendix). In summary, advice was sought from the Marine Conservation Society as well as Natural England on managing the event operations to reduce any risk to wildlife, and a procedure was developed. An environmental risk assessment was also created and included as part of the overall Event Management Plan.

A key risk to the environment is Invasive Non-Native Species. The Check, Clean, Dry protocol was communicated to attending athletes and volunteers via the Sustainability Communication Document. A sticker is attached to the RYA RIBs promoting and raising awareness of the Stop the Spread campaign. The Green Blue, the RYA's environmental awareness programme, shared a digital copy of 'The Green Guide to Anchoring and Moorings' with coaches and volunteers, which details anchoring best practice to help protect vulnerable seabed habitats.

Over the finals weekend, The Green Blue stand in the Fan Zone had an array of information available promoting habitat and wildlife protection. This included an informative seagrass video as well as a seagrass replanting themed activity.

4.4.4. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Vegetarian and vegan meals were provided and given as the majority for the volunteer lunches. It was requested within the catering vendor forms that they must consider dietary preferences and allergies, which includes

providing vegetarian and vegan alternatives. There was also plant based milk available on site for hot drinks.

4.5 Green Boating

4.5.1. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

The event ensured flags and marketing materials were re-used from previous events where possible. The event also used reusable cable ties to reduce single use plastic and prevent the risk of litter.

Any sponsorships and brand deals excluded the ability to be able to advertise via stickers on the participants' kite boards to prevent litter. In communications with the participants and coaches before the event and at the event, the World Sailing Rule 47, around littering and waste disposal, was raised and promoted.

It was arranged with the local marinas to have access to mooring space for the duration of the event, reducing the need to anchor when racing was not taking place. The event management was online based, including an online notice board and results.

4.5.2. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

It was important that actions were in place to reduce the risk of pollution. An Environment Risk Assessment (see Appendix) was created, and formed part of the race management plan, covering pollution risks such as from fuel spills and the HVO generator, the use of chemicals, and litter. Control measures to mitigate these risks are outlined in the document.

For example, an oil spill kit was available onsite and at any areas where refuelling took place. This was also communicated to the volunteers. Athletes were encouraged to use only water when cleaning prior to and when at the event, and a sign was displayed in the washdown area. It was decided that there would not be any showers located onsite, partially to control the pollution risk from run-off. Access to local shower facilities was instead arranged.

4.5.3 Encourage Green Boating Practices

A lot of the event looked at raising awareness and promoting best practice. A large part of this was through communications before the event took place in articles, emails, and on social media. The event objectives on the outset included running a 'sustainable event'. There was also signage across the event site promoting actions in place and encouraging best practice.

The Green Blue, part of the event Green Team, was onsite during the finals weekend, in the Fan Zone, with a stand sharing resources and information around greener boating. This also included promotion of The Green Blue Boating Pledge, in communications sent out to volunteers, participants and coaches, encouraging them to join the pledge, as well as at the event.

