



SOUTH EAST REGION

News

Spring 2008
Issue No. 33

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RYA-South East Newsletter

**Spring is at
last with us
- so have a
Splendid
Season!**

**Forward this to
your members,
customers and
friends
(This is an Adobe
PDF file, and
therefore safe to
send)**

**Please print out
the pages and
feature them on
your Notice Board**



Tony Rowe, new RYA-SE Chairman,

Brings a new spring to the Region

Read More . . .



Freeing you from Red Tape

How the RYA is protecting your interests



Hoo Freezer and other events

Reports and Notices

See More Details . .



Club News

New Portsmouth Yardsticks and RYA powerboat bargain

More . . .



New Protest Rules

Penalty options increased

Update me . . .



RYA Courses and Train- ing

Peter Towner appointed for OnBoard launch in East Sussex



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Tony Rowe RYA-SE Chairman

Your Contribution

All articles, events, pictures, letters welcome! Please send your contributions to this publication to the address on the first page.

Don't forget to include your contact details (name; club; position; phone; email)

Pictures can be emailed.

Welcome to the Spring issue of the newsletter.

Easter is for many when their sailing and boating year begins, but unfortunately the very high winds (let alone the cold) have disrupted a number of early season events. Nevertheless, you will see from the Hoo Freezer that there are some hardy souls who sail throughout the year! But let us hope that this disappointing early season turns into a wonderful Summer for sailing, and makes up for last year.

You will see reported inside the excellent work being done by the RYA nationally and by our regional development team led by Andy Hooper with 'OnBoard', the initiative to get Children and Young people into sailing. OnBoard centres are being established across the country and the number of children who have already been given their first taste of sailing is impressive. However the real challenge is to turn that initial enthusiasm and excitement into on-going participation in the sport. And that is where you, as the Clubs and training centres in the region, come in. Developing our Clubs to provide the facilities and support with trainers and coaches etc for our young people to find an interesting and fulfilling interest in our sport, and perhaps to become the youth or Olympic champion of tomorrow is one of our major challenges. There is a large amount of support available from the RYA, ranging from simple advice on the website or from Andy's development team to funding for Clubs and Coaches. Participating in these types of developments, or the Volvo Champion Club or Team 15 programme can really rejuvenate and reinvigorate Clubs. Why don't you and your committees think through how you could get involved – and whilst helping the youth of today, also help your Club shape up for the future? If you have any questions or queries Andy or myself will be happy to try and answer them and assist you.

Your regional Committee organised an excellent seminar on 'The Future of Cruising' in February. Topics for next years seminar – or some mini- seminars during the Autumn - are being reviewed, including the Club Development theme mentioned above. If there is anything you would like to see please let myself or your committee representative know.

May I wish you an excellent sailing and boating season in whatever form of craft you take to or on the water.



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[RYA Lobbying for you](#)

The RYA HQ at Hamble and our local RYA South East Region are both very active in protecting the interests of boaters from red tape, bureaucracy and Brussels. Some of the current issues are shown below.

[RYA HQ Issues](#)

There are many of these ongoing right now. Read more at www.rya.org.uk/AboutRYA/lobbyact/lobbying.htm

[RYA-SE Regional Issues](#)

Thames Estuary Flood Management Strategy

On-line Consultation is now in progress

Water authority regulations

A letter is going out from RYA HQ to all Club secretaries warning them of an ongoing action by Portsmouth water authority, which is exercising its powers to force Clubs to control the use of hoses or other equipment attached to water mains to prevent the possible contamination of the main supply. Solutions include the fitting of holding tanks between the main supply and the hose to prevent any reverse flow – but this can be impractical and expensive. Whilst this is only being pursued by Portsmouth at the moment there is the possibility that other water authorities may follow.

Medway Outdoor Centre

The centre is under threat of budget reductions from Medway Council. RYA CEO Rod Carr has written a letter in support and Paul Mara is involved, having had close associations with the centre some years ago. RYA-SE are awaiting a date to visit and discuss the problem.

