



Case Study for setting up a windsurfing club for ex-T15 windsurfers

The Aim: To increase the number of memberships within a club and to keep T15'ers in the sport

Case study: Axbridge Animals & Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club

The Axbridge Animals based at Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club (BCYC) was one of the first T15 clubs. They have been established as a T15 club since 2003. They have 25 members from 8 – 15 and they have 7 volunteers. They compete in the North of the South West Zone Interclub series and have attended the T15 Championships 3 times.

In 2005 a few key volunteers and T15'ers recognised a problem, that the windsurfers who were too old for the T15 club still wanted to be actively involved in a club and that they were too young to be independent windsurfers. Primarily because they were too young to drive to the coast! Having discussed the problem with the other windsurfers and the club committee it was decided to setup a club for those who outgrew T15. Over2You was born.

The group had plenty of enthusiasm but no equipment, so George Shillito, one of the founder members and an instructor for the Animals, applied for 'Somerset Youth Opportunity Funding (DfES)'. This fund is aimed specifically at providing places to go and things to do for young people, and was ideally placed to help. Every local authority has been allocated similar funds to give young people power over how money is spent in their local area. A total of £13,955 was awarded, to provide equipment and storage and instructor courses for the group, so that they can instruct and provide safety cover for one another independently, as well as gaining a useful qualification.

The club was keen that the young people had some help to guide them through the logistics and politics of running a club. The young people agreed and an Over2You mentor was found.

Over2You now runs weekly sessions for ex T15 windsurfers aged 16 – 19 at BCYC and the group also run trips away to the coast and have their eyes set on a trip overseas! At present there are no other Over2you type groups around so they do not have any teams to race against but hope that this will change.

Learning points

- Clubs need to do something to retain T15ers in the sport
- Ex T15ers make great instructors and role models
- There is funding to setup clubs like Over2You – speak to your RDO
- Young people can apply for funding
- The club may need an adult mentor to guide them

Need more advice? Contact your Regional Development Officer