

Pinkston Watersports Centre - Operational Overview



Pinkston Watersports (PWS) is an urban waterports centre, sited at the end of the Edinburgh-Glasgow canal, 1 mile from Glasgow City Centre, 2 mins off the M8 Jn 15 + 16.

It has a clean water basin (old canal dock), secure storage for clubs and organisations, changing and meeting rooms, a water treatment plant; and Scotland's 1st Artificial WhiteWater Course (AWWC). It is sited on an island in the canal terminus; with good security.

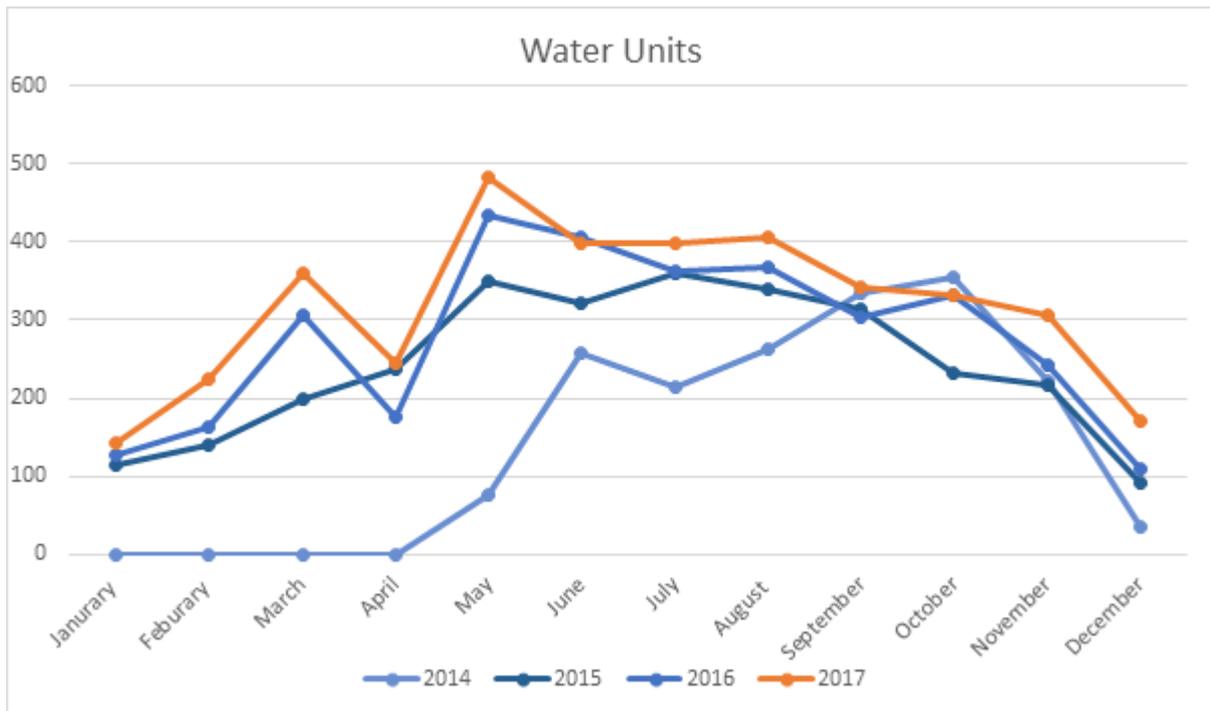
Pinkston has started the transformation of an area of urban blight, bringing colour and activity to the area, and attracting other ancillary and associated activity. It is the seed for Scottish Canal's vision of a Sports Hub in Port Dundas. Other sports nearby include wakeboarding and a large indoor skateboard park is under development.

It lies on the edge of North Glasgow, and one of the centres missions is to deliver social outcomes for this area, especially for disadvantaged youth. Already delivered are good benefits from the community paddling scheme, with taster sessions and skills progression; as well as diversionary activity for a Maryhill Police scheme. To date, 20 community coaches have been trained, especially from local youth clubs, and they have started regular community sessions. The main bottleneck in community work in the past year was staff time to co-ordinate activity. A member of one of the local housing associations, NG Homes, is on the charity's Board and is funding part of a new development post to ease this bottleneck. Other links include Glasgow Kelvin College and Rosemount Development Trust.

At Pinkston, a 'pitch' cost is £30 for 2 hours, including changing and showers, for 16 clients. With your own coach, and using Pinkston's community equipment, costs are comparable to hire for a 5-a side football pitch. This makes outdoor watersports accessible to the local population. The venue has Commonwealth Games Legacy status, the only substantial sports site in North Glasgow to gain this (most Commonwealth Games sports sites are in East Glasgow).

The Artificial White Water Course (AWWC) was built in a groundbreaking modular construction, and features 3 pumps lifting 7 tonnes of water per second in total. New flexibility is built in with a second, high standard / difficulty 'short course'. This evolution in AWWC development, with cheaper pumping costs, is the 'Glasgow Design' and is now being marketed around the world.

