



**RYA NW REGION  
MINUTES AND REPORTS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**



## **Minutes of the RYA NW Region Annual General Meeting 2022**

**Sunday 4 December**

At the Affiliated Clubs Conference, Waterside Lodge, Southport PR8 1RY

### **1. Minutes of the AGM 2021**

There were no comments on these minutes.

### **2. Welcome and Introduction from Louise Halliwell (NW Chair)**

Louise welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced Richard Hemingway the Deputy Chair and Peter Hadfield the Honorary Secretary.

### **3. Election of Chair, Deputy Chair and Standing Members**

Louise Halliwell was elected as Chair

Richard Hemingway was elected as Deputy Chair

Alisdair Simpson and Neil Hornby were elected as Standing Members (Committee Members)

### **4. Video Presentation**

This gave information about the Regional Team, what has been achieved in 2022 and the plans for 2023. The link to the video is <https://youtu.be/o2H6pCRVOr8>

### **5. The Regional Reports**

These were circulated to Clubs and Affiliated Clubs Conference attendees prior to the meeting and included the following.

- NW Regional Team Report
- Treasurers Report
- Race Management Report
- Regional Development Officers Report
- British Youth Sailing Report
- Disability Development Officers Report
- RVT Sailability Report
- RVT EDI Group Report

### **6. Questions/General Discussion**

In response to a query about the integration of Isle of Man clubs into the region Louise and Adam McGovern noted that a strategy was currently being developed.

Richard outlined the work of volunteers on the committee and Adam explained how volunteers and staff work as an integrated team.

Louise reiterated the request in the video for new members to join the regional team.

## North West Regional Team Report 2022

2022 has been a breath of normality after the previous two years allowing members of the team, both volunteers and professionals to work unhampered within the Region.

The Integrated Team have continued to work together under the guidance of RYA HQ at Hamble t implementing the RYA's Interim Plan seeing us through and out the other side of the effects Covid has had on our sport. The good news is that club membership has continued to increase during the year overall by 914. Sadly, due to specific circumstances we have lost a number of clubs during the same period.

Our region has many inland water clubs and training centres, some of which have United Utilities as landlord. United Utilities planned to ban the use of stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) on all it's waters where there was not already a specific clause in the lease permitting their use. This has been a devastating blow to clubs with enthusiastic SUP sections and the RYA has worked with other interested authorities to reverse their decision. The result of the combined consultation has allowed some of our clubs with others affected in the Midlands Region to carry out a test period of activity until the autumn for United Utilities to reflect on their earlier decision. At the time of writing there is no news, but we are hoping for a favourable outcome.

In 2022, the Regional Volunteer Team (RVT) concentrated on 'supporting the sport' as our contribution to the Interim Plan as we all transitioned back to normal club activity; hoping that our initiatives would be of practical benefit to boating in the NW. 2022 was really the first year during which the RVT were able to put practical initiatives, started during Covid, fully into practice. Our group was working towards integrating sailors from Sailabilty groups into long running RYA events. The Senior Travellers Series was thought the best place to start and by the end of the series everyone was on the same starting line. A real success for inclusivity. Our group working on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, within the boating community, finally had case studies, halted during Covid, to review. They hope shortly to establish principles to be applied which can be shared within in the Region and with others interested in making boating more inclusive in all the regions. Unfortunately, this year's dinghy cruise, scheduled for September was cancelled due to lack of numbers partly due to unforeseen circumstances. A Cruise is already in the planning process for 2023.

The Youth and Junior Traveller Series continues to thrive as many senior sailing events dwindle. The new volunteer organisers, Edmund Clark and Harriot Pulman, from Ullswater YC, had a baptism of fire working with a new RYA online entry system which caused a few hiccups initially. The system coming for 2023 has already been trialled and should make it easier for clubs, giving early access to the number of entrants. The fixture list should be available by the time this year's NW AGM. This I think, is an appropriate place to give our Thanks to Chris Blackburn our Regional Performance Manger for the 16 years of encouragement he has given to the young sailors in the NW. Chris left us at the end of October to pursue a new career outside the sailing world. Tim Hall, the RPM from the Midlands is temporarily taking on his role. The Senior Travellers Series continues to be enthusiastically organised by Dave Woodhead. This mid-week series for the over fifties is keenly contested and we are very grateful to the organisers and competitors for welcoming sailabilty sailors into their events.

