



# MNSC *roundup*

Newsletter of Middle Nene Sailing Club

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[www.middlenenesc.co.uk](http://www.middlenenesc.co.uk)

**RYA**

January 2014

## Time for hibernation? Not quite!

As the sailing season has drawn to a close for even the hardiest sailors, social events and working parties will keep you in touch with your friends at MNSC. Currently the working party programme is making good progress. There is a lot to be done to get the club shipshape for the season and everybody is invited to come and help at the weekends.

This is also a good opportunity to say a whole-hearted 'Thank You' to Steve and Ann Yallop (plus their intrepid helpers) for all those delicious meals and refreshing cups of tea and coffee they have spoilt us with over recent years. Steve and Ann have decided to take it a bit easier and resign from galley duties. Kim Hall, Head of the House Committee is looking forward to welcoming volunteers to help with running the galley.



*Ann and Steve 'on duty'.*

This, the second edition of 'MNSC roundup', contains a review of some events from last year's season plus a host of new ideas and inspirations for this year. Like all newsletters, we greatly depend on members' contributions and everyone's words and pictures are always welcome! Let us know about your club experiences, open meeting awaydays, sailing holidays or technical tips.

Happy sailing!

*Wilf*

### All Boat Owners:

Please take note - and then take some action!

#### **THIS IS IN YOUR OWN INTEREST!**

Bye-law 5 states that all boats on site should be securely tied down. This has been so for many years, but of late, the majority are not so tied. As a result, at least one boat has been terminally wrecked (Mr Winspear, E18480). Not all may be aware that insurance could be invalidated if the boat is not secured.

If a nearby boat is damaged by an unsecured neighbour, insurance and moral liability raises its head!

Bye-law 4 states that all moorings are allocated by the Harbourmaster, and there is no prescriptive right to any particular berth. So just turning up and dumping a boat is not on!

Bye-law 3 states that all boats should be registered with the harbourmaster. Not necessary for existing members/boats, except when a boat is bought or sold. The Harbourmaster does need to know about boats new to the club.

Trailers Again, in your own interests, make sure your trailer is clearly marked with your name and sail no. Many trailers look alike, and without some identification, tracking yours down could be impossible!

After the end of May, unidentified trailers will be sold or scrapped.

General Committee

## 2014: Important dates

(Not all racing and social dates have been finalised at the time of going to press and are subject to change. Please check regularly in the clubhouse or at [www.middlenenesc.co.uk](http://www.middlenenesc.co.uk))

### February

Sat. 8th First Aid course 1  
Sun 9th First Aid course 2

### March

Sun. 16th Sunday Series starts

### April

Sat. 5th Enterprise Open and  
Fitting Out meal  
Sun 6th Enterprise Open  
Sat. 19th AWS Youth Regatta

### May

Sun. 4th Charity Regatta  
Mon. 5th Open Day  
Sat. 10th RYA Training 1  
Level 1/2  
Sat. 17th RYA Training 1  
Level 1/2  
Sun. 18th Asymmetric Open and  
Sunday Series  
Sat. 24th New Members' Day  
Mon. 26th Camp Week Fun

### June

Sat. 7th Sea Cadets Event  
Sat. 14th RYA Training 2  
Level 1/2  
Sat. 21st RYA Training 2  
Level 1/2  
Sat. 21st Ladies' Race Day and  
Race Night  
Sun. 22nd Over 60s Race and  
Sunday Series

### July

Sat. 5th Picnic in the Park  
Sat. 19th Sail for Fun Day

### August

Sat. 30th RYA Training 3  
Level 1/2

### September

Sat. 6th RYA Training 3 -  
Level 1/2  
Sun. 28th AGM

### October

Sat. 4th Flying 15 Open  
Sun 5th Flying 15 Open (AM) and  
Sunday Series (PM)  
Sat. 18th Autumn Dinner

### November

Sat. 1st Bonfire Party

### December

Sat. 6th Childrens' Christmas Party  
Sat. 13th Extravaganza  
Sun. 21st Past Sailors' Punch Party

### January 2015

Sat. 24th Prize Giving Dinner

## Review of 2013 and outlook on the new season

On 9th January 2014, in a well attended Sailing Committee meeting which was open to all members, our Rear Commodore - Sailing Matt Yallop and his team presented an analysis of last year's sailing activities.

In summary, only 8 helms did 20 or more races and just 7 helms participated in 10 to 20 races. Yardstick and personal handicap issues were discussed in detail.

Some of the recommendations based on the statistics were: try to increase the number of helms who do more races per season; the top five fleets (RS200, FF, Solo, RS Vario and Enterprise) should be in the focus of racing activities; and the slow handicap fleet (e.g. Topper, RS Tera Sport/Pro) should be encouraged.

One main new feature in the 2014 sailing calendar will be the introduction of TUESDAY 'All Comers' evening racing in the months of June, July and August. The start time will be 7.15 as on Thursdays. The race will be run by volunteers who can enter their names on an entry sheet in the clubhouse.

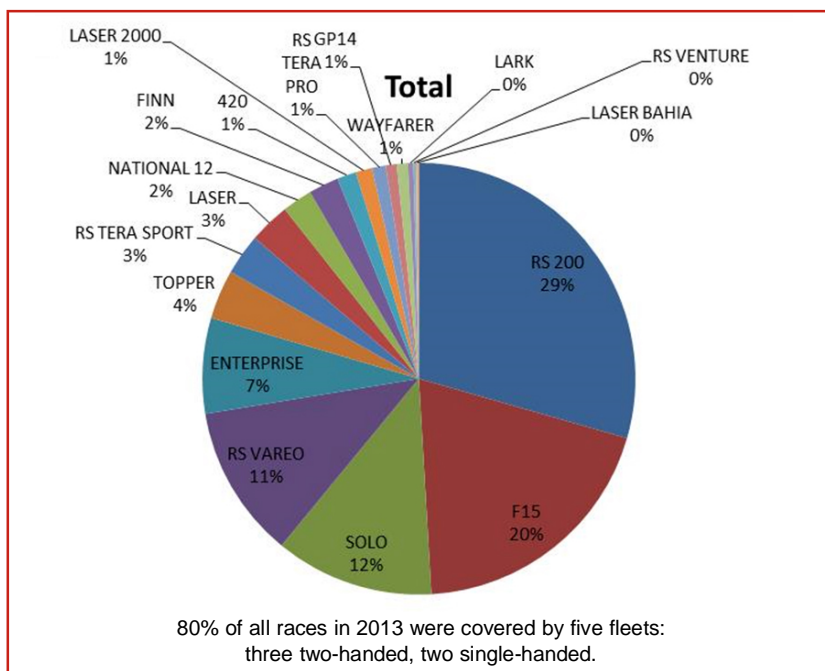
Several training events are scheduled for 2014 and many are listed on page 1 of this issue. Other sessions are under consideration, including a Flying 15 'Tuning Day', a race management course and training for operation of the Beaver (details to follow).

Official courses are sail and powerboat/safety boat training (see separate box), starting with a First Aid course on 9th February.

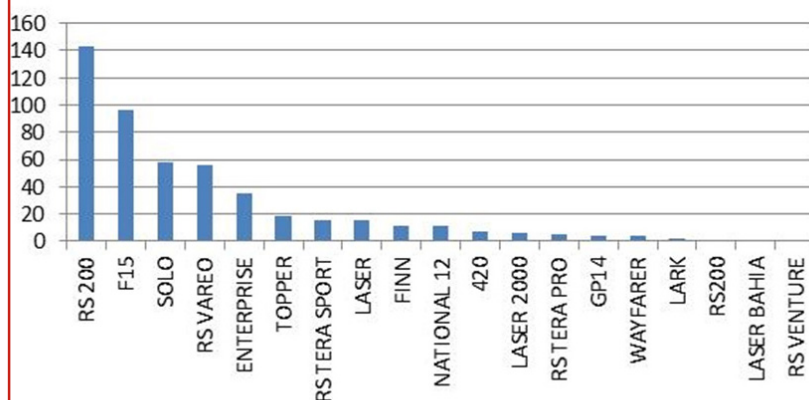
Since several of the dates have not yet been finalised, any changes will be publicised in the clubhouse, on the club website and in e-mail updates.

### Keep in touch

Don't forget that MNSC has a lively communication base in our own Facebook Group, and once you join you have instant access to lots of news about the social life in the club. And if you have a question - just post it!