Maidstone Sailing Club

Maidstone SC is in a difficult situation in that its Club House has been sold for development (they are occupying it on a month by month basis pending the developer deciding to start work!) and whilst Maidstone Council has allocated nearby land in Mote Park

for a new Clubhouse, the Club has to fund the development. RYA-SE has met the action committee of Maidstone to offer advice and guidance

Pagham Harbour

RYA will be submitting formal objections to the draft bylaws sent by West Sussex CC to the Secretary of State for ratification. RYA had not been consulted formally, and has unearthed a number of problems.



Pagham Harbour



Maidstone S. C.



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Your Committee

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RYA Council & Chairman

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Andy Hooper Regional Development Manager

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(more on Next Page)

Hoo Freezer Lives up to its name

This is traditionally the premier frostbite dinghy race in the South East. The 37th Hoo Freezer was held over the weekend 8th & 9th March, sponsored by Hoo Marina, hosted by Hoo Ness YC and organized with assistance from Wilsonian SC. Other Medway clubs, the Scouts, St. John's Ambulance and the Coast Guard provided safety and medical cover. There was an excellent entry of 72 boats, with competitors coming from as far away as Southport. The usual schedule was followed, with a practice race on the Saturday, the Hoo Freezer on Sunday, lapping courses with results based on average lap times.



A blustery southwesterly gusting over 30 knots kept many competitors ashore for the practice race, just 30 boats venturing out in the challenging conditions that gave the rescue boats plenty of activity. Only 17 boats survived to record a finish!

The B14's of Chris Bines/David Gibbons and Mark Barnes/Peter Nicolson mastered the conditions well at the front of the fleet over the four laps. Bines/Gibbons held the lead to the line for victory but unfortunately Barnes/Nicolson were disqualified for passing between a freighter and the guard boat. Andrew Peake kept his Musto Skiff powered up to claim second while Chris Matthews/ Ed Gibbons (29er) were third.

On Sunday, in stark contrast, the southwesterly had eased to a light to moderate breeze. This favoured the medium handicap fleet. Simon Cory/Sarah Styles (Buzz) overhauled the leaders, Tony Hunt/Suzanne Hall (V3000), on the second lap to take line honours and lift the Hoo Freezer Cup with Hunt/Hall relegated to third on handicap. Chris Dutton/Claire Hansell (Buzz) also eased ahead of the early leaders and settled for the fourth spot. Meanwhile Steve Hall/Simon Haighton kept well ahead of the other Larks to claim second prize.

The wind had a sting in its tail and a foretaste of the storm to come 12 hours later. As the last boats were finishing and others returning to shore, a squall passed through with winds in excess of 30 knots,

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Your Committee

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Medway Yachting Association

Medway Keelboat Regatta July 10- July 13

This is the premier South East yacht event before Cowes week in August, and incorporates the Sail East Championship. There is strong competition for the wonderful silverware to be won, and a really active social programme. Details and entry forms at www.medwayyachtclub.com

Immediately after, MYA run their dinghy regatta, hosted by Wilsonian S.C. Details at www.wilsoniansc.org.uk



Sussex Yacht Club

Sussex Regatta

The 2006 Sussex Regatta was to have been held 21st to 23rd March 2008 at Sussex Yacht Club, Shoreham-by-Sea. Unfortunately the bad weather resulted in all three days having no racing! The Regatta has therefore been postponed to a later date.

Further information will be available from Sussex Yacht Club website www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk

Royal Escape Friday August 2

This annual recreation of Charles II's flight from his puritan pursuers, now in its 33rd year, has become a well-established part of the Sussex sailing calendar. It draws large mixed fleets of hard-core racers and family cruisers alike, all eager to take part in the celebration of our proud nation's sailing and Royalist traditions.

