

UK Laser Association

ALTON WATER SAILING CLUB 'PIMP' THEIR LASERS

Laser sailors from Alton Water Sailing Club attended a special Laser 'Pimp N Sail' workshop last Saturday (29 May) to learn some repair skills which will enable their neglected Lasers to be returned to the water and sailed more often, as part of the 'Activate Your Laser Fleet' initiative.

Nigel Best, member of Alton Water SC who hosted the session along with the club's chief instructor Ben Sharman, said "Having got involved in the 'Activate Your Laser' initiative' we thought it was time we organised an event that could address the needs of our own club's Laser sailors.

"We've got 40 Lasers in our boat park, some look very neglected and like many clubs, very few are seen in our racing club fleet. We came up with the Pimp 'N' Sail day as a way to involve all our Laser sailors and to demonstrate some beneficial basic repairs to the hull and foils of a Laser which will hopefully result in more boats out on the water."

The workshop kicked off by running through the types of materials and construction used to make repairs on laser dinghies. This was followed by discussions on the type of damage that members of the group had personally encountered on their boats and comparisons of different types of repair techniques.

Nigel commented: "Repairs were demonstrated on two lasers, an immaculate XD equipped boat and a 1970's vintage 'old school' boat. In an effort to dispel people's fear of tackling their first repair, Ben set to work on a repair to the edge of the mast pot, an area of gel coat had broken away exposing the fibres beneath".

After discussing foil repairs over coffee and cake, and a quick look at the differences between older and modern rig controls, the weather began to deteriorate so it was into the class room for the final stage of the workshop.

Nigel sums up: "This has been the first event of its type held at Alton Water and we feel it was very well received and that there is a demand for a second event, perhaps concentrating on control lines and sail settings. If the weather gods are kind, we hope to get out on the water for some basic training exercises led by some of the clubs own race coaches."

The workshop was part of the 'Activate Your Laser Fleet', a joint initiative by LaserPerformance, the International Laser United Kingdom Class Association (UKLA) and the RYA, supported by Sport England which aims to support clubs to develop new ideas on how to encourage Laser owners to get out on the water more often.

For more information about the Activate Your Laser Fleet scheme visit www.laser.org.uk If you feel that your club would benefit from taking part in a series of 2011 workshops contact tzaneen.mears@rya.org.uk.

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Notes to Editors:

Activate Your Laser Fleet Ambassador Skandia Team GBR's Paul Goodison MBE, holds the Olympic Gold Medal as well as the British, European and World Championship titles. The Laser World Championships will be held in the UK in 2010.

About Laser Performance

LaserPerformance is the steward of some of sailing's most recognised brands including Laser, Sunfish, SB3 and the Bug. LaserPerformance products are actively sold and sailed in over 40 countries worldwide. For more information on any of the LaserPerformance products please visit: www.laserperformance.com.

About International Laser United Kingdom Class Association

The International Laser United Kingdom Class Association (the UKLA or Association) exists to promote, develop, encourage, organize and co-ordinate the racing and sailing of Laser class dinghies in the United Kingdom under uniform rules and generally to encourage and foster the enjoyment of the sporting and recreational aspects of sailing. The whole committee is collectively working towards the long term vision of training schemes and maintaining the best racing in the UK

Whilst racing is at the heart of our activity, getting people sailing and having fun comes a close second. Therefore we are working with the RYA & LaserPerformance, supported by Sport England, to launch the exciting new scheme 'ACTIVATE your LASER' aimed at getting Laser sailors back afloat. The UKLA is wholly committed to helping this scheme succeed by advising on special low cost starter packs available from LaserPerformance. We are also working alongside the RYA Regional Development Officers to guide clubs and provide support for energising sailors.

Further information at www.laser.org.uk

About RYA

The RYA is the national body for all forms of recreational, competitive and professional boating. It represents dinghy and yacht racing, motor and sail cruising, RIBs and sportsboats, powerboat racing, windsurfing, inland cruising and personal watercraft.

The RYA is recognised by all government offices as being the negotiating body for the activities it represents. It continually fights for the rights and freedoms of its 102,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters. There are an estimated further 500,000 boat owners nationally who are members of RYA affiliated clubs and class associations.

The RYA also sets and maintains a recognised standard for recreational boat training through a network of 2,340 RYA Recognised Training Centres in over 43 countries. On average 155,000 people per year complete RYA training courses.

The RYA is committed to promoting all forms of boating and making them accessible to everyone. For more information please refer to our web site www.rya.org.uk

RYA Sailability is the leading UK charity for disabled sailing and is the official charity of the RYA. Registered Charity Number: 1084351

You can find the RYA at RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA