

How do you get involved?

Every month the MK&BYSA organizes either a training day or a racing event for local sailors who sail at or are members of the Caldecotte Xperience, Milton Keynes, Emberton Park, Havershams, Great Moor or Aylesbury Sailing Clubs.

An annual event programme is issued to every club contact which is placed on the notice board in the club house giving details of the venues through the year. Many clubs have boats they can loan to new sailors, including Toppers, Lasers, Picos, and some double handed boats. The day typically starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4pm. A galley is available for food at lunchtimes.

How good do I have to be?

You need to be able to sail a boat around a triangular course and be confident to capsize and right your boat, rig and launch it. If you can do this- then you are ready to learn to race!

What equipment will I need?

You will need warm clothes, waterproofs and trainers or sailing boots, plus a change of clothing in case you get wet- which is very likely!

How much does it cost?

Training generally costs £3 a person a day, with open racing events and regattas around £5 per person a day. Food generally cost between £2-3 but you can bring packed lunches if preferred.



Some Information for parents?

Training is given by volunteers or RYA trainers who are qualified race coaches or instructors. Full safety boat cover is provided. All trainers are CRB checked and helpers are given child protection guidance. A declaration form needs to be signed when sailors first join Champion Clubs to allow the event volunteers to act in loco parentis if parents/guardians do not want to stay for the day- although you are very welcome to do so.



For further Details
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Milton Keynes and Bucks Youth Sailing Association



What is Champion Clubs?

It is sailing dinghy training and race coaching for young people aged 10-18 years, run by volunteers with support from the Royal Yachting Association and Volvo Car UK.



Some of our Successes

For the last 15 years MK&B YSA has taken a squad of young sailors to the National Schools Sailing Association Regatta.



The 2008 team at Carsington Sailing club

The team ranges from 11-18 years and has had great success year on year, taking 2nd team place for 4 years in succession and in 2002 winning the prestigious Mount Haes Trophy at Grafham Water



Left to right:

Will Crocker, Gordon Tweedle, (Manager) Bobby Foster

Emily Steaggles, Christina Wilson, Kayleigh Garrett, Jo Pakes with Paralympian, Nicki Birrell



For many sailors the NSSA regatta is the first opportunity to sail on a large body of water or even the sea, but the team supports the novices and the overall experience is usually a highlight of their sailing careers, remembered for many years to come.



Ryan Maycock, 2008 Team captain (front)

For a lucky few, nominations for the President Award can lead to a place on the Americas Cup Yacht 'Sceptre' and a chance to sail on this superb yacht for a week around the coast of the UK.

.....and on to greater things

Several of our Champion Club sailors have gone on to be members of the GBR Junior and Youth Squads, win National and Inland events and sail at European and World Championships. Other have trained as Instructors and Safety Boat crews, sailed for University teams or continued to beat the adults at their local clubs.



Jonathan Pakes, Lightning National Champion 2008 and with Dad (right) taking part in the Endeavour trophy at Burnham on Sea

The MK&B Champion Club Roll-Call

Roger Phillips, Topper Eastern Region Champion 2001

Richard Valentine, Topper National Champion 2003

Matt Undrell, Topper Eastern Region Champion 2005

Matt Johnson, Topper Eastern Region Champion 2006

Roger Phillips & Will Crocker, Vago National Champions 2006

Will Crocker, RS300 Inland Champion 2007

Jonathan Pakes, Lightning National Champion 2008 and MK Sports Achiever of the Year