



RYA PRESS RELEASE

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an RYA initiative sponsored by HONDA and RIBCR

KYLE POWERS TO FOUR IN ROW FOR LARGS

The best young RIB drivers in the country went head to head on Saturday 26th June at Port Edgar Sailing School, South Queensferry, at the Scottish Final of the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship.

Previous Scottish finals have been very popular, and this year clubs held local heats to help them pick their best representatives. Many clubs and youth organisations duly arrived with a driver in each of the two age categories of 8-12 years, and 13-16 years.

A total of nineteen drivers in the two age groups took part in the time trials, each hoping to make it through to the UK national final later this year. They came from Sailing Clubs and Sea Cadet and Sea Scout groups all over the country, not just from the Central Belt but also from the Highlands, including a pair of drivers from Oban SC, the first time this club has been represented at the Scottish final.

But in the 8-12 year old class, the winner came from much closer by, from Royal Forth YC at Granton, just a few miles further down the Forth estuary. One of only two competitors in this class to break the two minute barrier, 12 year old Robyn Dougall sped round the course in 1 minute 57.09 seconds to take first place. Robyn normally sails a Topper dinghy, but was able to practice driving her Dad's RIB before the final. But she was still hard pushed by Andrew Leber from Strathclyde Loch Sailing Club, who came in just two seconds behind, while Fraser Neilson from Largs Sail Training Association (Largs STA) took third.

Among the 13- 16 year olds, times were much quicker as they manoeuvred at high speed round the slalom course. The winner, Kyle Maxwell Cox from Largs SC, is a keen sailor and windsurfer, but he showed that he could drive a powerboat just as quickly, taking the title by six seconds in a time of 1minute 20.17 seconds. His nearest challenger, Jamie

McMillan, was also from Largs, the Largs STA this time. These two drivers were keeping up a strong Largs tradition at this event. Kyle's win made this the fourth year in a row that a Largs driver has won this event, a tribute to the training they receive at the leading sailing championship venue of Largs.

But in third, and making his long journey from Oban worthwhile, was Jamie Chapman. Jamie had not even had the chance to practice round marker buoys at his club, but he still posted a fast time to take third place.

Both winners were quite surprised at their success. Kyle, 16, said, "I didn't think I would do so well, I'm really pleased to be going on to the final." Kyle was runner up last year, and was delighted to go one better this year. His fast movement then continued, as he made a swift exit to join a sailing competition in his Laser dinghy later that day.

The Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship, sponsored by Honda and Ribcraft, is a National Championship in which 8-16 year olds RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) drivers can demonstrate their boat handling skills in a race around the clock with the goal of winning a 5m Ribcraft or a Honwave T40 for their club.

David Hodgkinson, Marketing Communications Manager for event sponsor Honda said: "Our continued association with the RYA Youth RIB Championship allows us to inspire and encourage young people to pursue their passion for boating and engage in worthwhile team-based social activities. Furthermore it allows us to underline our commitment to safety and best practice – something which we take extremely seriously as a major manufacturer of engines and inflatables."

Thanks to Championship sponsors Honda, and Ribcraft.

For more information about the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship, details on how to get involved and a list of regional finals scores visit www.rya.org.uk

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Picture attached:

HYRScoFinalmr . Kyle Maxwell Cox in action. Picture of Robyn available on request.

Notes to Editors:

About Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship

- Started in 2002, the Championship allows youngsters aged 8-16 to demonstrate their skills as expert boat handlers and improve their skills in a safe, controlled environment, with each competitor aiming to manoeuvre around a pre-set course in the quickest time. To ensure safety at all times each child is accompanied in the RIB by a competent adult/instructor.
- There are fifteen regional finals across the whole of the UK and overseas. Winners from both the 8-12 and 13-16 age groups go on to represent their region at the National Final.

About the 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.
- RYA Scotland is based in Edinburgh, for further info see www.ryascotland.org.uk , or go to the RYA Scotland page on Facebook.

About Honda Marine

- Honda is a leading manufacturer of 4-stroke marine outboards and inflatables, with a wide range from the compact BF2.3 through to the powerful BF225 model. Honda offers a six year warranty on its entire outboard range to domestic private users, as well as a two year warranty for professional and commercial users. For more information on Honda's range of outboards and inflatables please visit www.honda.co.uk/marine.

About Ribcraft

- Ribcraft was founded in 1988 and has since gained an enviable reputation as the leading British builder of reliable and superbly manufactured Rigid Inflatable Boats (Ribs).
- Ribcraft is one of the only British manufacturers to design and construct the entire boat 'in-house' at its purpose built factory in Yeovil, Somerset. Each craft is built from the GRP hull, inflatable collar and stainless steel fittings to the electrical and engine installations. This ensures each rib is built to the highest standard, with great emphasis placed on the safety, durability and quality of construction.
- Ribcraft manufacture hull sizes from 4.2 to 18.0 meters, for commercial or leisure use. The company is keen to accommodate individual requirements and has a flexible approach when

dealing with its diverse range of customers from leisure craft to factory ships, divers and military and commercial buyers.

- Each Rib is a unique project, and it's up to the customer to decide on how the boat will look with regard to colours, layouts and power options. This exercise is made simple by Ribcraft's dedicated team, who have a wealth of experience in using and constructing rigid inflatables and will assist customers with choosing the right boat for their specific requirements.
- Ribcraft are pleased to continue our support of the Honda RYA youth championship, we started our association with the Championship in 2006 and have so far donated 8 boats to the winning sailing clubs.