

# RACE OFFICIALS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015



**GETTING CLUB RACING RIGHT**  
**PETER SAXTON**



## Getting club racing right

- Activity data – what's going on
- Impact on club racing
- What do we need to do?
- Some ideas from RYA, Grafham, Eastbourne & Rutland
- Barriers to change
- Conclusions



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## What does the data show – participation?

	2012		2013	
	%	(000s)	%	(000s)
Any Activity	22.7%	11,153	28.8%	14,124
Any Boating Activity	5.8%	2,837	7.1%	3,491
Small Sail Boat Racing	0.3%	166	0.4%	177
Small Sail Boat Activities	0.8%	388	1.0%	493
Yacht Cruising	0.7%	328	0.7%	330
Yacht Racing	0.2%	106	0.2%	88



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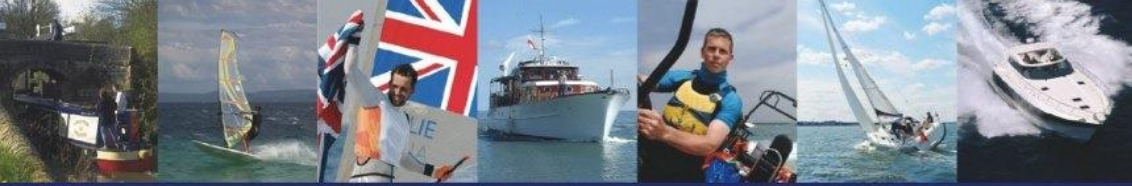


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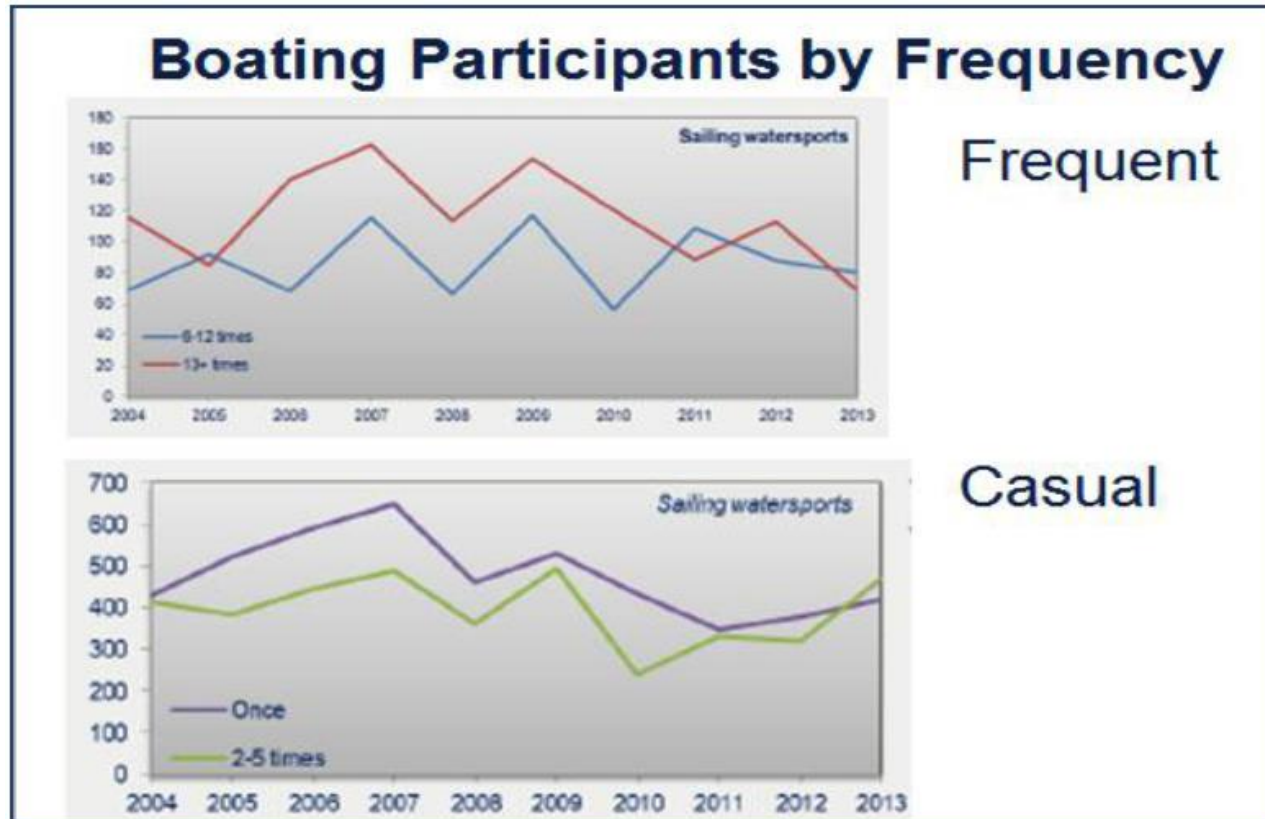
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**“..overall participation broadly static or showing signs of growth..”**



