

News Release



26th July 2011

Honda RYA Youth Powerboating Championship - results



Young powerboating enthusiasts from sailing clubs and Sea Cadets across the RYA Yorkshire and Humber Region collected at West Riding Sailing Club on Saturday 23rd July. The youngsters, who came from as far away as Bridlington and Barnsley, all gathered at West Riding Sailing Club on Winterset Reservoir, Wakefield to take part in the Regional Final of the RYA Honda Youth RIB Championship.

The Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship, sponsored by Honda and Ribcraft, is a National Championship in which 8-16 year old RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) drivers can demonstrate their boat handling skills in a race against the clock in the hope of winning a 5m Ribcraft or Honwave T40 for their club.

Although many of the competitors were already experienced around boats, for many of the youngsters this was their first taste of a powerboating competition and they were keen to take part and show off their co-ordination and talent.

The junior class (8 to 12 years) was won by 12 year old Ellie Benn from Otley Sailing Club in a time of 2 minutes 29 seconds. Ellie, who attends Prince Henry Grammar School, Otley, was selected for the Regional Final by Otley Sailing Club in a knockout competition. When Ellie discovered that she had won her class at the Regional Final, beaten her sister Sophie who was also competing, and would now be representing her club in the National Final, she was surprised and excited.

The youth class was very competitive and with a time of 1 minute 43 seconds, the eventual winner Will Bell from Bridlington was only 2 seconds faster than second place Ben Cross from Flamborough.

16 year old Will who attends Headlands School in Bridlington, was representing the Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club and was only persuaded to enter the competition in the past few weeks. Now that he will be representing the club in the National Finals he is really excited.

Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship results

8 – 12 year class (to third place)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ellen Benn | Otley Sailing Club |
| 2. Christopher Hulley | Otley Sailing Club |
| 3. Robby Exley | West Riding Sailing Club |

13 – 16 year class (to third place)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Will Bell | Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club |
| 2. Ben Cross | Royal Yorkshire Yacht Club |
| 3. Josh Peree | Wakefield Sea Cadets |

David Hodgkinson, Marketing Communications Manager for event sponsor Honda said: "We are extremely proud that in 10th year of sponsoring the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship, we continue to inspire and encourage more young people than ever before to pursue their passion for boating, and also give them the skills to do so. It allows us to underline our commitment to safety and best practice, something which we take extremely seriously as a major manufacturer of engines and inflatables."

-Ends-

Pictures attached:

Yorkshire Regional Final **017** – Left to Right – Christopher Hulley (2nd Junior); Robby Exley (3rd Junior); Josh Peree (3rd Youth); Ben Cross (2nd Youth); Will Bell (1st Youth); Ellie Benn (1st Junior).

Yorkshire Regional Final **015** – The prize winners (Back row L to R - Will Bell, Ben Cross, Josh Peree; front row L to R – Robby Exley, Ellie Benn, Christopher Hulley) with their fellow competitors.

For further media information:

Liz King

RYA YH PR Communicator

Tel: 0191 2515333

Email: liz@visiblemedia.uk.com

www.rya.org.uk



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Notes to Editors:

About Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship

- Started in 2002, the Championship allows youngsters aged 8-16 to demonstrate their skills as expert boat handlers and improve their skills in a safe, controlled environment, with each competitor aiming to manoeuvre around a pre-set course in the quickest time. To ensure safety at all times each child is accompanied in the RIB by a competent adult/instructor.
- There are fourteen regional finals across the whole of the UK and overseas. Winners from both the 8-12 and 13-16 age groups go on to represent their region at the National Final.

About the RYA

- The RYA is the national body for all forms of recreational, competitive and professional boating. It represents dinghy and yacht racing, motor and sail cruising, RIBs and sportsboats, powerboat racing, windsurfing, inland cruising and personal watercraft.
- The RYA is recognised by all government offices as being the negotiating body for the activities it represents. It continually fights for the rights and freedoms of its 102,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters. There are an estimated further 500,000 boat owners nationally who are members of RYA affiliated clubs and class associations.
- The RYA also sets and maintains a recognised standard for recreational boat training through a network of 2,340 RYA Recognised Training Centres in over 43 countries. On average 155,000 people per year complete RYA training courses.
- The RYA is committed to promoting all forms of boating and making them accessible to everyone. For more information please refer to our web site www.rya.org.uk
- RYA Sailability is the leading UK charity for disabled sailing and is the official charity of the RYA. Registered Charity Number: 1084351
- You can find the RYA at RYA House, Ensing Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA

About Honda Marine

- Honda is a leading manufacturer of 4-stroke marine outboards and inflatables, with a wide range from the compact BF2.3 through to the powerful BF225 model. Honda offers a six year warranty on its entire outboard range to domestic private users, as well as a two year warranty for professional and commercial users. For more information on Honda's range of outboards and inflatables please visit www.honda.co.uk/marine.

About Ribcraft

- Ribcraft was founded in 1988 and has since gained an enviable reputation as the leading British builder of reliable and superbly manufactured Rigid Inflatable Boats (Ribs).
- Ribcraft is one of the only British manufacturers to design and construct the entire boat 'in-house' at its purpose built factory in Yeovil, Somerset. Each craft is built from the GRP hull, inflatable collar and stainless steel fittings to the electrical and engine installations. This ensures each rib is built to the highest standard, with great emphasis placed on the safety, durability and quality of construction.
- Ribcraft manufacture hull sizes from 4.2 to 18.0 meters, for commercial or leisure use. The company is keen to accommodate individual requirements and has a flexible approach when dealing with its diverse range of customers from leisure craft to factory ships, divers and military and commercial buyers.
- Each Rib is a unique project, and it's up to the customer to decide on how the boat will look with regard to colours, layouts and power options. This exercise is made simple by Ribcraft's dedicated team, who have a wealth of experience in using and constructing rigid inflatables and will assist customers with choosing the right boat for their specific requirements.
- Ribcraft are pleased to continue our support of the Honda RYA youth championship, we started our association with the Championship in 2006 and have so far donated 9 boats to the winning sailing clubs.