History of the **Royal Escape** race

www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk/normal.asp?pageid=790

Royal Escape Race entry

<http://www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk/news.asp?pageid=1501>



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Gravesham Maritime Festival

Sunday July 6th

Gravesham is running a two day event. Saturday has a local community focus , and Sunday (1200 – 1700) features the 'Maritime festival'. The event will have exhibits by the RNLI and Kent Police Marine unit and will be organised by Gravesend SC and All Hallows SC. Details will be available at a later date.

Swale Regatta & Cruiser Rally June 6-8

This event is FREE and open to yachts, non-racers and motor-boats. Details at www.swaleregatta.co.uk

Littlehampton Regatta

Littlehampton harbour along with the Town Council are organising a regatta on the 21 June 2008. This will be a traditional regatta with dinghy pulling, kayak races along with a triathlon. The river bank will be closed and filled with stalls and entertainment for the general public. We intend to raise awareness of water safety and all money raised will go to the RNLI. We have invited the RN, MCA and the RNLI to place information stands along the roadway.

Contact Colin Hitchcock, Harbour Master and Manager, at colin@littlehampton.org.uk



Lively event at Crawley Mariners!

Four clubs contested three races in the West Kent & Sussex Sailing Association's event on 29 March, in a cold and blustery Force 4 at Hedgecourt Lake. Strong gusts were a feature throughout, and very few boats made it to the end of the day without at least one capsize! In the senior event, Jo Wellerd in a Laser Radial took the first race for Crawley Mariners by a narrow margin from Chipstead's Ian Mairs/Tally Watson in their RS200 and Mike Warwicker/Kate Fitzsimmons in their Bough Beech Pacer. Single handers dominated the second race, with Jo Wellerd again leading the field home, followed by Simon Thompson (Crawley) and John Windibank (Chipstead) in Comets.

The wind eased somewhat for the final race, putting the faster boats at a disadvantage. Simon Thompson won this one from Mike Warwicker and Tonbridge's Barry Bone in his Solo. Home club Crawley Mariners fielded two teams in the cadet event, enabling them to christen two of their newly-delivered RS Fevas. Both boats gave a good account of themselves, but were outshone by the visiting Feva of Laurence Gibbons and Henry Forward (Chipstead) who finished consistently well in all three races and treated the

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... continued watchers on the committee boat to some spectacular planing runs. Crawley's Martin Lown was another who mastered the conditions well, clinching two first places in his Topper. Michael Lavery took two third places in his Laser Radial, ensuring that the cadet team result also went to Crawley.

Results: Seniors: 1 Crawley Mariners YC; 2 Chipstead SC; 3 Tonbridge Town SC; 4 Bough Beech SC. Cadets: 1 Crawley Mariners YC A; 2 Chipstead SC; 3 Crawley Mariners YC B; 4 Bough Beech SC.

Additional Sport England Club & Coach funding for Clubs in England

The aims of this programme were as follows:

- Increase the number and effectiveness of Volvo RYA Champion Clubs.
- Re-energise dormant Volvo RYA Champion Clubs.
- Increase the effectiveness of the OnBoard programme by additionally ensuring an OnBoard club gains Volvo RYA Champion Club status.

In practice this is intended to underpin and augment existing programmes (Volvo RYA Champion Clubs, T15 windsurfing, OnBoard) with the provision of volunteer grants for clubs (£50K per annum – i.e. approx £700 per club) and additional coaching days to develop and support volunteers by the delivery of best practice. Nationwide, this equates to approximately 850 additional coaching days in year 1, rising to approximately 1500 in year 3.

Where are we now?

RYA has satisfied all the award conditions and has been signed off in all 9 English regions. The project start date is 1st of April 2008, with the aim of immediately beginning distribution of volunteer grants (against requests), and arranging coaches on the ground shortly thereafter.