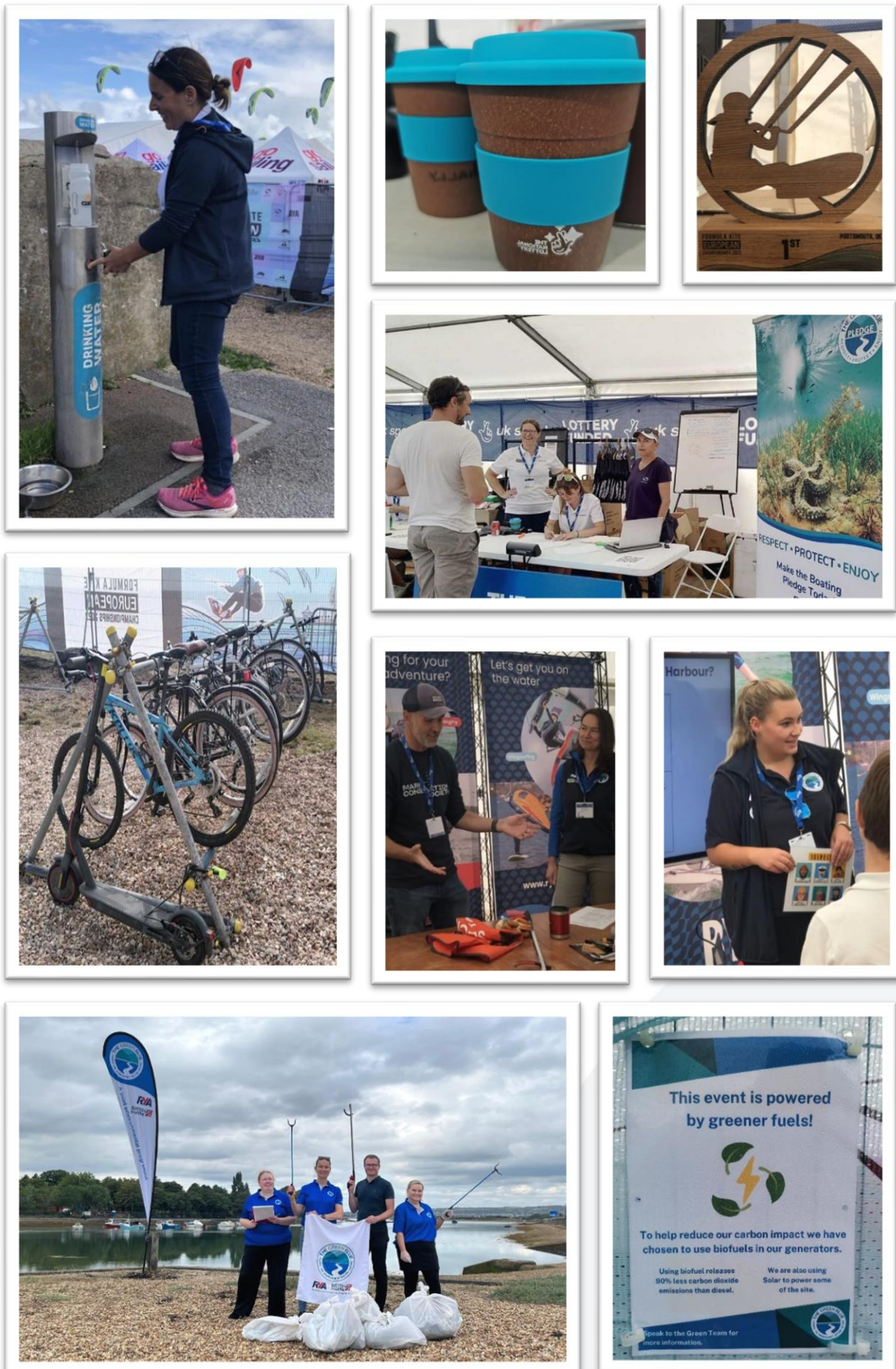
It has been arranged for members of the event team who led the event social impact work to deliver a webinar on the Sustainability of the Formula Kite event, as part of the World Sailing Sustainability series, with the aim of sharing the actions, learnings, and best practice with others.

The team members delivering the webinar are:

- RYA Sustainability Officer, Olivia Wells;
- The Green Blue Campaign Manager, Kate Fortnam
- RYA Regional Manager, Susie Moore.

It is standard practice that during the event, any anchored or moored boats, must have engines switched off to conserve fuel. The RYA RIBs were used at the event as coach boats, safety boats and media boats. The RIBs are exceptionally well maintained.

Renewable energy was used on site, with signs raising awareness of the power on site.





5. Other Environmental Actions:

5.1 Renewable Energy

The event was located on the beach and therefore did not have any facilities in place. After some investigation, connection to the grid was not possible and all power had to be generated on site.

