



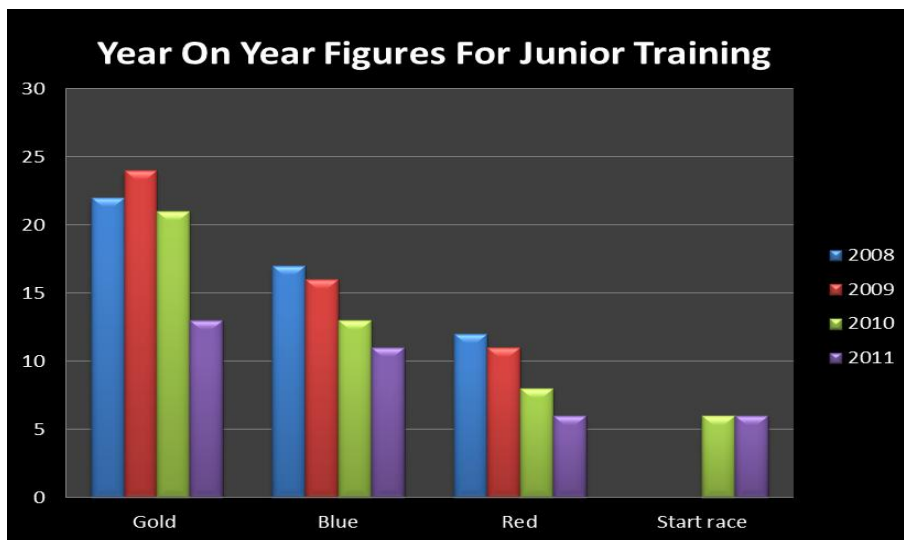
## Junior/Training Annual

### Report for the 2011 Annual Sailing Meeting

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#### Overview of 2011

The 2011 season for training has been a very challenging year with numbers of juniors taking up training being significantly down on previous years, please see below:



It is difficult to say for certain why this has been but there are some factors that have very defiantly played a part these are:

- Teenage membership seems to be at an all-time low, you only need to look around the club and you just don't see the groups of teenagers about, these kids would normally populate the Red and Blue fleets.
- This season and the last have been challenging from a tidal and weather perspective and this has meant that there have been quite long gaps between the training weekends resulting in a loss of interest in-between.
- The economy has also had an impact Parents are obviously looking at their outgoings and unless their kids are serious about training then they don't want to invest the £65.00.
- Many of the children that do attend training are not local we seem to have a lack of local children living near the club

Other challenges



We have no youngsters at the correct age or with the experience that we can train up to be instructors as we have done in the past, this means that we are relying on a handful of dedicated adult instructors to assist and these individuals have their own family commitments and cannot always commit to every session this has meant the we have struggled to cover the numbers on occasions.

Success stories for this season:

Tera coaching sessions; we have averaged 15 boats on each of the sessions that we have run, and people keep asking for more sessions.

This year we have received the new training boats 3 Feva's and 3 Tera's the Tera's have been in high demand and we have had to borrow extra boats from RS to meet the demand, the Feva's have been very underutilised in the main because they are really only suitable for the older heavier children and you need to find 2 kids that want to sail together on a regular basis, we did try to promote the Feva's with a dedicated coaching event but we only had 2 kids sign up so we had to cancel.

We also managed to purchase another 4 meter Avon rib for training and this has been utilised on all training sessions and throughout junior week, and proved to be invaluable.

Junior week was yet again a huge success, undoubtedly some families are now treating junior week as a week's summer holiday with the camping being available on the marsh.

## 2012 Season Proposed changes

With the decline in instructor numbers and children wanting training something needs to change.

It is proposed that we look at the following:

Run the RYA junior sailing courses over a week maybe split this into two utilising two half term holidays, with beginners attending the first week and the more advanced attending the second, this would allow the beginners to move onto the advance course later if they wanted too.

The club would hire in coaches to run these sessions and club members who are qualified could assist on a voluntary basis if the wished. If we charged £60.00 and took an average of 15 students this would give us a budget of £900 instructors charge from £60 to £100 per day depending on their level of experience.

For the beginners the number of boats required would not be an issues as we can hire 6 more oppies from the RYA to add to our 10, boats could be an issue with advanced unless we insist that members should have their own boats, we have 4 Toppers 3 Tera's and 3 Feva's.



On a voluntary basis we could continue to run coaching sessions outside of this for those members that want to sail but already have their RYA certificates

We will be holding an open debate at the Junior Annual Meeting trying to get ideas from children and adults regarding the promotion of junior training moving forward and to discuss some of the suggestions above.

**John Butcher**

**RYA Principle and club training officer.**