RYA will shortly explain the new funding, and the process by which to apply. Meanwhile, it is currently advertising or Regional Club Coaches to undertake the roles, further details available on:

www.rya.org.uk/AboutRYA/jobvacancies

What we could do with your support on:

1. Promoting the new funding and using it to encourage clubs to engage with the RYA through any of our established club development schemes (Team15, OnBoard, Volvo RYA Champion Club) or by simply getting in touch with their local field based members of staff (HPM's and RDO's).
2. Encouraging any suitable individuals to apply for the coaching roles.

For further information and to pursue an application:

Contact either your local RYA High Performance Manager (Paul Wren at paul.wren@rya.org.uk) or Regional Development Officer (Andy Hooper at

or alternatively the project coordinator James Tilley, Champion Club Liaison Officer at james.tilley@rya.org.uk

Further information about the scheme and how to engage will be available at www.rya.org.uk/vcc



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South East Rules Advisor

The RYA has produced a Rules Disputes Best Practice (www.rya.org.uk/general/rulesdisputes) to help clubs, race officials and sailors ensure that racing is carried out in an enjoyable way within the Racing Rules of Sailing.

The background to this is that:

- Rules observance is key to good racing – however,
- Rules observance is becoming neglected, because
- Rules observance is not backed up by rules enforcement, because
- Too few protests are lodged, because

- Protest hearings are too slow, too late and too adversarial

The RYA has addressed this with new Rules Disputes procedures, of which the main elements are as follows:

- A new **20% place penalty – the Exoneration Penalty** – which can be accepted after coming ashore.
- When no protest is being lodged, a competitor can ask for an **Advisory Hearing** with a Rules Adviser that formalises the type of discussion that often occurs anyway after racing, arising from which a boat might agree to take an Exoneration Penalty.
- When a protest is lodged for an uncomplicated incident, it can be decided promptly by **RYA Arbitration** run by a single Rules Adviser, whose power to penalize is limited to offering an Exoneration Penalty. If this is accepted, it resolves the matter; if not, it goes to a full protest hearing with the normal possibility of disqualification.



- The **RYA protest form** on the RYA Website has been modified to deal with Arbitration.

To bring this into force:

- It must be provided for in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions
- The Club or event must have one or more Rules Advisors ready to handle rules disputes after racing

To help this process, the RYA offers a day's training at local venues for potential **Rules Advisors**. This is not a formal qualification, and the decision as to who shall be a Club's Rules Adviser(s) is purely for the Club. The course is aimed at (a) the process of running an advisory hearing or an arbitration hearing, and (b) the techniques of 'finding facts' – establishing what happened. This course cannot hope to teach all the rules themselves, although there is plenty of practical work to get experience of applying the rules to the facts.

The ideal arrangement is a course at one club attended by members of local clubs – between 12 and 16 people is a good figure. The expenses of the presenter are met by the RYA. A screen and Powerpoint projector are needed.

Courses in your area will be run or arranged by your **Regional Rules Adviser**, who is:

David Battye (01892 862347; david@battye.prestel.co.uk).

David is a National Judge and National Umpire, and is a member of the RYA Judging and Umpiring Committee.



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Some Useful Websites

RYA Website - Home

www.rya.org.uk

RYA Website - South East Pages

www.rya.org.uk/Regions/SouthEast

Cruising

www.rya.org.uk/Activities/yachtcruising/

Sailability

www.rya.org.uk/Sailability/

Windsurfing

www.rya.org.uk/Activities/Windsurfing

OnBoard

www.ruob.co.uk/

BBC 5 day Weather Forecast

www.bbc.co.uk/weather/5day.shtml

Portsmouth Yardstick goes electronic

30 clubs around the country, racing cruisers and dinghies and across different types of inland and coastal racing, are helping the RYA improve the data collection of results within the RYA's Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme by using an on-line system.

Since its introduction in 1952, the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme has relied upon clubs' annual Returns of race results for combination class fleets, both cruisers and dinghies. In recent years these have proven to be too few in number and often of reduced quality.