The RYA invested in a 400-watt solar panel system, which was used at the event to run the Race Office. Going forward, the solar panel system will be fixed on to the RYA event container. The solar panels were set up in a visible location and there were signs placed around the site, providing information on the green energy supply.

Further power was needed; therefore, a generator was also on site. The event team ensured that the generator used HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil), a biofuel, reducing the associated emissions significantly, compared to diesel generators. All vendors on site were also able to connect to the HVO generator. A total of 504 litres of HVO fuel was used in the generator over the event period.

The associated carbon emissions for the energy to power the site was 0.18 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, and the site used 100% renewable power.

5.2 Water Quality

The RYA recognised water quality as a potential environmental risk and wanted to ensure that any risk was managed and reduced. Due to the nature of the event (kiting on boards rather than onboard a boat), as well as young people being in the water as part of the Beach Club, and the event location being in the vicinity of two sewage outfall pipes, it was crucial to understand the potential risk of low water quality and pollution.

The team sought out additional expert advice on the matter. Through consultation and research prior to the event, some key documents were developed: a Water Quality Management Plan, which detailed the procedure and actions implemented to reduce the risk; a Water Quality Risk Assessment to build an understanding of the potential risks and how they could be mitigated; as well as a Water Quality background paper. All these documents are included in the Social Impact Appendix document.

In summary, a multi-faceted approach was taken. The event team sought expert advice and carried out a site study looking at historic data and Coastal Bathing Water Quality Classification, signed up to local alerts via the Surfers Against Sewage Safer Seas and Rivers Service app to monitor any sewage discharges, and ensured that weather and tide patterns were tracked. The RYA also carried out regular water quality testing for analysis in a local

microbiology laboratory. A procedure was put in place to respond to a sewage discharge incident or on receipt of a low-quality test result.

The greatest challenge with monitoring water quality at the site was a 3-day minimum turn around for the results. Hence it was essential to have multiple methods to manage and assess the potential risk.

Water quality testing began prior to the event starting, see the results in the table below:

<i>Date of Sample</i>	<i>Date of Result</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Coastal Bathing Water Quality Classification</i>	<i>Details</i>
05.09.23	11.09.23	Sample 1	Excellent	
13.09.23	18.09.23	Sample 2	Excellent	
15.09.23	18.09.23	Sample 3	Excellent	
17.09.23	21.09.23	Sample 4	Excellent	
18.09.23	21.09.23	Sample 5	Unknown	Inconclusive results. Method of testing changed to allow for greater numbers.
19.09.23	22.09.23	Sample 6	Good	No racing or water activities took place, due to adverse weather. Shoreside sample.
20.09.23	25.09.23	Sample 7	Unknown	Inconclusive results. No racing or water activities took place, due to adverse weather. Shoreside sample.
21.09.23	25.09.23	Sample 8	Excellent	
22.09.23	25.09.23	Sample 9	Excellent	
24.09.23	28.09.23	Sample 10	Excellent	Shoreside sample.

Due to adverse weather, there was a local sewage discharge during the event. Due to Health and Safety protocols, to avoid risk to all those on site, the event had already been forced to close, with all on water activities postponed for two days. Thus, this discharge did not disrupt, or impact the event.

5.3 Environment Beach Club Session

As part of the Beach Club, a component of the Social Impact work carried out at the event, it was important to include a session connecting young people with the natural environment.

The Green Blue, RYA and Marine Conservation Society created an 'Environment' session which classes could attend. A total of 105 young people took part in the Environment sessions over 4 days.

The sessions were in two parts.

Part 1: Marine Conservation Society led a Beach Clean with the students. See Clean Regattas point 14 above for more information. This session included discussions around sources of marine pollution, how to prevent marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. This was followed by the students undertaking The Green Blue's Marine Crime Scene Investigation activity. The students had to solve 4 environmental incidents: who dropped the litter, who spread the alien invaders, who spilled the oil, and who polluted chemicals in the water.