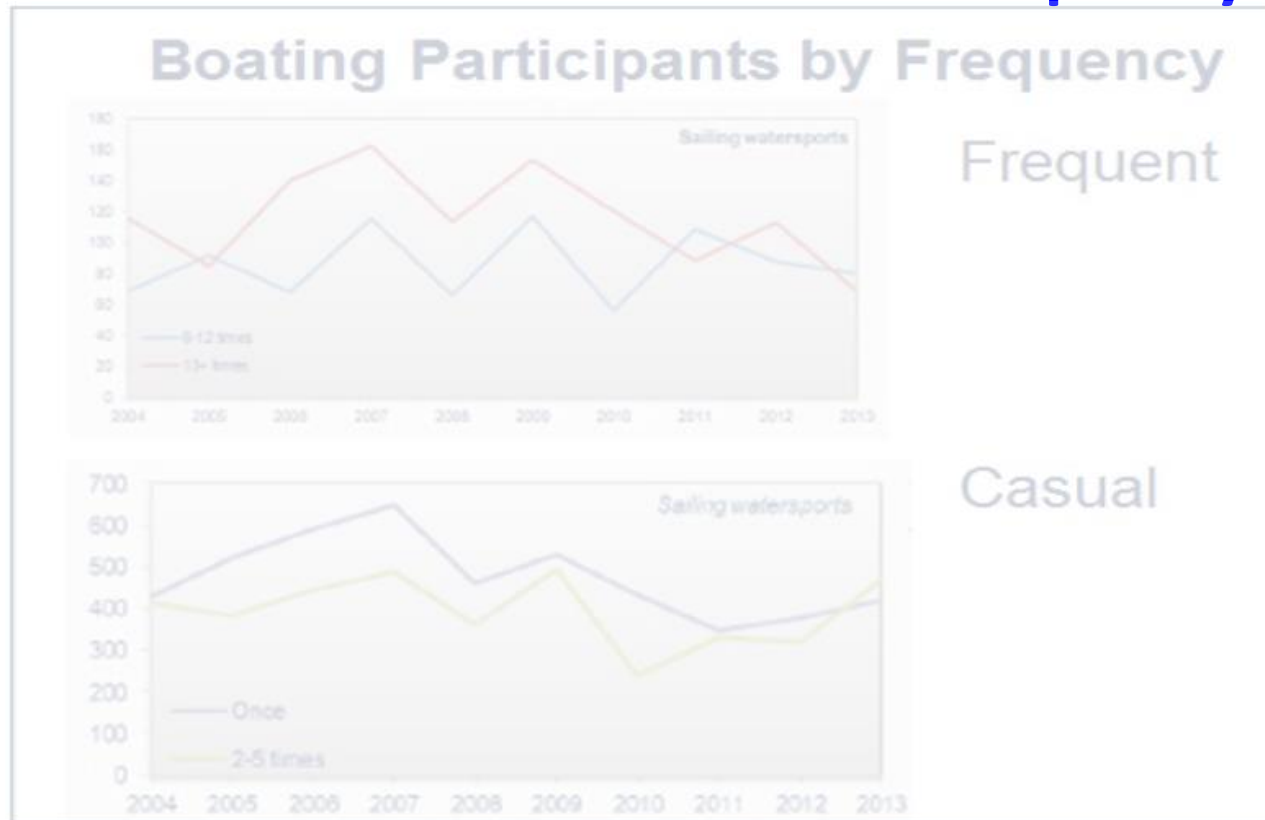


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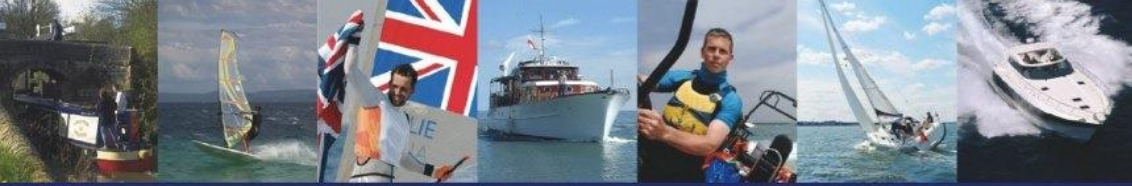


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