### Total of boats on water All races (2013 season)



### MNSC Courses / Training Dates 2014

- RYA Level 1 & Level 2 – Sailing
  - 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014
  - 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014
  - 30<sup>th</sup> Aug & 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014
- Ladies Training – Sailing
  - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 - Back on the water / calm the nerves
  - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 - More of the above, and more boat speed
  - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014 - Pushing a bit more boat speed - Start racing ?
- PB2 / Safety Boat Training
  - Ideally a push early Feb/ March for the start of the session
  - People to register interest – co-ordinate dates after we know the numbers
- First Aid Training
  - Early February – Dates to be confirmed.
  - Please register if interested



## F15 Fleet Meeting Saturday, 8th March 4 to 5:30 pm, in the bar at MNSC

**The meeting is for everyone who owns, crews in, sails in, potters about in, or has an interest in Flying Fifteens, whether you have been able to sail yours in the last year or not. (if you're in that last group, you will find the meeting particularly useful).**

There is no fixed agenda, we can chat about anything you like and NO subject club related will be considered too trivial.

We will cover:-

the sailing season as laid on by the Sailing committee, so you can update your diaries

what sort of help you would like from other F15 sailors during the coming season

our new handicap numbers (for those of you who prefer to race)

and if, there is both time and interest, basic boat set up and trimming the sails.

This is your opportunity to chat and plan how to get the best out of our fantastic hobby, however you partake of it, and let your thoughts be known to the sailing committee, on which I am your representative.

### DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

There will be free tea, coffee, and nibbles available, and the bar will be open.

*Mike Moore, F15 Fleet Captain*

*roundup* is the newsletter of Middle Nene SC and complements all our other communications, including the club's website

[www.middlenenesc.co.uk](http://www.middlenenesc.co.uk), the Facebook Group and the regular e-mail bulletins. *roundup* will bring a (roughly) quarterly review of what has happened in the club, and of what might have passed you by in the day-to-day events. So please send in your news, letters, comments, adverts, holiday experiences and anything else you want to let other members know.

#### **Contact me at:**

wilf.kunze@gmail.com or tel. 01536 484 905, or just see me at the club (FF 2213). I look forward to hearing from you!

## Planned Ladies' Training sessions 2014

26th April -	Back on the water / or In-a-boat-first-stages
31st May -	A bit more confident , possibly a bit of racing
21st June -	Ladies' Race
5th July -	Improving boat skills and a bit more boat speed

## Club security

It is an old issue, but as current as ever: please lock the compound gates every time you come through - this prevents not only theft, but also dogs fouling and all sorts of other issues.

And for the main gate - please keep that locked or arrange with the car in front of/behind you who will lock up. This is essential to prevent our club property becoming a public car park. We all know that warning signs don't help. So please keep the main gate locked. If there is, however, one of those rare occasions where we need to leave the gate open, always fix the padlock to the eye provided. Don't let it just dangle from its chain!

**It's in our own interest, so thanks for locking up!**



# Why not try out a club boat?

There are many reasons for members wanting to try out a boat - newcomers might want to find out what suits them best, existing boat owners might want to see how another boat of their own class handles, or they might be looking for a completely different type of boat altogether. This is where MNSC can help with its fleet of club-owned boats which are available to members. Currently, the fleet consists of:

<b>1 Wayfarer</b>	<b>1 Solo</b>
<b>1 GP14</b>	<b>1 Laser</b>
<b>2 420s</b>	<b>4 Toppers</b>

The boats can be booked for anything from half a day or a weekend to a race series, depending on availability, all on a first-come-first-serve basis. There is no cost for one-off borrowing, but you may be invited to contribute to the running expenses for longer-term use.

To find out what's available, just contact the Training Secretary Dave Boyers ([training@middlenesc.co.uk](mailto:training@middlenesc.co.uk)) and he will help you find the right boat.



## New training boats

In April last year we took delivery of two new boats (an RS Venture and an RS Feva) to expand our Sport England funded training fleet. However, as a condition of the grants, these boats can only be used for 'official' training courses for three years, before they can be transferred to the club fleet, and this is subject to annual reporting against a 3-year rolling programme, introducing new people to the sport being the main aim. But after that they will be available for general use as club boats. This is a very important addition to our fleet of club-owned boats, which now include some of the latest technology available and both dinghies have seen intensive use throughout the season.

