

## New Community Marine Officer brings raft of sailing experience

**03.12.18 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

A new Community Marine Officer (CMO) with a wealth of experience in Scottish sailing and sports coaching at senior level has been appointed in South West Scotland to assist in managing Crown Estate foreshore and seabed.

Bidwells, the coastal managing agents for Crown Estate Scotland, has appointed John Kent as the new CMO(SW). His role will focus on marine leisure interests, primarily moorings in the South West and across the Firth of Clyde – a high use area with competing demands on coastal assets.

Dr Darren Hirst, Partner at Bidwells, said:

“We’re delighted John is joining our marine team, building on the work of Colin Brown, our previous CMO(SW). With demand for mooring space showing no sign of abating, the role of the CMO is becoming increasingly important as we seek to ensure the available space is being used in a way that is both fair and well-managed, for the benefit of the wider sailing community and others who use the coastline.”

John brings with him a wealth of experience, having a background in yacht racing and cruising from the Solway to the Clyde. As a former member of the Clyde Moorings Committee, Royal Yachting Association Scotland Council and Principal of **sportscotland**’s national centres Inverclyde and Cumbrae, he is ideally qualified to help guide and assist the many private individuals, clubs and mooring associations in the South West region.”

In starting his new position earlier this month, John said: “Over the years of sailing in the South West of Scotland I have seen a rapid growth of moorings, especially in the more accessible and attractive locations on the Clyde. It is important to manage these areas, enabling moorings to be coordinated and accessible to all, whilst protecting the traditional anchorage areas. I am looking forward to meeting the various mooring associations, individual mooring holders and offering assistance and advice where appropriate.”

Andy Wells, Head of Property at Crown Estate Scotland, said: “We are delighted to welcome John into his new role, carrying on the good work of his predecessors and helping people across the Clyde and South West make best use of the marine environment.”

**ENDS**

**Caption:** John Kent brings with him a raft of experience in sailing to the role of Community Marine Officer.

**Notes to Editors:**

**John Kent:** John is a former member of the RYA(S) Council, Chair of the RYA(S) High Performance Committee and was previously a member of the Clyde Moorings Committee. He has had a career in teaching sailing and sport, retiring in 2017 as Principal of **sportscotlands'** national centres Inverclyde (which opened in 2017 after a a £12m rebuild) and Cumbrae. John is a founder member and Chair of the Scottish Sailing Institute and a member of Fairlie Yacht Club and Largs Sailing Club.

**Bidwells:** Bidwells has assisted The Crown Estate, more recently Crown Estate Scotland, manage their coastal estate for almost two decades. A key component of this work has been maximising the opportunities for the marine leisure and tourism sectors. Making sure that moorings are properly licensed is a key part of this, and with sailing becoming an increasingly important part of Scotland's rural economy, Bidwells continues to play a part in helping business and communities realise their potential.

An important aspect of the management of moorings has been the promotion of mooring associations and groups, which allow some of the more popular mooring areas to be managed locally. Bidwells' Community Marine Officers and Regional Managers work with the local mooring owners to help establish these associations, balancing the often-competing demands in these high use areas to ensure that any arrangements put in place are a success in the longer term. As of 2018, 125 Mooring Associations and Groups are operating around Scotland's coastline, managing over 3,300 moorings. A further 626 moorings are licensed under private individual licences.

### **About Bidwells**

Bidwells is one of the UK's leading property consultancies, offering clients knowledge of, and access to, some of the most interesting real estate markets with the highest growth potential in the UK.

The firm has a strong rural presence and manages thousands of square miles of the Scottish and English countryside and coastline. It is one of the leading consultancies in the high-growth forestry, renewables and agriculture markets. These markets have consistently outperformed equities and bonds in recent years and are of significant interest to UK and overseas investors.

Much of the consultancy's work is concentrated in the 'Golden Triangle' of Oxford, Cambridge and London, including sector-leading work in the science and technology and education sectors. Bidwells helps investors, developers, occupiers, house builders and home owners to harness the benefits of the exceptional growth in these markets which represent over 44% of all real estate activity in the UK.

Established in 1839, Bidwells has retained many of its original clients, including some of the best-known colleges in Oxford and Cambridge who are among the biggest landowners in the UK. Today, Bidwells manages over £5.2 billion in property assets and employs 500 people in England and Scotland.

### **About Crown Estate Scotland**

Crown Estate Scotland manages land and property on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Through working with others, we innovate with land and property to create prosperity for Scotland and its communities. This includes ensuring families, businesses and communities can live, work and thrive on the assets. The business pays all revenue profit to the Scottish Government.

Crown Estate Scotland manages:

- 37,000 hectares of rural land with agricultural tenancies, residential and commercial properties and forestry on four rural estates (Glenlivet, Fochabers, Applegirth and Whitehill)
- Rights to fish wild salmon and sea trout in river and coastal areas
- Rights to naturally-occurring gold and silver across most of Scotland
- Just under half the foreshore around Scotland including 5,800 moorings and some ports and harbours

- Leasing of virtually all seabed out to 12 nautical miles covering some 750 fish farming sites and agreements with cables & pipeline operators
- The rights to offshore renewable energy and gas and carbon dioxide storage out to 200 nautical miles
- Retail and office units at 39-41 George Street Edinburgh

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