



Centre of excellence is launched for canoeists

by Jenness Mitchell

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COLORADO Canoeing Centre of Excellence held its official relaunch on Sunday.

Thanks to financial assistance from Colorado Group Ltd and SportsScotland, the Alva site, home to Central Region Canoeing Advanced Training Squad (CR Cats), Stirling Canoe Club and Strathallan Canoe Club, is

now equipped with permanent gates, changing rooms, storage facilities and floodlights to enable use all year round.

CR Cats coach Johnny Brown said, "I must give a big thank you to Gary Gibson and Colorado for the support."

The local club, who can normally be found on the River Devon between Alva and Fishcross, have used

the site for almost two decades and with help from SportsScotland in the early 2000's they bought the land from the scouts. Over the years they have produced many winning canoeists and members Campbell Walsh and David Florence have successfully went on to compete for the British Olympic team - both returning with silver medals.

Johnny, who has been a

coach for almost 30 years, added, "People come from far over to the club. We're focused on shaping children for competitions and there's some good potential working their way through. I'm looking forward to the next few years."

For more information on the Colorado Canoeing Centre of Excellence and CR Cats, contact Johnny on 07769182090.



GARY GIBSON (left), at the new centre of excellence, and pictured with coach Johnny Brown and Lord Mar, who performed the ribbon-cutting at the opening ceremony on Sunday.