## ...and a full refurbishment

In Spring the large GRP rescue boat also received an overhaul. Special thanks go to our helpers Zack McGrady and Ollie Deery from our neighbouring Sea Cadets, as well as Becky Fargher who did a lot of the paintwork and Dave Boyers who made sure everything was done to a perfect standard.



# 2014 Officers of the Club

At the AGM in September the Committees for the next year were elected, and the Officers of the Club are:

<b>President</b>	Tony Watts
<b>Commodore</b>	Mike Fargher
<b>Vice Commodore</b>	Julia Smith
<b>Rear Commodore - Sailing</b>	Matt Yallop
<b>Rear Commodore - House</b>	Kim Hall
<b>Rear Commodore - Training</b>	Dave Boyers
<b>Immediate Past Commodore</b>	Richard Borley
<b>Secretary</b>	Emma Brown
<b>Treasurer</b>	Terry Hall
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Ken Long
<b>Sailing Secretary</b>	Iain Smith
<b>Race Secretary</b>	Ian Burns
<b>Training Secretary</b>	Dave Boyers
<b>House Secretary</b>	Anne Jarvis
<b>Past Commodores</b>	

## General Committee

Chairman	Mike Fargher
General Secretary	Emma Brown
Membership Secretary	Ken Long
Treasurer	Terry Hall
Elected Member	Jack Mead
Elected Member	Chris Redden
Elected Member	David Brown
Harbour Master	Roger Lewis
Lake Maintenance(co-opted)	Gary Curtis

## Sailing Committee

Chairman	Matt Yallop
Sailing Secretary	Iain Smith
Race Secretary	Ian Burns
Public Relations Secretary	Wilf Kunze
Elected Member	Ray Greer
Elected Member	Dave Jarvis
Elected Member	Gary Curtis
Fleet Captains	All Fleet Captains
Co-opted Member	Ken Long

## Training Committee

Chairman	Dave Boyers
Training Secretary	Dave Boyers
Elected Member	Chris Redden
Elected Member	Emma Brown

## House Committee

Chairman	Kim Hall
House Secretary	Anne Jarvis
Elected Member	Lynne Greer
Elected Member	Marion Vessey
Elected Member	Steve Yallop

## Fleet Captains

ENTERPRISE	Jack Mead
RS 200	Mark Hatsell
SOLO	Ian Burns
LASER	Richard Wright
MENAGERIE	Richard Wright
FLYING 15	Mike Moore

## Letter to the editor

One of the really great things about our club is its versatility, both in sailing variety and in its social life. But we should remember that we are actually a sailing club, and that means racing.

Now we would all acknowledge that circumstances in the world and workplace have put greater pressure on people's time over recent years, and many clubs, like ours, have felt the pinch with falling membership and attendance. However if we don't get our boats on the water, we run the very serious risk of becoming a training establishment for young people to learn sailing, and a caravan park.

No, I don't have anything against caravans, I bring mine occasionally, and our training team are fantastic.

But there must be something odd about having more caravans in the field than we have boats racing? We are unique in offering racing on a Saturday, which has at the peak of its popularity even exceeded the allcomers' numbers on Sundays. At the moment though the attendance has dropped to one or two sometimes. This year has been a failure, what with lack of wind (3 Sats.), other events impinging (4 events) and no takers except Yours Truly (4 Sats).

The sailing committee has allowed us to keep Saturday racing going for a limited season, where they might have been justified in closing it down altogether. Now Saturday racing is, as I said, unique in our club in this district, and as such is to be promoted. It also gives two races for all classes of boat with a short break in-between, ideal for those who like a coffee break. There is no pressure to be experienced, in fact it is the best time to learn to race, for the more skilled helms will not shout at the less experienced, and will encourage others.

Why race at all? Well, racing does two things. Firstly, it teaches us how to control a boat much much quicker than just mooching about, because we have to get from one point to another, and secondly, it makes us safer in our boat, because we gain experience so much quicker. I learnt to sail by following the guy in front of me! Why don't you come and have a go?