Part 2: The session started with the young people drawing the ocean, how they imagined it. A lesson was given around what makes a healthy ocean, introducing topics such as biodiversity, food chains and the roles of phytoplankton. A practical activity was carried out, looking for and identifying organisms under the microscope from sea water samples. Seagrass environments were discussed as well as a video showing different species found in UK waters. Children were then asked to draw a healthy ocean. This was followed by the young people making a pledge to help protect the marine environment.



5.4 Habitat Restoration

Before the event took place, it was agreed with the local organising committee to add an 'environment tax' within the budget, for every litre of fuel used in the event's operation boats. The 'environment tax' figure came from the equivalent value of carbon offsetting the fuel (based on Table 3: Carbon Value and Sensitives 2020-2100, from the [Treasury's Green Book](#)). This money, a total of £800, has been donated to The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, to support the Solent Seagrass Restoration Project, which includes a site in Langstone Harbour, near to the event site.

The RYA recognise the value of seagrass habitats within our marine environment and are also a project partner on the [EU LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES Project](#). This project was promoted at the event, raising awareness of the importance of seagrass and how the wider boating community can support its protection.

6. Conclusion

This event demonstrated how major sporting events have the power to improve people's lives, as well as how leading with social impact and sustainability in mind can drive support for the successful delivery of events such as the Formula Kite European Championships.

The RYA has started the process of building long-term relationships within the community, which have started to have a positive impact on the lives of local children from within the inner-city community of Portsmouth.

The opportunities available are greater than expected, and more time is needed for the full legacy from this event to be realised.

Several elements contributed to the success of the social impact of the Formula Kite Europeans, those listed below have been identified as being key:

- Leading with Social Impact and having this at the heart of design and delivery;
- Local council investment and buy-in to the desired outcome allowed for quicker development of local partnerships;
- Working with the local delivery network allows learning to stay at and be developed at a local level, increasing long term impact;
- The Beach Club was co-created with teachers from Portsmouth supporting its design from booking processes, timings, and overcoming the major barrier of transport, increasing overall engagement;
- The diversity of the session subjects on offer, enabled schools to embed the opportunity into their learning programs at the time, supporting their current curriculum focus;
- Catering for a range of abilities and previous experience with the beach, water and watersports enabled whole peer groups to engage together creating an inclusive opportunity;
- Providing the activities for free and open to all meant that schools could bring whole class / year groups. This removed barriers such as a requirement for supply teachers for those 'not eligible';
- Carefully managing an open-all approach through a requirement for a percentage of pupil premium eligible students ensured the target audience of those from low-income families was reached;
- All equipment, such as life jackets and wetsuits, for all the activities was provided, reducing barriers to engagement.
- Sustainability being at the forefront of event delivery and planning allowed for adoption and implementation throughout the event operations;

- Using the Clean Regattas criteria to direct and drive sustainability an array of actions, with the aim of achieving Platinum certification.

For more information on the social impact work at the event, or wider sustainability matters relating to RYA, contact a member of the team on environment@rya.org.uk

This report has been prepared by Susie Moore RYA Regional Manager and Olivia Wells, RYA Sustainability Officer.

6.1 Contributors

We would like to thank all those who supported the Formula Kite event and those that contributed to the social impact delivery.

With special thanks to the:

- Portsmouth City Council
- RYA Staff & event Local Organising Committee
- The Green Team members
- The Green Blue
- Marine Conservation Society
- Andrew Simpson Centre – Portsmouth
- 2XS
- Teachers involved with the design of the educational resources and the Beach Club.
- All the volunteers supporting the event.

6.2 Appendix

Please see the separate Social Impact Appendix for the additional documents mentioned in this report which includes:

- A. Environment Risk Assessment
- B. Habitats and Wildlife Procedure
- C. Water Quality Management Plan
- D. Water Quality Risk Assessment
- E. Water Quality Background Paper