There have also been inaccuracies in the boat data supplied, meaning some of the Secondary and Primary Yardsticks have created local issues. Some classes have not been allocated a Number, as in some instances there has been no data provided.

This has proven particularly frustrating for new classes, often requiring 2 to 3 years to catch up with enough data for publication. Disappointingly, in 2007, less than one third of affiliated clubs made their annual Returns.

Using existing race calculation programs such as 'Sailwave' or equivalent, the new system will provide an on-line results service, at the same time giving the RYA an accurate analysis of the race data.

Each club will be able to access the system on line while inputting actual times for their results calculation. Results can be printed off for the notice board and the program will even provide recommendations for local handicap adjustment based upon the results input and previous data collection on a 'race by race' basis for the club. At the same time, the results - together with a race report and images - can be posted for publication on the RYA and individual club's website. A regular check can be kept on individual club's results throughout the year and if a Number is needed for a new class, this may, in extreme cases, be estimated from sufficient published results. All of this, plus seam free, automated Returns to the RYA.

Input is straightforward while the results are being processed, and requires one upload to the RYA website. The data is based on actual times, all data is recorded and the natural increase in statistics will provide a greater degree of accuracy. One major point is that the entire scheme still relies upon the clubs Returning consistency of boat type from the published list.

Annual Returns of results from each club will become an automatic process, although they will still require manual validation from the club's Returning officer to keep within the published guidelines.

This system should be fully developed for all clubs by January 2009, allowing for an improved handicapping system from the increased results collection scheme. The latest Portsmouth Numbers for 2008 have just been published and are now available on the RYA website.

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Radar Reflectors

Following severe criticism of existing radar reflectors used by leisure boaters in its report on the Ouzo tragedy (see last RYA-SE Newsletter with report of February Seminar), the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has issued new guidance. See more at: www.rya.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/newsroom/news/rrguidance.htm



RYA Powerboat Bargain Package for Clubs

At the Dinghy Sailing Show on March 2nd, RYA announced a fantastic new safety boat package, designed especially for RYA Clubs.

RYA Chief Powerboat Instructor Paul Mara explains "We have been working together with Suzuki and Ribcraft to put together a versatile and affordable safety boat package suitable for any club event, from cadet training to general safety boat duties. The package is available to all - but with this new deal RYA clubs can enjoy a substantial discount."

The package was put together based on the feedback of clubs needing to have practical multi-purpose safety boats. Powered by a Suzuki 50hp 4-stroke engine the 4.8m Ribcraft RIB was designed to include features like plenty of space behind the helmsman for transporting marks and recovering a casualty along with extra grab handles for crew safety. Richard Whittaker from Suzuki explains "We are really pleased to have worked with Paul and Ribcraft to develop the ultimate club safety RIB. Today's modern fuel injected outboards are ideal for rescue boat use being quiet, low on fuel usage and low on emissions."

Cost of the complete package is only £11,375 inc VAT - contact Ribcraft for more details at www.ribcraft.co.uk

RYA Planning and Environmental Handbook

This has been prepared to help RYA affiliated clubs and recognised training centres in running their facilities and when they embark on a building or development project of any sort.

Every development proposal and facility is unique; each agency does things differently, each authority has its own particular policy approach to issues.

Details and download at www.rya.org.uk/WorkingWithUs/clubs/premises/PE_Handbook.htm

RYA applauds decision to revisit 2012 sailing events

A controversial decision by ISAF Council during its annual conference in November 2007 led to the decision not to include a modern high performance dinghy for women, the expulsion of the multihull event and the introduction of a match racing format for the women's keelboat event. This decision will now be re-visited. See full text of the article at:

http://www.rya.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/newsroom/news/rya_isaf_midyear08.htm



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Nominate someone you know for an RYA Community Award