Since the site opened in May '14, it has become operational and financially viable with a good safety record. Pinkston uses a business model of training the user organisations to use the site themselves, which keeps staff numbers and overheads low. Pinkston only provides a little of the activity itself, mainly for the local community paddling. The season extends well into November and early December.



The user organisations and clubs are trained through the 'ESO' (External Site Operator) pathway, which is monitored in practice by Pinkston staff, and feedback offered when appropriate. 18 clubs and organisations have become resident on site, see complete list at end.

It is Scotland's Swift Water rescue centre, used by all emergency services (Coastguard, Mountain Rescue, RNLI but especially the Fire & Rescue Service.

As well as a lot of paddlesports, activities and events on site include regular open water swim sessions on the clean water 140 x 28 m basin; triathlons, canoe polo competitions, community days; commercial team building and recently a tranche of filming of 'Whisky Galore', BBC's Still Gm end Netflix film Outlaw King.

The Scottish Canoe Slalom and development squads (1/3 of the British team are Scots) train several hours a week; and a UK Division 1 ranking event is held on site, along with a number of lower ranking division events.

Current staff are: FT General / Development Manager, FT Centre Manager, PT Administrator, PT centre assistant and freelance staff as required.

The site and buildings are owned by Scottish Canals. Glasgow Watersports (GWS) Ltd is leasing the site and is the sole operator and operated as Pinkston Waterports Centre. Glasgow Watersports Ltd is a charitable Limited Company, consisting of 9 volunteer directors, many with a paddling, or other watersports backgrounds.

Pinkston has numerous income streams, and is not dependent on grants.

Summary of Activities for future development - 2018-2021

Glasgow Watersports will continue to build on the successful model being operated at Pinkston Watersports. It will be key to maintain strong and positive relationships with our current user groups to ensure that we continue to meet their needs as we look to utilise the full capacity of the site at Pinkston Watersports. Development will focus on building on the commercial delivery on site to meet the market for outdoor activities in an urban area. By doing this it will become a facility that is open to all. This will strengthen the organisation, increasing the quality of sessions being delivered and in turn will enable an increased level of resource and expertise to be channelled back to the local communities in North Glasgow. Glasgow Watersports will remain responsive to available markets and will adapt accordingly thus remaining a forward thinking and proactive organisation willing and able to respond to the needs of those it serves.

As Pinkston has moved on from a start-up phase of operation to a point where it is operating a sustainable and growing business model, activities planned for the next 3 years will include a refocusing on all aspects of our strategic objectives.

“ We will continue to operate as a successful and thriving social enterprise building on the clear potential to increase the level of income being generated onsite; to continue to support and develop different areas of sporting activity, and to refocus and build on the community impact that Pinkston has the potential to deliver. Over the next 3 years we will develop a clear community programme which is able to deliver a measurable social impact. This will be done in collaboration with other organisations who are operating with similar aims and ethos as Glasgow Watersports. Resourcing this may involve tapping into a greater level of grant funding for direct delivery or support to access, alongside offering affordable sessions to schools and community groups.”

– Excerpt from Business Plan.

Main Income Streams:

1) Container Rental
(£1,000 per 20', £2,000 per 40' container per year).

Residents-

Clubs

- Glasgow Kayak Club
- Monklands Canoe Club
- Glasgow Caledonian University Canoe Club
- Pinkston Panthers Club
- Canoe Polo

Organisations

- Glasgow Kelvin College
- Social Work Outdoor Resource Centre
- Glenmore Lodge

Safety

- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- RNLI

Youth

- Education Dept – Blairvadach Outdoor Education
- Scouts (Clyde Regional Base)
- SiMY Youth Work Organisation
- St Aloysius School

Other

- Freewheel North (Disability Bicycle Charity)
- Wakeboard (Glasgow Wake park)
- Outdoor Pursuits Scotland – Rafting
- Bruce Joliffe kayak coaching

2) Facility Hire

79 organisations are trained the hire the facilities through over 430 individuals trained External Site Operators.

Flat Water areas are £15 per hour slot.

Whitewater course is £65 to £75 per hour.

Classrooms are also available to hire separately at £15 per hour.

Income:

Financial Year 2016-17 = £218,589

Main Categories:

- Containers - £46,390
- Group Hire (water and classroom hire) - £126,000.

Water hire in 2017 was: 44% white water and 56% flat water

Expenditure:

Staff costs	– £93,324
Freelance staff	- £7,943
Electricity	- £38,700
Water treatment -	£5,400

Awards:

The Living Waterways Award 2015 – Leisure and Tourism

People Make Glasgow awards 2016 – Legacy Award

The Herald Society Awards 2016 – Commonwealth 2014 Legacy Award.

A. Laird V4 28/02/2018

Centre Design and operating model by:



www.epduk.com

Whitewater by:



www.rapidwatercourses.com

and



www.rapidblocs.com