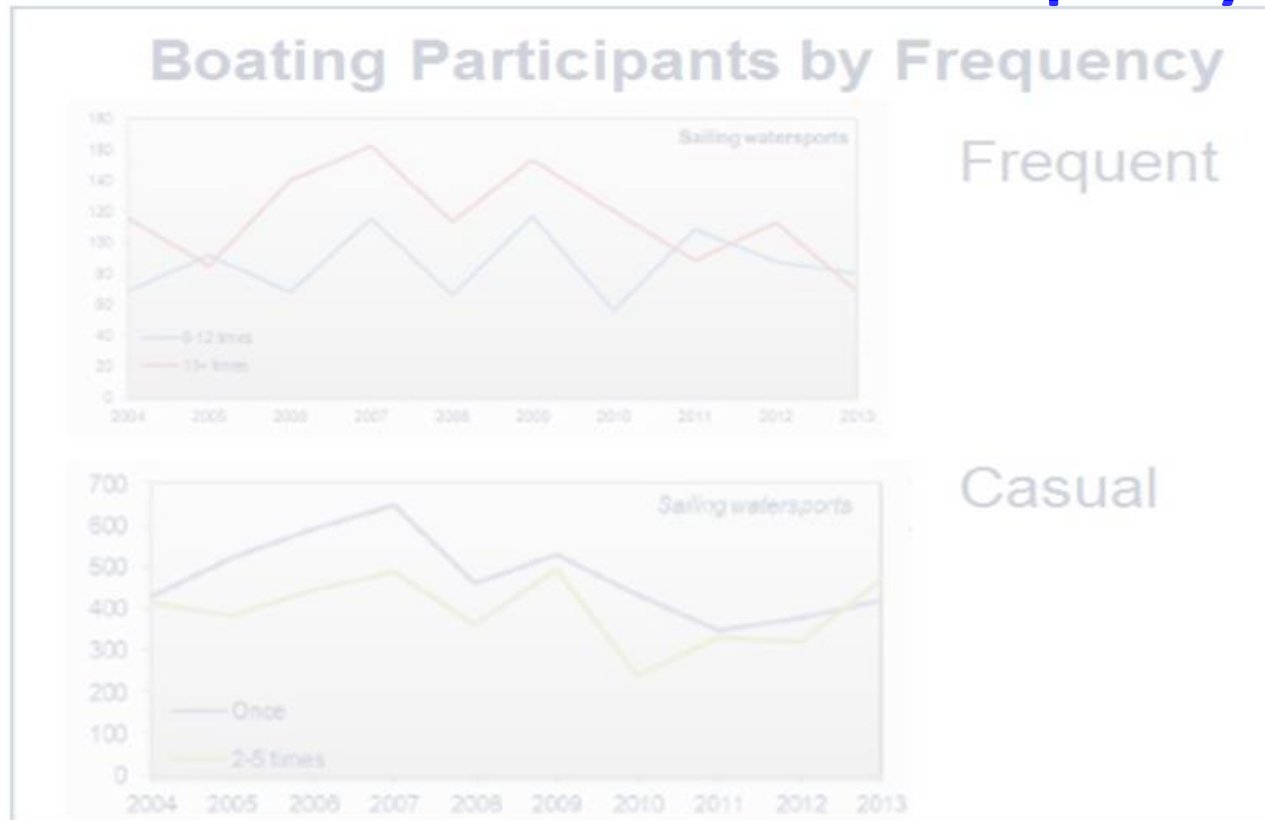


**“..long term trend towards less frequent participation..”**





## What does the data show - frequency?



“..long term trend towards less frequent participation..”