If you're a bit unsure about having a go at racing, come out with me or one of the others that (I hope) are going to be there next season. I have also seen regular sailors down on a Saturday with their boats on dry land. Come on, guys, if we don't support this unique opportunity, we are going to lose it, and that would be a tragic loss to our club. If you have any ideas how to improve Saturday sailing, get in touch, and I will jot another article.

FF2647 Mike M



# How and why and when the Race Officer's Box was built

In the early days of sailing on the Gravel Pit (it didn't become the Lake until we bought it!), while it was still an industrial site, there were no trees around the water, and before the gravel spit adjacent to the pump-house was built, it was normal to race to "Bridge" mark which was laid very close to the footbridge. The water was very deep there, around 14-16 feet, to allow passage of gravel barges.

These carried 100+ tons of spoil, and drew about 10ft. of water. They were moved by pusher tugs, either "Bantam 17", or "Bantam 43", up to the gravel works in Bridge St., where the new housing estate now stands.



Excavation of gravel ceased in the late sixties, trees growing reduced wind near the bridge, and later use of the open water above the footbridge as a settling pond for waste from gravel works across the river caused that area to become very shallow. Yes it really was open water where the causeway is, all the way to Bridge St!

Accordingly, plans were drawn up for a Race Officer's box which would give more of a beat against prevailing summer winds, and a clearer start line. The design was produced by John Lister, a civil engineer, and good National 12 builder and helmsman. The final position of the box was dictated by our (then) northern boundary.

Scaffolding was built in the selected position, on specially made base plates, which prevented it sinking in the mud. The main support legs were surveyed in, then driven down into the lake bed by a simple human-powered pulley and weight system, attached in turn to the top of each leg. Once in place, each leg was filled with vibrated concrete (this process made sure that there would be no air pockets inside the legs).

Now came the most difficult part of the whole job! How to move 4 large (9") steel girders, about 20 ft. long, from dry land, across 200yds of winter water, into place on the support legs, 6ft. or so above the water! The solution; 10 or 12 men, in 2 lines, with a girder between them standing on the rescue boat, (at the time an ex-U.S. Army pontoon tug). This raised the centre of gravity of the launch to about 5ft. high. If anyone had sneezed, a disaster would have followed. But it didn't! The girders were put in place, after heavy lifts, and much wobbling, followed by a huge sigh of relief.

Timber bearers for the platform followed, and handrails from Stewarts and Lloyds of Corby. The box itself was constructed strongly; the original intention was that the roof should be fitted with access, and handrails, for use as an observation platform.

Later additions; what is now the boathouse underneath was fitted out quite recently, by practical people, nearly all of whom have sadly left the club. The crow's nest was added to make access to masts and spreaders easy. Now, after 44 years, the slatted platform is being replaced with G.R.P. gratings, to reduce future maintenance and provide a better surface.

The original construction involved 20 to 40 members, over the autumn and winter, and into the sailing season to 'get the job done'. Probably the 2nd or 3rd most complex task we have ever attempted! More on the others later.

M.S.



*These steel girders were heavy!!!*

## Winter Works Request for Volunteers

Roger Lewis, our Harbour Master, is hoping that you can spare some time to help organise the refurbishment projects or join the working parties.

Fortunately we have made good progress in the first few weeks of this year, with re-staining the veranda trestle tables and collecting/cleaning all course marks.

However, these are some of the remaining jobs we've identified – this list is not exhaustive, but the jobs are many and varied, and your talents will fit in somewhere:

**Re-decking and painting the interior of the race box (and possibly the outside, depending on the paint and enthusiasm remaining!)**

**Re-furbishing the committee boat**

**Repairing landing stages with new decking and tyre fenders**

**Assisting with tree felling – Saturdays**

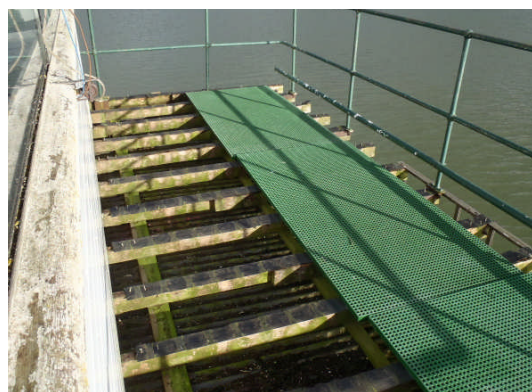
If you are able to help, please contact Roger or one of the other Committee members for more information.