The RYA Community Awards, launched in 2002, recognise the exceptional voluntary contribution given by individuals. These awards, seen as the 'MBEs' of our sport, are given to people who make a real impact on our sport at local, grass roots level. In November 2007, fifty-three Awards, including six in the Youth Category were presented by HRH the Princess Royal – several of which were earned in the South East Region. Individ-

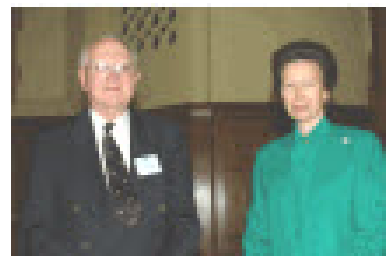
uals must be nominated by their club/centre or organisation to receive an Award, in one of three categories. Clubs may only make one nomination in each category.

Award Categories

Lifetime Commitment - someone who has shown exceptional commitment and dedication to their club or organisation for at least 10 years

Outstanding Contribution - someone who has volunteered for less than 10 years but who has made a significant contribution. This could be a single or 'one-off' contribution.

Youth - someone under the age of 25 on the 1st October 2008 who has demonstrated a regular commitment and/or inspirational contribution which is over-and-above their own participation or achievement within the sport.



John Skellorn RYA-SE receives his award from the Princess Royal

Award winners and their guests will be invited to a special presentation ceremony and luncheon in London in November.

This is a great opportunity for your club, centre, organisation or association to recognise and reward outstanding contribution made to our sport by individual volunteers.

For further information and to download a nomination form please visit our website <http://www.rya.org.uk/WorkingWithUs/volunteers/communityawards2008.htm> Or call Maria Clark on 023 8060 4192. Written nominations should reach the RYA by **Monday 12th May 2008**

Fancy a Training Job in Hampshire?

Sport Hampshire & IOW is looking for a Watersports Development Officer (Ref: HCC1059889) Closing date is 21 April 2008 and Interviews are w/c 5 May 2008. Up to £25,320 with Temporary Contract for 3 Years

Details from: www.hampshirejobs.org.uk or 0845 850 0184, or e-mail resourcing@hants.gov.uk

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OnBoard to be launched in East Sussex on Tuesday April 22nd

The aim of the OnBoard project is to support sailing clubs and centres introducing new young people to sailing, therefore providing a foundation for sailing in the future.

Andy Hooper is the RYA Development Officer for the South and South East. The aim of this post is to develop regular participation in sailing and windsurfing and to maintain and improve standards of safety; training and volunteer management at RYA affiliated clubs and recognised Training Centres in the area. This work will include rolling out the OnBoard project in East Sussex.

RYA-SE already has OnBoard officers in East Kent and West Sussex. Now it is East Sussex turn, with Peter Towner appointed as OnBoard Development Officer. He will be based at Spray Water Sports Royal Parade Eastbourne East Sussex BN22 7LD Email: spray.watersports@eastsussex.gov.uk

To find out more about how Andy and Peter can assist your club, contact Andy at andy.hooper@rya.org.uk or Peter at spray.watersports@eastsussex.gov.uk



Andy Hooper
RYA-SE Regional Development
Officer



Peter Towner



Stuart Bishop: OnBoard
East Kent



Gareth Glover: OnBoard
West Sussex

Event notification to MCA (Coastguard)

The MCA have asked clubs for details of main boating events, so that they can be aware of safety issues. RYA-SE Region is therefore asking Clubs to take direct responsibility for this. RYA-SE Area Reps are now advising their sea/estuary Clubs how best to do this

Rather than submit their complete calendar, it is suggested that Clubs be asked to submit something along these lines (*with text of course appropriate to the Event and Club*):

Club racing (and cruising) takes place every Saturday pm and bank holidays (and/ or other days/times as appropriate) with normally up to NN boats on the water between point A and point B with 2 safety boats in attendance equipped with VHF.

Individual special events (this year Open Event 1 on June XX and Open Event 2 on August YY) will be covered by individual Risk Assessments which will be copied to the MCA in due course.