Our Environment, Planning and Navigation group is headed by David Taylor, who is also our NW Rules Adviser. As usual there are many communications to mull through and decide if further action is required. David's report will follow.

We look forward to carrying on our supporting role working together with our professionals to implement the new strategy and keeping the RYA relevant in the 21st Century including a further restructuring of our Team. You will hear more of that in the Video to be included during the AGM.

Louise Halliwell  
NW Region Chair

## **RYA Northwest Region Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report**

Very little action on the finance front for RYA NW this year with only two regional meetings attracting costs in the last year.

### **Finance**

The work of the RYA Northwest Region is funded centrally by the RYA. Each year we prepare a budget based upon our experiences of the previous year and the activities that we intend to run within the region during the following financial year which was submitted to the RYA Finance Department. This year no feedback or approval was provided largely owing (assumably) to the constraints of Dave Strain who was covering two senior roles at the time, he has now become the Chairman. We now have a new Financial Director, Gareth Brookes (Ex RDM). Gareth has extended an offer of using his corporate credit card for payments in response to an enquiry about the purchase of a replacement optimist trophy (yet to be procured).

The RYA has amended the mileage reimbursement rate to £0.45pm since April.

No charges have been reported in respect of fleet maintenance this year, the predicted spends to the windsurfers has not occurred.

Since our last AGM and in the 2021/22 financial year our only expense has been the regional meetings, however we are expecting to incur costs for prizes/trophies.

Louise & I will be meeting with Dave Strain & Gareth Brookes in January which will no doubt inform the budget for the next year.

### **Outgoings:**

2x Hybrid Regional Meeting at the Norman Jepson = £150.00

### **Reserve Funds**

We have Reserve Funds which are for the Region's use. These funds date back to before 2005 when each region was responsible for its own financial affairs. The funds are held on our behalf by the RYA and the amount reported on the last AGM was later corrected by the RYA's Finance Director to the higher figure of £5,215.05. With this year's expenditure, our reserve balance is currently £5,065.05

Jen Moorby

Honorary Treasurer,

RYA North West Region. 23/11/2022

## **Race Management Report**

There was an online regional race officer course early in the year with some NW attendees. The race management team are available for any club race officer courses or if a decent number of people sign up, we can run an in person regional course. Also, we are here to offer any advice. The team may be running via the RYA another online in January

Adrian Stoggall

Regional Race Management Co-ordinator

## **RYA NW AGM Regional Development Office Report 2022**

### **RYA and Yachts & Yachting Club of the Year 2022**

Congratulations once again to Budworth Sailing Club 'RYA and Yachts & Yachting Club of the Year 2022'. A massive well done from me for a very well-deserved victory! Also, a big congratulations to Airside Sailing Club on their award for being the 'Heart of the Community'. It is fantastic to see two NW clubs getting awards on the national stage.

Following their success Budworth agreed to be the focus club at this year's national online RYA Club Live Show. In this RYA Live - Club Show, we looked back at the highlights of 2022, hearing from clubs about their experiences and tackling headline issues such as the cost of living, as well as the successes and opportunities for clubs - and of course looking at all the ways the RYA is here to support you. If you missed it, you can watch it back here:

<https://www.rya.org.uk/events/rya-live-club-show>

### **RYA Instructor Training 2022**

Following very limited Instructor Training in 2020 due to Covid 19 the easing of restrictions last year allowed us to re-start instructor training start to clear the backlog of training required across the region. In 2022 we have continued with this support of regional instructor training and have had another successful season. We have run a number of training courses across the region in a range of disciplines. We have also hosted a range of instructor development sessions during the year in power, sail and windsurfing.

The RYA NW team have directly supported the following training in 2022:

- 2 x OnBoard Development Days for 18 candidates
- 2 x Dinghy Senior Instructor Courses for 15 candidates
- 2 x RYA Power Boat Instructor Courses for 12 candidates
- 2 x RYA Instructor Revalidation Days for 8 candidates
- 2 x Aspiring Trainer Days for 8 candidates
- 2 x First Aid Courses for 14 candidates
- 2 x RYA Trainer Updates for 18 candidates
- 1 x Dinghy Instructor Courses for 4 candidates
- 1 x Keelboat Instructor Course for 9 candidates
- 1 x Racing Instructor Course for 11 candidates
- 1 x Windsurfing Instructor Course for 4 candidates
- 1 x Advanced Development Day for 6 candidates
- 1 x Safety Boat Development Day for 9 candidates
- 1 x Windsurfing Development Day for 7 candidates

Total number of instructors supported – 143

The region has also increased the number of trainer in the region with 1 new powerboat trainer and 2 new dinghy trainers.

In addition to what we have delivered we are currently putting together our 2023 training plan with dates soon to be confirmed. For more in please email me: [adam.mcGovern@rya.org.uk](mailto:adam.mcGovern@rya.org.uk)

Please also note the 2022 NW Instructor Training Day will take place on Saturday 18th March at the Anderton Centre, Chorley.

### **RYA OnBoard**

Well done to our RYA Onboard Clubs and Centres who to date have introduced 4887 juniors to sailing and windsurfing in 2023 with that number likely to rise to over 5000 once all the data has been submitted. Congratulations to our 2 new OnBoard Clubs in 2022:

Airside Sailing Club  
Budworth Sailing Club

### **OnBoard Fleet at the Regional Junior Championships.**

26 Sailors took part in the OnBoard fleet at this years British Youth Sailing Regional Junior Champion at Ullswater Yacht club, it was great to be part of the main event once again, and it was

terrific to see first-hand over 125 junior sailors race in the OnBoard, Championship and Regatta fleets.

I am also a massive fan of hosting the event in June; I was fortunate to camp on the shores of Ullswater, and for me, it felt like a sailing festival; and at the windsurfing event it was great to have the tunes pumping from the speakers, adding a relaxed summer vibe of the event. The longer summer nights also made it a better event for families and everyone.

I'm already buzzing about next year's event, the weekend of the 17th and 18th of June at Bassenthwaite Sailing Club, with the windsurfing event the week before on Saturday 10th June at Glossop Sailing Club.

### **Annual RYA Affiliated Club Census**

This year once again an incredible 98% of clubs have responded to the census, I can't thank the club volunteers enough for helping achieve this. Your club specific insights will be distributed at the RYA Affiliated Club Conference along with the headline regional and national insights. Following a really challenging couple of years clubs and centres have done an amazing job to help get people afloat this year and I think it has put us in a great position moving into 2023 and this hard work is reflected in the membership numbers. The membership picture across the region differs club to club however overall, we have our highest membership since before 2016 at 14,923!

The feedback and data you have provided will help us produce appropriate club support in 2023. Thankyou to everyone who took the time to complete the census again.

### **RYA Dinghy Trails – 3 new trails in 2022**

Following the launch of more trails at the start of the year, the region now has 4 fantastic dinghy trails to have a go at in the lake district. The original trail on Ullswater and now 3 new trails, 2 on Lake Windermere and 1 on Coniston Water.

Working with the regional volunteer team we hope to provide a cruise in company on one of these fantastic trails in 2023.

For more information on the North West Trails please visit:

<https://www.rya.org.uk/knowledge/dinghy-trails/nw>

### **Funding Opportunities**

Together Fund – Application & Delivery deadline extended

The Together fund is a continuation of the Tackling Inequalities fund that was set up by Sport England to help the sport and physical activity sector through the pandemic.

The RYA has been awarded a further £195,000 of National Lottery money to help clubs, centres and other partners in England work with the following audiences:

Lower socio-economic groups

Culturally diverse communities

Disabled people

People with long term health conditions

The Together Fund investment runs to 30th September 2023 and is intended to help further growth and recovery of sailing organisations working with local communities to find new ways to support people to be active.

Please note: all applications need to be submitted by 07 March 2023.

### **RYA Funding Finder**

The RYA have teamed up with Idox to provide a community funding support website for boating.

On the website is our all-new funding tool to help you search for local and national opportunities:

<https://www.rya.org.uk/club-centre-support/affiliates/funding-opportunities>

Thanks again for your support on what has been another great year of boating in the North West.  
Adam McGovern

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RYANorthWest/](https://www.facebook.com/RYANorthWest/) Instagram: @ryanorthwest  
@adam\_sailing

NW Regional Team AGM Minutes and Reports 2022



## **British Youth Sailing report for North West Region AGM**

### **Regional Junior Championships**

This was held at Ullswater YC in June 2022 and was a successful and well attended event. This was the first time the event has been held in the summer after being held in late September for many years. Part of the reason for this move is to celebrate a festival of Junior (U16) sailing offering a rewarding experience for a range of sailors. The event has 3 elements:

Rookie Fleet – Powered by OnBoard (Stage 2 minimum. Run by Instructors)

Regatta Fleet (mix of coaching and racing to support development)

Championship Fleet (fleet racing for the best in the region)

Over 130 sailors attended across these 3 fleets

Next year's event will be held at Bassenthwaite SC on 17/18 June 2023

Clubs are encouraged to bring teams of sailors along for a great weekend of sailing. Camping is available on site to create the festival feel.

