

WYA Clubs and Coaches Conference 2009

Points from Group Discussions

Q1. What does a successful Club look like?

- Looks friendly
- Good turnout
- Busy, boats on water
- Professional & well run
- Inviting atmosphere
- Good facilities, catering, changing rooms, access, training
- Good location – safe
- Good equipment (safety boats)
- Balance – novices and competent (*sailors*)
- Alternative if no sailing
- Good volunteer base
- Web site – weather station/web cam
- Good committee structure
- Stable or growing membership
- Social side, friendly, welcoming

Key Factors:

- Infrastructure – showers, galley, storage – equipment hire
- Local population density
- Good visitor experience
- Committed organisation and forward plans
- Sustainable programme
- Financially viable
- Effective pro-active committee
- Realistic Club development plan
- Keep it fun
- Be aware of members needs – non-sailors, senior members...
- Adaptable to balance events, racing, training
- Good coaches (named), training structure
- Skills to run events

Q2. How do we develop our Club?

- More boats/Development Boats
- Become Volvo Champion Club
- Is the Club sustainable? An action plan if the situation changes.
- More volunteers between young and old (*age group?*)
- A way to keep parents involved (sub-committees)
- Tapping into Club resources (people and skills)
- Communication – information and signposting
- Word of mouth, email, websites, txt
- Coaching parent (?)
- Equipment, capital (*needed?*)
- Parent participation.
- Winter open training
- Promotion in schools
- For children – pool table, social aspects, make it good for parents, either sailing or social
- For adult – free 3 month's membership
- Buddy system – for new sailors
- Boat hire/loan structure
- Advertise Club – leaflets
- Crew with a novice, racing buddy in serious races
- Non-racing i.e. 'free-sailing'

Q3. How to we encourage and retain our volunteers

- Utilise & entertain your volunteers
- Encourage personal development of youngsters
- Build confidence (via training)
- Identify roles and find best fit of skills to roles
- Reward the volunteers
- Develop the role of parents
- Use rota to spread the word
- Enthusiastic "seniors" in the background
- A thank you or Christmas card to all your helpers will help get them back again
- Talk to them – open volunteers forum
- Get list of qualifications
- Physical assessment of volunteer capability

- Questionnaire – with pointed questions
- Open forum for up-skilling
- Link in with Club development plan

Q4. Is racing relevant to all members

- The cruising fleet – are they forgotten?
- “Support and promote” everyone
- Not appropriate to all membership
- A committee not just made up of those who race.
- On water development – training for everyone in skills, not just racing
- Personal handicaps – making it possible for everyone to race.