**Everybody is welcome!**

## Work in progress...

A lot has been happening in and around the club in recent weeks, and more remains to be done. But all is important to get the club shipshape for the coming season.

### Improvements to the Race Officer's Box



New decking is being fitted as part of the ongoing working party programme, making the box safer and the outside decks non-slip.

Also, the box has been fitted with a brand new weather station which you can even access from home via the club's website (go to [www.middlenenesc.co.uk](http://www.middlenenesc.co.uk) and click on 'Weather Station').



### WeatherLink® Network

#### Middle Nene Sailing Club

Current Conditions as of 23:05 Thursday, January 16, 2014

Station Summary	Current	Today's Highs		Today's Lows	
Outside Temp	6.1 C	9.2 C	03:02	5.8 C	00:00
Outside Humidity	91%	92%	00:00	80%	04:16
Inside Temp	14.9 C	16.2 C	11:01	12.1 C	00:01
Inside Humidity	57%	57%	00:00	56%	02:41
Heat Index	6.1 C	9.4 C	03:02		
Wind Chill	3.3 C			3.3 C	00:00
Dew Point	5.0 C	6.7 C	02:09	4.4 C	00:00
Barometer	29.085"				
Bar Trend	Steady	29.240"	00:00	29.080"	12:06
Wind Speed	8 Mph	22 Mph	12:40		
Wind Direction	S 162°				
12 Hour Forecast	Mostly cloudy and cooler. Precipitation possible within 12 hours, possibly heavy at times. Windy.				
Wind	2 Minute	10 Minute			
Average Wind Speed	6.9 Mph	6.0 Mph			
Wind Gust Speed		11.0 Mph			
Rain	Rate	Day	Storm	Month	Year
Rain	0.0mm/Hour	0.0mm	0.0mm	0.0mm	0.0mm
Last Hour Rain	0.0mm				

*The new weather station and what its output looks like on the club website.*

But there is action everywhere - in the woodland around the lake as well as on the verandah. And once the water level has dropped sufficiently, work can go on with re-decking the jetties.





# RYA Honda Youth Rib Championships

On 17th July last year MNSC hosted the East Midlands regional heat for the Honda Youth Rib Championship for the first time, which turned out to be a very successful event indeed. And all those who were ready to moan about a loud horde of kids screaming across the lake in ribs and scaring the birds were bitterly disappointed: a group of most disciplined and skilful youngsters followed the tricky course which even our highly experienced boat handlers would find a challenge.

In all we had 11 participants from the East Midlands Region, including five entrants from MNSC and our next-door neighbours, the Sea Cadets. Out our MNSC team achieved 4th, 5th and 7th place. Not bad for a first attempt. The course involved a series of exercises and all had three chances to improve their performance. The winners were determined from a combination of fault points and time spent for completing the course.

Following all the regional heats, the finals were held on 15th September at the Southampton Boat Show. William Hancock (12) from


\*Apart from MNSC, the following clubs were running regional heats:

- South Staffordshire Sailing Club, Penkridge
- Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre, London
- East Antrim Boat Club, Larne
- Bewl Valley Sailing Club, Lamberhurst
- Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell
- Guernsey Yacht Club, St Peter Port
- Offshore Sea School, Pwllheli
- Fishers Green Sailing Club, Waltham Abbey
- West Riding Sailing Club, Winterset
- Lancaster Powerboat Racing Club, St Helens
- Royal Lyngington Yacht Club, Lyngington
- Royal Plymouth Corinthian YC and Plymouth/Devon Schools SA, Plymouth
- Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club, Blanchland



*Honda Youth Rib participants at the 2013 regional heat (from left) - back row: Harry Fountaine, Tom Calbman, Jessica Fargher, Myler Chew, Alex Rukaber; front row: Louis Dobson, Jack Oakley, George Baxter, Mark Sears, Max Toby, Adam Roach.*

Lyngington (01:02:28) and Harrison Faull (14) from Poole (00:59:80) became 2013 Honda RYA Youth RIB