More than 2 million adults in England riding bikes at least once a week



## What does the data show – reasons for dropping out

Q Looking through the list below, what are your main reasons for no longer participating in your sport?





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## Impact on club racing

- Number of participants holding steady?
- Frequency of activity decreasing?
- More competition from other activities

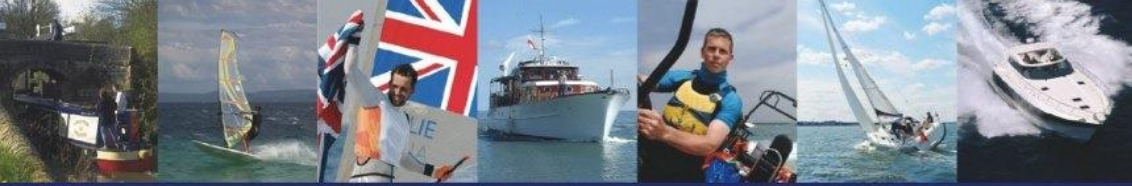


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## ...so what do we need to do?

Develop regular habit

Increase frequency

Introduce new people

Extend season

Broaden appeal

Involve family

Reduce barriers

Reduce time commitment



## ...so what do we need to do?

Develop regular habit

Increase frequency

Introduce new people

Extend season

**Do we want to?**

Broaden appeal

Involve family

Reduce barriers

Reduce time commitment



## Let's recognise potential racers concerns:

### **“I want to do more sailing but I’m”:**

- Bored of just sailing around
- Unsure/scared of boat handling issues
- Worried about asking “stupid” questions
- Worried about boats in close proximity
- Unsure about the racing rules
- Confused by complicated race instructions
- Confused by complicated start process
- New, with no social contacts at the club
- Busy on Sundays
- Need to do activities with all the family
- Don't own a boat yet

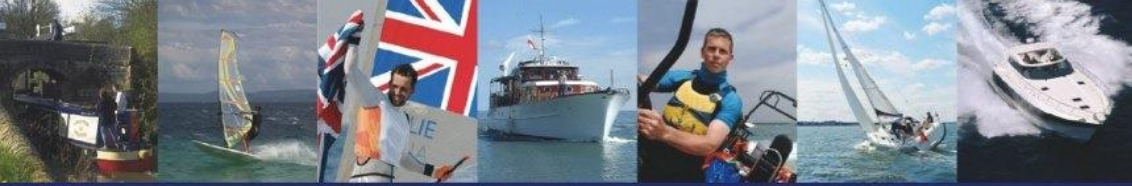


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## Also recognise existing racers concerns:

### “I race already and don’t want”:

- “Muppets” getting in my way on the start line
- People who don’t know the rules
- “Out of control” boats making it dangerous
- Un-necessary changes to the proper way races are run



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**But I don’t want my club to die....**



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## GO RACING

### 1 VARIETY OF FORMATS

- Pursuit
- Short course
- Beat the Stig!
- Around the cans
- Team
- Match

### 2 OPEN MEETINGS

- Class Association
- Handicap fleets

### 3 EVENTS

- 24 Hour race
- Trophy Races
- Charity fundraiser

### 4 HANDICAP STARTS/RESULTS

- Specific starts
- Specific results

### 5 CLASS STARTS/RESULTS

- Specific starts
- Specific results

## START RACING

### 1 START RACING PROGRAMME

- Race coaching for beginners
- RYA Start Racing course

### 2 RACING SKILLS CLINICS

- Individual clinics on specific race elements
- Improver race clinics/course programme

### 3 COACHED RACING

- Coach boat following individuals offering advice
- Video feedback
- Coaching from other racers

