

### Introduction

Following a successful bid to Sport England as part of the RYA 2013 – 17 funding bid, the RYA is pleased to announce the commencement of an exciting new initiative within England.

The RYA is seeking to establish a small number of sites, the main function of which will be the localised delivery of additional elite activity for UK Youth and Junior Squad sailors. Predominantly this will involve the placement of a high performance coach at a number of strategic hub's throughout England where there is a high concentration of UK squad sailors in order that the coaching and performance needs of Squad sailors (and their families) are met.

The initial aspiration is that between 6 and 10 RYA High Performance Clubs are established by the end of March 2017 with a progressive roll out of the programme over this period.

Successful 'High Performance Clubs' (HPC's) will receive significant additional help and support from the RYA Youth Racing department staff in order to discuss and agree a mutually beneficial partnership to:

1. Pursue facilities and equipment grants to develop their facilities and equipment to underpin the objectives of the programme and the development of training facilities for able-bodied and Paralympic sailors.
2. Establish a facility agreement to provide access for local UK Squad sailors, and agree appropriate remuneration.
3. Accommodate a HPC coach who will deliver additional on and off the water support and coaching as well as oversee the local delivery of prescribed fitness programmes in between UK squad camps.
4. Develop a programme of coaching provision locally to benefit the membership and attract new members to the venue.

### HPC's Primary Challenge:

To provide a vehicle for the RYA to work strategically with a number of sites to provide access, facilities and equipment so the RYA can deliver additional support to its sailors to supplement UK Squad activity and international event attendances. Support will be delivered on a relatively local basis with the intent of increasing contact time, delivering a more comprehensive range of support and thereby enhance the performance of the British Sailing Team. This initiative is a key mechanism of maintaining the accessibility of RYA programmes and minimising the chances of talented sailors dropping out of the sport due to perceived increase in financial and time commitments.

The intention is to establish a network of venues capable of supporting the RYA objectives by hosting coaches and facilitating access for able bodied sailors and, at a limited number of sites, providing additional activity to ensure the provision of a robust paralympic pathway. In the longer term the RYA hopes to use the programme and sites to offer an enhanced provision at key Sailability sites and additional retention opportunities for sailors graduating from RYA programmes.

The strategic needs are as follows:

1. Plug the gap of contact time arising from the delivery of UK Squad camps of a longer duration on a less frequent basis, in order to mitigate against increasing travel costs and congestion.
2. Bring together, on a local basis, UK squad sailors living in England to receive additional on and off the water support and coaching, increasing the volume of high quality training undertaken, and coach contact time.
3. Professionalise coaching within clubs, as a vehicle to enhance performance as well as for increasing the retention of sailors, facilitating individual and fleet skill development and attracting new members.
4. Offering a more progressive and robust career pathway for coaches with viable and impactful opportunities as a high performance sailing coach.
5. Provide local performance environments to support progression from Sailability activity and underpin the GBR Paralympic Pathway.
6. Provide logical hubs for retention activities for sailors graduating from its youth programmes which offer vibrant hubs of post youth activity with effective links to University Sailing Clubs and where appropriate Keelboat sailing, team and match racing.

Initially the RYA is seeking applications from clubs to develop two simple delivery models:

## 1) RYA High Performance Club

Essential requirements for an RYA High performance club are:

- A size of water suitable for the delivery of race training exercises in the junior and youth classes,
- A commitment and desire from the venue to form a partnership with the RYA and accommodate additional local elite activity,
- Access to facilities and the water at times pertinent for developing young sailors with the incumbent academic commitments,
- Training resources - RIB and training mark provision,
- Classroom(s) and AV facilities,
- A welcoming environment for young sailors and their parents.

The RYA will endeavour to work with venues to coordinate and endorse capital facilities developments and equipment bids such that the following aspiration elements of an RYA High Performance Club are worked towards, where mutually agreed and appropriate:

- Links with a local gym, an exercise space, or an area suitable for development
- Gym Equipment
- A fleet of 2.4's
- A fleet of team racing boats
- A fleet of small keelboats
- Links with a local University

## 2) Additional Local support for squad sailors

Where a logical strategic hub does not exist the RYA would like to collaborate with a network of clubs to provide facilities access to allow a coach access, with small groups of sailors for additional race training.

The Coach would seek to use the most appropriate venue for each activity depending on the aims of the session and the needs, proximity and availability of the sailors at that time particular time.

### Application Process

Ideally we would like to form partnerships with venues and undertake a 4 year agreement renewable annually, with a provision for regular review's, and meetings and the establishment of a mutually beneficial working relationship.

Facilities which consider they meet the criteria, aspire to support the RYA's objectives and would like to find out more should avail themselves with the process outlined on the next page and get in touch to discuss in more detail.

Initial applications are due by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013 for implementation at our earliest possible convenience.

### Key Contacts:

#### RYA High Performance Managers

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#### RYA High Performance and Champion Club Officer

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#### Youth Racing Manager

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## RYA High Performance Club Implementation:

