



Dinghy Racing at AYAC

Dinghy racing is a great sport which is organized in many clubs around Britain and enables youngsters to develop their sailing and people skills and, when they are sufficiently able, to take part in the well developed RYA regional and eventually national youth squads. They can then really begin to take advantage of the enormous number of coaching resources out there developing the next Olympic Champions!

The Centre has always had as its single objective to encourage as many young people from non sailing families within the local area as it can, to discover and enjoy dinghy sailing as cheaply as the Centre can provide, hopefully encouraging the youngsters to continue with the sport throughout their lives.



One of the ways in which a youngster can develop their skills as a sailor and participate with the wider community of sailors is by racing in a fun competitive environment, an activity we try and promote at the Centre. The Centre, as a Volvo Champion Club, is well positioned to enable young people to develop the basic skills, however it does not have the resources to assist youngsters with traveling to local and national events.....this is where YOU come in!

There are many opportunities for our youngsters to participate in these events, West Sussex Schools and Youth Sailing Association (WSSYSA) have an annual youth regatta to be held in 2006 at Pagham Yacht Club (just along the coast). The National Schools Sailing Association (NSSA) hold perhaps the largest youth regatta in Europe, this year Sun July 23rd - Fri July 28th at Bassenthwaite (in the Lake District), and we run our own race series and hope to join in with local yacht clubs (Open Dinghy Club at East Preston (ODC), Arun Yacht Club (AYC)) in some of their events this year.



To enable our youngsters.....**your children** to take part will mean **YOU** becoming involved, and as one who took WSSYSA teams to 11 NSSA regattas around the country from Plymouth to Derwentwater in Northumbria and have participated in all the WSSYSA regattas I can assure you it is extremely hard work BUT incredible fun and rewarding! For the local events you need to train as a safety boat driver and devote a bit of time outside of the Centre sessions (and assist in the weekend training courses we hope to run this year). For the WSSYSA regatta we need

someone to act as team manager (loco parentis') and organize the logistics of getting the boats to (and back!) from Pagham. For the NSSA regatta the same BUT you will be working within the WSSYSA team responsible only for AYAC youngsters and working with Diana Thompson of Crawley Mariners who will be acting as the WSSYSA team manager.....Oh and by the way you will be camping with the youngsters (in your tent or caravan) on a school site for the week!



This is all just for starters! As your youngster/s really gets the bug

""There's nothing quite like the thrill of dinghy racing; the pre-start maneuverings; the search for clear air; the ever-changing tactical plan which unfolds as you pit yourself against other sailors and the conditions and work as team in a dinghy. Dinghy racing can easily become an addiction. But as soon as one race finishes all thoughts stretch towards the next start. ""

and YOU see the rewards of achievement from your youngster/s and his/her helm/crew you also will enjoy being involved and the camaraderie amongst the parents at all the events and assisting, if possible, on the water.



The Management Committee and Instructors are committed to make sailing as enjoyable as possible at AYAC, we need YOUR support to develop, racing is one way we know we can challenge your youngsters and develop their skills to their full potential. Contact any one of the Management Committee or Instructors to help us help develop our Centre and the youngsters! Some of us have already done all of this!

Roger Elliman
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