### **Regional Training Groups**

These are now established and running for the Recognised Junior classes (Optimist, Topper, Feva and Bic Techno). Numbers as follow for the 2022/23 groups

Optimist – 11

Topper – 12

Feva – 8 boats (16 sailors)

Bic Techno – 12

ILCA 4 (North and Midlands combined group) – 11

Training starts in the Autumn around October half term and continues over the winter months being held at clubs across the North region. There is also a remote programme of support covering topics such as fitness, nutrition, sport psychology etc.

### **BYS Recognised Clubs**

Congratulations to Ullswater YC achieving this status recognising their junior race training and feeding the Performance Pathway.

Tim Hall

Regional Performance Manager



## North West RYA Disability Development Officers Report



"I feel welcome  
and have fun"



"I feel safe and can  
raise my concerns"



"I am able to take part"

### **New joiners to the Sailability programme**

This year we have welcomed Manx Sailing and Cruising Club to the Sailability family. It is great to have a club on the Isle of Man part of the programme and I look forward to watching the club grow their activities and participation.

### **Online Resources**

We have been working hard this year to develop and expand our list of resources that support groups, clubs, centres and volunteers when engaging with disabled people. There is a wealth of support now on the website on a wide range of topics including;

### **Developing Safety Management Systems**

- Guided Conversations
- Recovery technique of Keelboats
- Hoist Safety
- Communication Resources
- RYA Sailability Safety Blog

Please see RYA Sailability – A Wealth of Knowledge for all the different sections. If you have a topic that you would like us to explore in more depth in order to support your groups needs then please do let us know.

NB: These resources are not locked behind Club Zone, they are accessible to all.

### **Safety governance**

Organisations with a strong safety culture will review how they are performing and change things based on lessons learned. Every year we ask clubs and centres that are part of the Sailability programme to update your details with us, and confirm you want to remain part of the programme. This year we will be including a statement that you have reviewed your safety systems and made changes as needed. Signing the statement will be a requirement for ongoing participation of the programme.

### **RYA North West Sailability Series**

This year saw the first ever RYA Sailability Series take place as a trial in the North West. It was fantastic to see a group of disabled sailors from NW clubs and further afield travelling around the region taking part in some inclusive racing activity. As a partnership initiative between the NW Regional Volunteer Team, RYA Sailability and the North West Senior Traveller Series we are hoping to expand on the series in 2023. For more information about the series and how to get involved please read the RYA Sailability Series report put together by Richard Catchpole and Matthew Daly.

### **RS Venture Connect World Championships – Oman**

As I am writing this report we currently have a North West sailor Jonny Cormack from Blackwell Sailing Windermere alongside Chris Albert from South Shields Sailing Club, representing RYA

NW Regional Team AGM Minutes and Reports 2022



Sailability GBR and GBR Blind Sailing in the RS Venture Connect World Championships in Oman. They are part of a squad of 8 GBR sailors who are competing at the world championships and we wish them luck in the weeks racing and can't wait to see how they and the whole GBR Team get on.

### **Key future events**

There is more to come at the 2023 Sailability Conference... The agenda is just in the processes of being put together however you can expect discussion topics on the following;

Growing Racing Activity

Developing Operating Procedures and Risk Assessments

Writing Funding applications

Facility accessibility.

...Plus much much more...

In addition, there will also be another North West Sailability Network Day, bringing Sailability venues across the NW together to discuss challenges, share ideas and providing an opportunity to influence the Sailability programme across the region. The date and venue are yet to be confirmed.

### **Winter Learning**

As we approach the winter months why not consider hosting a Disability Awareness Training (DAT) Course for your members and volunteers. It is a full days training delivered by a regional DAT Instructors. The course addresses disability from the viewpoint of the social model of disability to help identify possible barriers and how they can be overcome. The course uses scenarios to understand the needs and appropriate strategies on how to work with individuals with visual impairment, hearing loss, learning disabilities, mental health, neurodiversity and physical disabilities. You will learn how to improve communication skills and an overview of the Equality act and its implications for sport.

If you are interested in hosting a course, please do get in touch with myself.

