

New Sponsor Assurance

THE ANNUAL North Sea Yacht Race between Banff and Stavanger has landed a major new sponsorship deal worth £24,000 over the next four years.

The joint Royal Findhorn YC and Banff SC organising committee have received news of a support package which has been sealed by their sailing colleagues in Norway, thanks to an agreement with North Sea oil service contractor Halliburton and down hole tools specialists, Nodeco.

After valuable support from Mobil (North Sea) came to an end last season the annual 320-mile mid-summer yacht race needed to secure new sponsors. Former race secretary Robin Miller of RFYC said: 'The organisers are delighted with the success of our friends in Norway in winning such a good sponsorship package. It will assure the race for the future, writes *Dave Morgan*.

His successor as race secretary on the Scottish end of the international event, Banff SC member Paul Caldwell, said details of the sponsorship package are still being finalised.

'But it looks as if the event will now be known as the Halliburton North Sea Yacht race,' he said. 'It's an excellent package. Main

sponsors Halliburton are providing £5,000 a year with Nodeco agreeing to £1,000 a year. That should secure the race into the Millennium and allow the organisers to cover the considerable costs of running this international event.

The Norwegian end of the race is organised by a committee made up of yachtsmen from a variety of clubs in the Stavanger area. This year's race will start from Stavanger Fjord on 3 July and is expected to attract a fleet of at least 40 Norwegian and Scottish boats.

Last July's 37 entrant race from Banff saw the largest ever entry from Scottish-based yachts, the first time home-based yachts had outnumbered the Norwegian contingent.

Once the Halliburton North Sea Race fleet reach Scotland crews will be encouraged to enter a follow-up event on 9 July which will take racing yachts to the Northern Isles from Lossiemouth as part of the 1999 Orkney Race from the Moray Firth to the Orcadian capital of Kirkwall.

● Royal Findhorn Yacht Club

have agreed to hand over the organisation of a long-standing race to the North of Scotland Yachting Association.

The annual overnight Orkney Race which has until now been run from the Findhorn Bar to the Orcadian capital of Kirkwall is due to be raced on 9 July with an 8pm start off Lossiemouth Harbour.

The new secretary of the North of Scotland Yachting Association, Forres-based yachtsman Bill Hercus says the change of organisers and venue was to provide a start which was easier to reach for most of the larger boats taking part and to be a little closer to Macduff where this year's Halliburton North Sea Yacht Race will end.

s North Sea Race Future



NORTH S