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### **CRUISING SEMINAR PREPARATION– REPORT FOR HMS MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2010**

At our last meeting we decided to hold a Cruising Seminar on 26 February 2011 and Royal Findhorn Yacht Club kindly agreed to host the event. Several speakers are now booked and the purpose of this report is to gain some feedback and suggestions on the plans so far.

The suggested shape of the day is to have everyone together for the morning sessions (plenary sessions) then to split in to workshops after lunch.

Chris Owen (Owen Sails - <http://www.owensails.com/>) has agreed to speak and I've asked him to come-up with 2 topics for the morning sessions – thoughts range from upwind – downwind sailing to re-masting the older boat to choice of sails and reefing systems for the short handed cruiser – still to be decided.

Ian Ross (Commodore Lochmorlich SC - <http://www.myc.org/iyc/>) has agreed to speak about sailing J24s at New York – he wants to highlight the opportunities to clubs available here – the provisional title is: 'Wee club in the Big Apple'.... subtitled 'J24 racing in New York'

Sarah Brown (The Green Blue - [http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/about\\_us/staff.aspx](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/about_us/staff.aspx) ) has agreed to do a talk on a sailing related environmental issue.

Simon Paterson (Findhorn Marina - <http://www.findhornmarina.com/> ) has agreed to do a sea survival topic.

Michael Avril (RNLI Sea Safety Officer Scotland) together with Danny Coutts (Invergordon Lifeboat) have agreed to do a session on Calling for Help and have offered to do life jacket checks.

A possibility for the day then would be to have 3 afternoon workshops – one sea safety focused, another environment focused (could include a wildlife talk) and third on another topic (toys for the boys?)

At this point I'd like idea for topics and speakers and would also appreciate some help – perhaps someone to take on publicity?

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PS, please keep checking out [www.HMSailing.org.uk](http://www.HMSailing.org.uk) - the site is developing all the time!