### **Club Development**

The winter months are a great time to start planning for the next season ahead. If your club or centre would like to know more about how it might be able to become more inclusive to the communities you serve, please do get in touch. Just some simple, easy and in most cases free or cheap adaptations can make a huge difference to someone's experience at your venue. Please do talk to me, even if it is just for some quick ideas.

Finally, a huge thank you.

I just want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the Sailability programme. The North West has a great Sailability network with some really dedicated clubs, centres, volunteers, instructors & coaches. Please do share your success stories with me, I am always keen to see more regional Sailability news across our social media channels so if you think you have something to share then please do.

Thank you for all your commitment and support throughout 2022.

James Wheeldon  
RYA Disability Development Officer, North  
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## RVT Sailability Group

Group Volunteers: Richard Catchpole, Matt Daly, James Wheeldon

In 2022 we launched the first RYA Sailability Series in conjunction with the North West Senior Traveller Series. The intention was to put some test events together to assess the demand for Sailability Sailors to join in and travel across the NW for competitive racing in a relaxed atmosphere.

3 events were held at Leigh & Lowton, Bolton and Hollingworth, with one at Delph cancelled due to lack of water. Each event consisted of 3 races and on-the-water coaching was organised to assist with those not so familiar to racing around the cans.

All events were well attended with up to 6 boats participating in each event, from a variety of clubs. A range of conditions from a calm day at Leigh to a howler at Hollingworth gave the sailors a taste of a full range of conditions. Rory McKinna ran out as the winner for the series with an impressive set of results.



Running events alongside the Senior Traveller Series worked well, with the fleets and sailors integrating well for friendly racing. Most of the racing was held in the excellent Hansas with some boats travelling to events and others being loaned out by the host clubs.

In its debut year, the series proved to be a success, meeting or exceeding expectations and it is planned to continue in a similar format in 2023. Discussions are ongoing about additional stand-alone events at other interested clubs, with expectations that this will drive further participation across the wider region.

Many thanks to all those that have made this an excellent first year; in addition to the work by the RVT, the support of Dave Woodhead has made running the events alongside the Senior Travellers a big success, with training support from Alan Jones. With continued effort and support over the next few years this series should really take shape and be a big asset to the NW region.

We are always looking for additional volunteers so if you are inspired to get involved, please contact one of the team.

The RVT Sailability Group  
November 2022

## **RVT Tackling Inequalities, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Group**

Group Volunteers: Richard Hemingway, Jen Moorby, Stephen Bristow

The group was set up to examine opportunities to open up boating to a wider community in a proactive context. The RYA's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (EDI) states four underpinning objectives: to change perceptions, behaviours, experiences, and reality. This group concentrates on the fourth objective as for many communities, the barriers are more about economics and practicalities than attitudes and prejudices.

Over the years there have been attempts at outreach funded by charitable monies in this region, not only offering chances to get on the water to learn, but also providing transport to and from venues. It has not been easy: There have been hurdles like children not even getting on the free mini-bus because their parents haven't put a change of clothes and a towel in a bag. We've been told there are children living in towns like Blackpool and Barrow who have never been to the sea and youngsters from other conurbations who saw their first cow from the driveway to a sailing centre.

As the Covid pandemic was easing, Sport England announced funding for 'Tackling Inequalities' in an effort to get communities more active and so improve physical and mental health. The RYA was allocated a portion of that for distribution to outreach projects for boating.

A number of projects in the North West benefitted from that and the group has approached them to see what lessons could be more widely applied. The intention is to create a series of detailed case studies that can be shared with clubs and centres and encourage positive initiatives to open boating to under-represented groups.

Only one centre has responded positively so far to approaches from the group seeking case study material and an interview with the head of that establishment has now been conducted, being recorded on video as the best way to reflect the fullest meanings from their experience. Contacts with the three groups who benefitted from that project are being established to explore the other dimensions and lessons that can be gleaned.

The group has also conducted an interview covering an initiative at Redesmere Sailing Club who used funding from charitable sources to enable an outreach to youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds in the Macclesfield area. That was shared with the EDI department at Hamble in the expectation that it might be useful for the teams considering EDI matters nationally. Their response was extremely disappointing.

The group would like at least one new volunteer to join us as Stephen Bristow, who has done sterling work in transcribing material and also making valuable contributions to our discussions, is leaving the RVT because he has moved out of the region.

Richard Hemingway, Group Lead