## Regional Heat Results

**8-12 years age group:**  
 1st - George Baxter, Girton SC  
 2nd - Jack Oakley, MNSC  
 3rd - Louis Dobson, Notts. County SC  
 4th - Alex Rukaber, MNSC

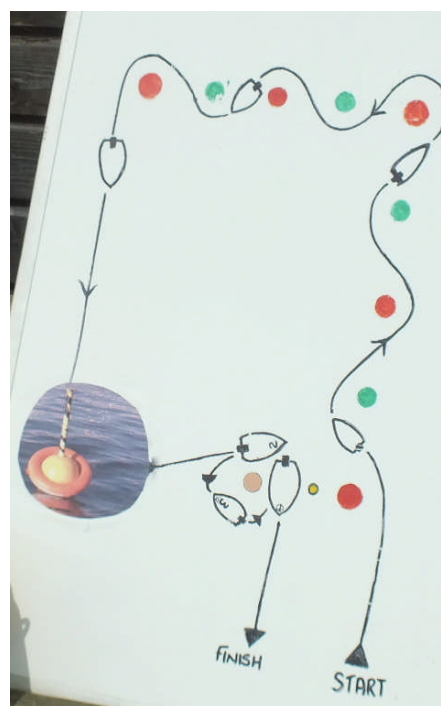
**13-16 years age group:**  
 1st - Mark Sears, Notts. County SC  
 2nd - Max Toby, Girton SC  
 3rd - Adam Roach, MNSC (Rushden Sea Cadets)  
 4th - Harry Fountaine, Rutland SC  
 5th - Tom Calbman, Burton SC  
 6th - Jessica Fargher, MNSC  
 7th - Miles Chew, MNSC (Kettering Sea Cadets)

Champions in challenging conditions, beating 26 other contestants.

As prizes a Honwave T40 RIB with a Honda BF20 engine was received by Royal Lyngington YC and a Ribcraft 4.8m RIB with a Honda BF60 engine went to the Royal Motor YC, Poole. As for our regional heat, Contestants, organisers and helpers very much enjoyed this exciting competition which firmly put MNSC on the national map\* but also gave us some very able boathandlers - something that will be much appreciated when it comes to rescue duties!

Well done everyone and thanks to all those who gave their time in making this event such a success for us. This year's RYA Honda Youth Rib Challenge East Midlands regional heat will be held on 17th May at Burton SC, Milton Nr. Derby. Potential MNSC entrants please let Dave Boyers know so that training can be arranged.

Further details are available from: <http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/hondaryayouthrib/Pages/default.aspx>

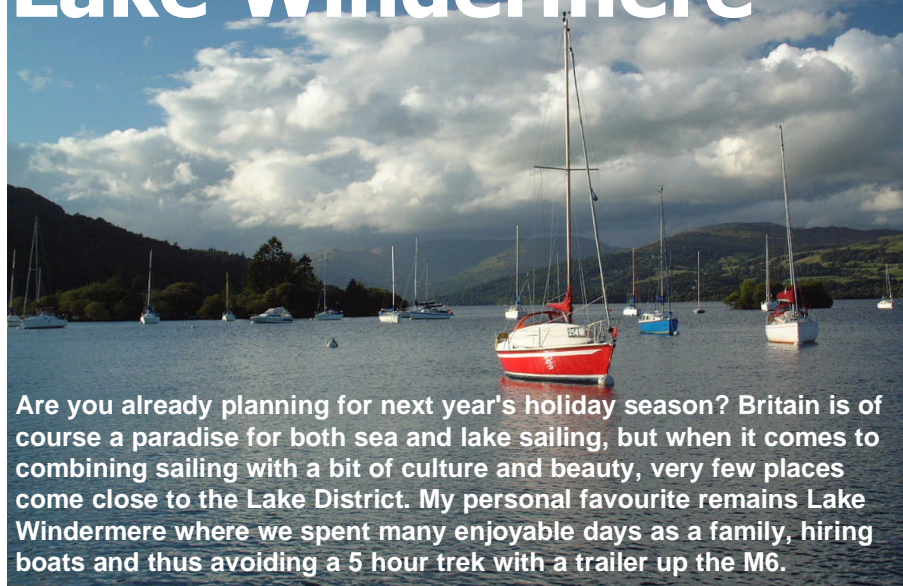


*The competition course involved various stages, with both precision and speed being judged. The best time at MNSC was just about 1 minute 45 seconds.*



Holiday sailing destinations

# Lake Windermere



Are you already planning for next year's holiday season? Britain is of course a paradise for both sea and lake sailing, but when it comes to combining sailing with a bit of culture and beauty, very few places come close to the Lake District. My personal favourite remains Lake Windermere where we spent many enjoyable days as a family, hiring boats and thus avoiding a 5 hour trek with a trailer up the M6.