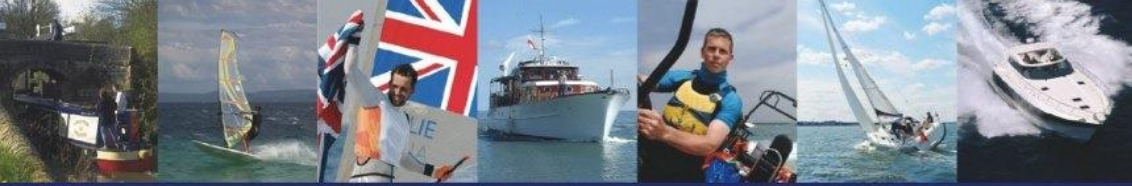
### 4 NOVICE STARTS

- Separate starts for those new to racing
- Separate series for novices

### 5 BUDDY RACING

- Beginners paired with experienced racers





## Some ideas that have worked:

### Pathway racing (1) – Grafham Water

#### **Social sailing with optional pursuit race**

Meet onshore

Simple sailing instructions

Simple starting process

Social activity afterwards – recognition for “winners”

*Course map for everyone*

*Help rigging etc*

*Un-crowded start line*

*On-water coaching*

*Clear finish process – no handicap calculations*

*Meet from 1800 - May to August*

[Friendly Fridays](#)



## Some ideas that have worked:

### Pathway racing (2) – Grafham Water

#### “Sociable Saturdays” racing

Meet onshore

Simple sailing instructions

Simple starting process

Social activity afterwards – recognition for “winners”

*Two handicap starts - <1000 & 1000+*

*Short races – 20-25 minutes on triangle course*

*Series prizes – encourage repeat activity*

*Mid-afternoon - April to September*



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### Pathway racing (2) – Grafham Water

#### “Sociable Saturdays” racing

- ✓ Meet onshore
- ✓ Simple sailing instructions
- ✓ Simple starting process
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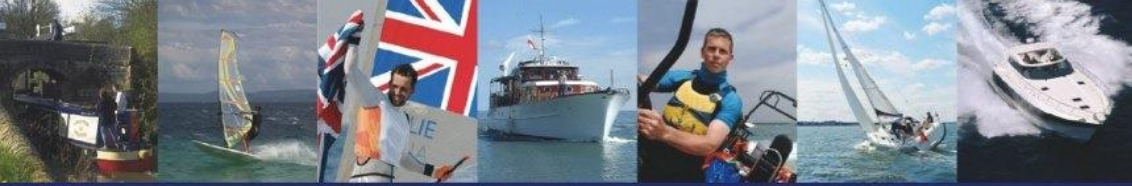
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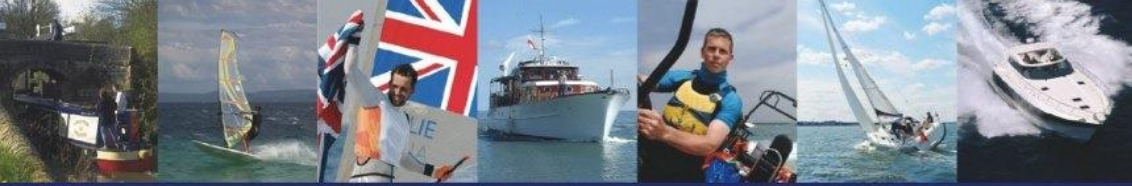




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## Some ideas that have worked:

**A simple starting process – for “proper” racing as well!**

Display	Start									
	1		2		3		4		5	
	Means	Time to Start (min)	Means	Time to Start (min)	Means	Time to Start (min)	Means	Time to Start (min)	Means	Time to Start (min)
<b>0</b>	Warning Signal	5								
<b>1</b>	Prep Signal	4								
<b>2</b>		3	Warning Signal	5						
<b>3</b>		2	Prep Signal	4						
<b>4</b>	Minute signal	1		3	Warning Signal	5				
<b>5</b>	Start	0		2	Prep Signal	4				
<b>6</b>			Minute signal	1		3	Warning Signal	5		
<b>7</b>			Start	0		2	Prep Signal	4		



## Some ideas that have worked:

**A simple starting process – for “proper” racing as well!**

### Start 3

Time before starting signal	Visual signal numeral first displayed	Sound signal	means
5 minutes	<b>4</b>	one	Warning signal
4 minutes	<b>5</b>	one	Preparatory signal
1minute	<b>8</b>	one	One minute
GO	<b>9</b>	one	start



