



LaserPerformance, the UKLA and the RYA, supported by Sport England have teamed up to launch a new programme aimed at helping Clubs 'Activate' their Laser Fleets.

The Laser dinghy is the most successful adult and youth racing dinghy in the world, with almost 200,000 boats having been built. There is a huge population of Lasers in the UK, however not all are being regularly used and this programme provides an opportunity to increase participation in sailing.

The new project will support Clubs to develop ideas on how to encourage Laser owners and sailors back to the water and to help Clubs re-claim Lasers that have been abandoned at their premises.

Coordinated by Graham Manchester, RYA Sport Development and LaserPerformance Fleet Sales Manager James Lund-Lack, clubs will be able to join a day on and off the water to gain information and share ideas on activating their Laser fleet and get ongoing support from the RYA's team of Regional Club Coaches to ensure the success of their 'Activation' plans, as well as equipment maintenance, repair advice and purchasing support from LaserPerformance.

Clubs will also receive a document pack containing advice on topics such as how to develop and deliver a sports development plan and how to access funding for their club.

Recognising the merits of the programme, Skandia Team GBR's Paul Goodison MBE who holds Olympic, World and European titles in the Laser, has become an Ambassador of the project. "Getting more people out on their Lasers and enjoying themselves is something I would always encourage and so I jumped at the chance to be an Ambassador for this project. What's great about this project is that it's not just about bits of paper and workshops but real, ongoing practical support for clubs."

The Activate Your Laser Fleet project has already been piloted in a number of clubs in the UK with some considerable success. Pilot participants South Cerney Sailing Club's Jon Hammond commented: "We've turned our three boat Laser fleet into a thriving success with a tailored and regular training programme. Not only have skill levels and enjoyment increased, there is a hunger to improve standards and facilities for our Laser sailors. We have increased the numbers of our Laser fleet to double figures and hope to reach 20 boats regularly competing in 2010."

The project will now be rolled out to select clubs with a Laser Fleet, with Fleet Captains of the Laser Class being invited to attend the workshops that start in February 2010.

At the end of the first year of the project the Club which develops the most innovating way of Activating its Laser Fleet will receive a special award and Skandia Team GBR's Paul Goodison has kindly agreed to spend a day with the winning Club.

If you feel that your Club would benefit from the support offered by the Activate Your Laser Fleet Project, then contact Tzaneen Mears at the RYA Tzaneen.Mears@rya.org.uk for more information about becoming involved.

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Dear Laser Owner,

Welcome to this 'Activate your Laser' event, which has been organised by LaserPerformance and the RYA and is fully supported by the UK Laser Association.

I am sure that you will find the event of benefit and it will renew your enthusiasm for sailing your Laser. Looking forward, now that you are all geared up and ready to go why not take the next small step and join the Association. For just 7p a day you will join the largest Association in the country with over 1,600 members that benefit in such a special and a unique way.

INSURANCE - Noble Marine Insurance give UKLA members a healthy £10 discount on insurance

LASER PERFORMANCE – Has special discount offers only available for UKLA members that provide genuine Laser parts and boat accessories to help maintain your dinghy in top racing conditions

FULL RACING PROGRAMME – Whether you have aspirations to follow in the footsteps of Ben Ainslie, Paul Goodison & Penny Clark or you have more modest aims of beating the others at your club or in your local area the UKLA either organises or supports all levels of racing. On the attached sheet you will find all the major dates for 2010 and also the contact details for the Grand Prix (local area) co-ordinators around the country. 2010 is especially important for the UK as four world championships are taking place in Scotland & England during the summer. So whether you are coming into the class in a Laser 4.7 rig or returning to Laser sailing as a Master (over 35) or somewhere in between then I am sure that you will find suitable events to match your enjoyment needs.

TRAINING – The UKLA has two Training Co-ordinators. James Gray (the RYA's Radial N.Y.S. Head Coach) organises the Open Training, which is available to all members of the Association and is supported by the RYA. Jon Emmett concentrates his efforts on providing training on a more local level, either club or regional, so you don't have to travel too far to get access to top class coaches.

GYBE – The Association magazine is produced in full colour on a regular basis and contains all the major reports as well as a variety of articles to help you get the best from your Laser. There are often special offers from the advertisers.

www.laser.org.uk - The Association's website is updated on a daily basis and brings you the latest information, news, results & reports from events as well as photographs. There is a fast moving Laser Mart and each section of the membership; Masters, Laser 4.7s, Radials, Standards & Grand Prix has their own pages. You can also see past issues of the magazine and download joining forms.

By joining the Association you will help to ensure that we keep the Laser what it is, the most popular ONE DESIGN dinghy that the sailing world has ever known.

Have a great day and I hope you will find the attached information of interest.

Yours sincerely,



John G Ling
Chairman, UKLA

2010 Calendar

National Championships

(All rigs)

21st – 27th August Mounts Bay S.C.

Club Sailor Championships

(Standard & Radial Rigs)

25th & 26th June W.P.N.S.A.

Inland Championships

(All rigs)

13th & 14th Nov. Grafham Water

UK Qualifiers

(Standard & Radial rigs)

13th & 14th March Stokes Bay S.C.

20th & 21st March Mountbatten Centre

17th & 18th April Hayling Island S.C.

2nd & 3rd October Pwllheli S.C.

16th & 17th October W.P.N.S.A.

23rd & 24th October Whitstable Y.C.

Masters' Qualifying Series

29th & 30th May Grafham S.C.

19th & 20th June Swanage S.C.

2nd – 4th July Stokes Bay S.C.
(Nationals)

9th & 10th October Highcliffe S.C.

6th & 7th Nov. Queen Mary S.C.
(Inlands)

Laser 4.7 Ladder Series

6th & 7th March Cardiff Bay S.C.

20th & 21st March Burton S.C.

22nd & 23rd May Datchet Water S.C. .

19th & 20th June Restronguet S.C.

3rd & 4th July Stone S.C.

9th & 10th October Herne Bay S.C.

13th & 14th Nov. Grafham Water
(Inlands)

Full details of all events can be found on the UKLA website, www.laser.org.uk

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