

Honda RYA Youth RIB Competition - Event Report

Regional Final Event: ***South East***

Type of Water ***Inland***

Weather Conditions: ***Fine with steady wind force 2***

Short Summary of the Event

Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club's Piddinghoe Pond provided an ideal venue for the 16 local champions from the ***South East*** who turned out to compete for the Regional Championship on the 17th September 2005.

Although a cold breeze from the North served to remind spectators that summer was over, a blue sky, enthusiasm and nerves kept the 4 girls and 12 boys cheerful as they waited for their turn to drive the two smart RIBs provided by the RYA. The breeze added an extra challenge to the 'man overboard' routine, but could be put to good use to help start the bow moving on the reversing manoeuvre, and as it stayed consistent throughout the event there was no issue of some competitors being affected more than others.

In the ***younger age group*** (8 to 12) all but one competitors were aged 12, but the youngest, ***Sam Cook*** from Downs Sailing Club, aged only 8 gave a very good account of himself achieving a fourth place with a time of 2.13. ***Tom Richardson*** of Hastings and St Leonards took third with a clean run of 2.07 and no penalties. ***Nicola Boniface*** from Pevensey Bay Sailing Club put up a very strong time of 1.43 and came in a close 2nd to the winner, ***Will Wright*** from Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club who achieved two clean runs and a best time of 1.34. ***Mathew Fowler, Tayla Playford*** and ***Lucy Mills-Barton*** all gave good accounts of themselves to come 5th, 6th and 7th respectively.

In the older age group (13 to 16) a full spread of ages were represented. The winner, ***Mark Lambert*** of Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club with two clear runs and a best time of 1.13 was 10 seconds up on the second placed ***Liam Ray*** of Bexhill Sailing Club, but then only 15 seconds separated his time of 1.23 from the 9th placed competitor ***Mathew Wiseman*** of Hastings and St Leonards Sailing Club at 1.38. In between, with little between them were: ***Peter Harrison*** (3rd), ***Jonathan Norris*** (4th), ***Charlotte Hedges*** (5th), ***Nicholas Jordan*** (6th), ***Gregory Salmon*** (7th), and ***Sebastian Greber*** (8th).

So an excellent, competitive event with ***two worthy Champions: Will Wright*** and ***Mark Lambert***, both of ***Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club*** selected to represent the South East of England at the National Finals next Saturday 24th September at the Southampton Boat Show. The South East will compete relatively early in the day at 10.40 and the best position for viewing is said to be the beach close to the Honda stand.