## Some ideas that have worked:

# PRATT racing – Eastbourne Sovereign

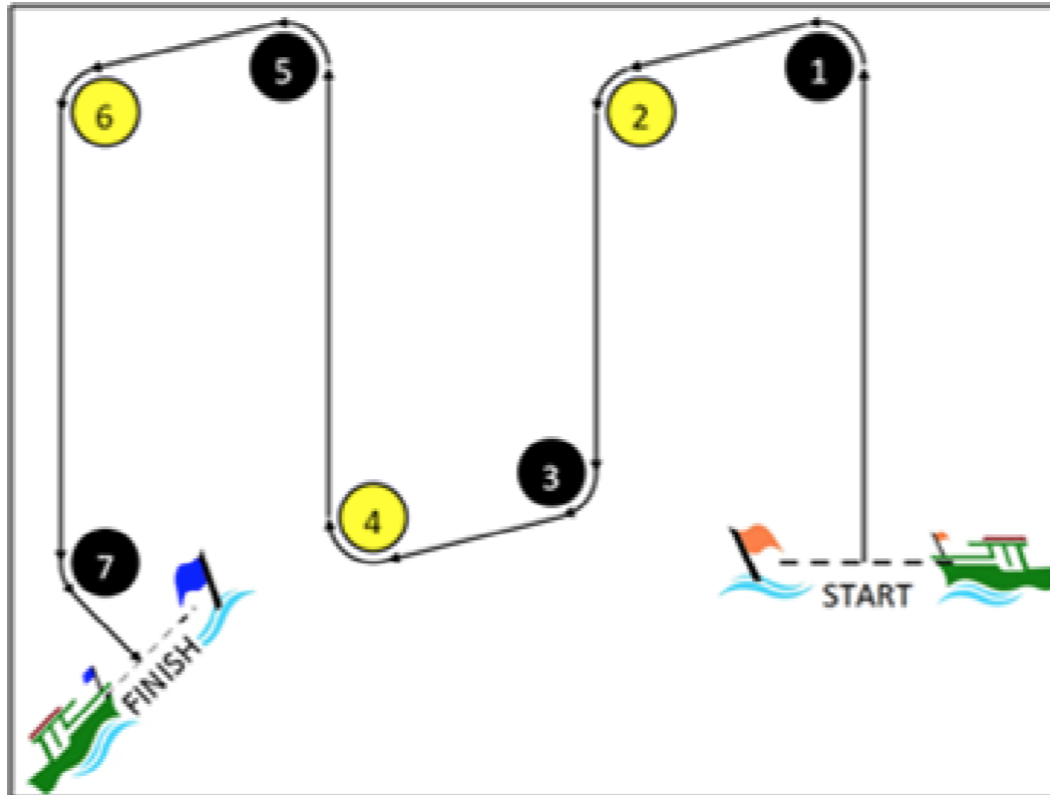
(Personal Racing Against Time Taken)



- Up to 5 minutes added or subtracted from “real” elapsed time
- PRATT points awarded based on amended results – eg 10 points for winner in ten boat fleet
- Amend PRATT rating for next race – first 3 +1, last 3 -1
- “Joker” - use once during a series – doubles PRATT points



## Some ideas that have worked: RS Sprint racing – Rutland



15-20 minute races

Round 1 – Saturday am

- Three races
- Round robin

Round 2 – Saturday pm

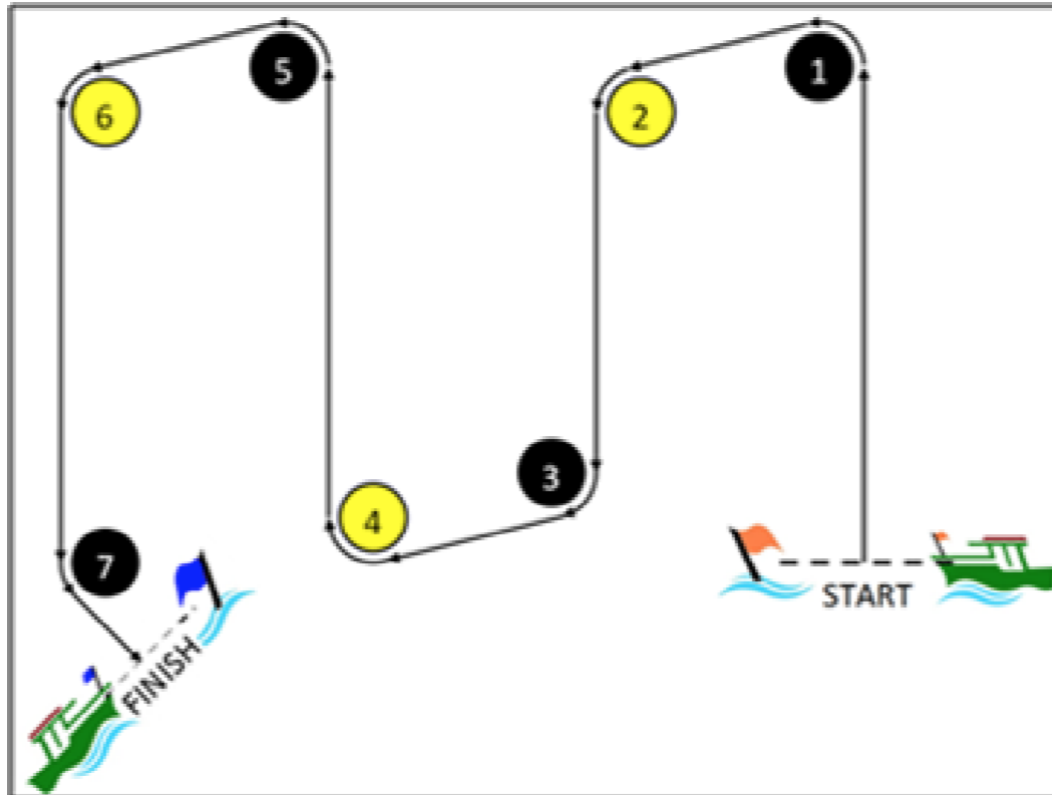
- Seeded into 2 or 3 groups of equal standard
- Four race mini series

Round 3 – Sunday am

- Gold/silver/bronze split
- 6 races
- Winners with lowest score in Round 3



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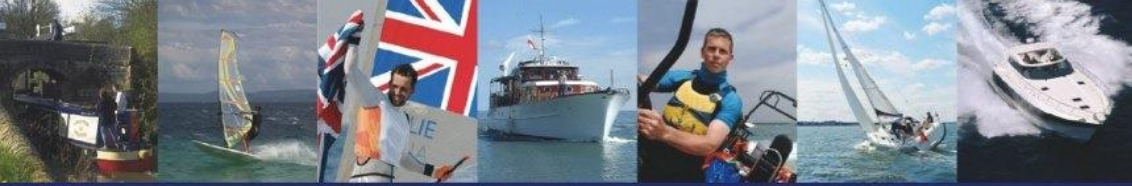
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**13 races in a weekend!**





**Some ideas that have worked:**  
**What about other clubs?**

?



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## What are the barriers to change?

### **“The old guard”**

- Add activities – don’t change existing ones
- Encourage crew swaps & boat swaps
- Bring friends to less formal racing
- Introduce a “one month” trial
- Ask them to coach

### **“Finding the newcomers”**

- Identify the “unrepresented”
- Ask friends & colleagues
- Use multiple channels – web, newsletter, Facebook etc
- Targeted “Open Days”
- Training opportunities
- Club boats
- Crew register



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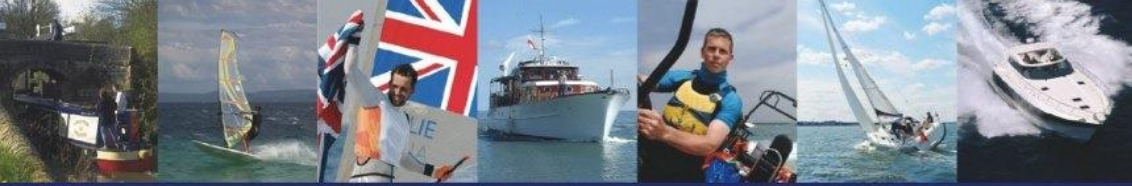
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- Each Club is different





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- Every Club needs new “customers”
- Products must match what customers want
- Need to get people onto the water



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- Each Club is different
- Every Club needs new “customers”
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**There's room for cautious optimism!**