Various types of boat are available for hire, normally from Bowness, including day sailers and cabin cruisers from 27 to 30+ feet (larger boats are not available for charter on other lakes in the area).



*Come in August and see the quirky steamboat festival.*

Accommodation is plentiful on all levels, with launching/boat parking facilities at caravan-/campsites if you bring your own boat, the famous Youth Hostel near Ambleside plus an endless choice of holiday flats and hotels. Staying on board a chartered yacht is another option and this has its own charm, because the boat owners have their private moorings at some beautiful, tranquil locations, away from all the hustle and bustle in the tourist towns (even on a summer bank holiday the lake is virtually empty, whilst there is no standing space on the pavements in town). Most of the yachts have gas heating, so the season starts from early spring and extends well beyond October - we had some most enjoyable weekends

in early March. Private parking is often included with the boat charter.

As a sailing location, Windermere is just perfect, with many quiet anchorages or mooring buoys and nice hotels with their own jetty at strategic locations (sailors who dine at the restaurant are normally allowed a free overnight stay on the jetty). Plus there are tourist spots with their own mooring, including the nature reserve and the steamboat museum. The yacht's tender also gives access to

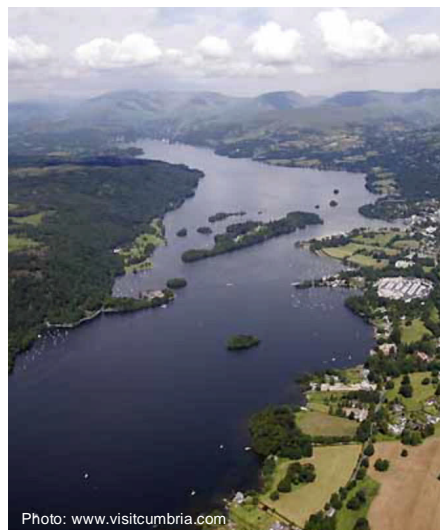


Photo: [www.visitcumbria.com](http://www.visitcumbria.com)

the islands for the perfect Swallows and Amazons experience - chasing rabbits and discovering secret passages (not on the main island Belle Isle, though - the owners are a bit touchy about non-paying visitors). Public jetties come in handy for shopping for groceries. Replenishing or

discharging the on-board liquids (water, fuel, waste) is normally done at the charter base.

Navigation on the lake is extremely straightforward and all rocks and shallows are clearly marked with large orange buoys. Normally the wind blows either up or down the lake, so it's a beat up until lunchtime and then a run all the way home in the afternoon. There is never too much traffic on the lake and the skippers of the passenger ferries tend to be forgiving when they see a charter boat. A sailing licence is not required and if you're unsure about handling anything larger than a dinghy, the charter firm will bring you up to speed in two or three hours. But note: charter boats being out on the lake after sunset is very much frowned upon and none of the yachts we ever had were equipped with navigation lights.



*Bring your own dinghy or hire one.*

The water police is based half-way down the lake and keeps a good lookout, because they know their customers!

If you would like to know more about sailing in the Lake District, contact [www.golakes.co.uk](http://www.golakes.co.uk), who will also point you in the right direction for sailing clubs, boat hire and yacht charter or they can give you details about bringing your own boat and finding accommodation. Some sailing contacts at Lake Windermere are [www.sailingexperiencewindermere.co.uk](http://www.sailingexperiencewindermere.co.uk); [www.outrunsailing.co.uk](http://www.outrunsailing.co.uk); [www.obsailing.co.uk](http://www.obsailing.co.uk); <http://english-lakes.co.uk/watersports/sailing-lake-windermere.aspx> (Low Wood Bay Watersports Centre)

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