



RYA Press Release:

AND THE WINNERS ARE....



**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SAILING AND YACHTING CLUB
CLINCHES 2018-19 UNIVERSITY SAILING SUSTAINABILITY
CHALLENGE**



The RYA and British Marine's joint environment initiative 'The Green Blue' has today revealed Newcastle University Sailing and Yachting Club (NUSYC) as the overall winner of the University Sailing Sustainability Challenge 2018-19.

After six months of competition, the successful students from NUSYC today claimed their prize on the main stage at the RYA Dinghy Show, in association with [Yachts & Yachting](#) and [Suzuki](#). Having clinched first place by achieving the most sustainable actions in the challenge, they received the competition's £300 top prize along with their certificate of congratulations.

Champions of sustainability

Environmental problems like waste disposal, climate change and the pollution of our marine habitats affect every human, animal and nation on this planet. Environmental issues are also a hot topic in lecture halls and common rooms across the UK.

Set up by The Green Blue and supported by the British University Sailing Association (BUSA), the University Sailing Sustainability Challenge provides an ideal platform for university sailors to demonstrate how achievable sustainable boating can be to the wider boating community.

Swansea University Sailing Club clinched second place and were awarded a £200 prize and in joint 3rd place was **Dundee University Sailing Club**, the University of Sussex Sailing Club and the **University of East Anglia Sailing Club** who each received a £100 prize. Representatives of the university sailing clubs were invited onto the main stage at the RYA Dinghy Show to have their awards presented by Campaign Manager for The Green Blue, Kate Fortnam, and Peter Saxton, President of BUSA.

Kate congratulated the universities for their efforts and achievement with their certificates and prizes. She said: "It's in everyone's interest to protect the natural environment that supports our recreational boating activity. That's why it's so rewarding to see these University Sailing Clubs once again commit to making their sport as environmentally sustainable as possible.

"The competing students have once again demonstrated their dedication and commitment to keeping their sailing environment clean, safe and beautiful for future generations of sailors."

Environmental audits

To recognise the achievements of the winning clubs, certificates were presented to the Sustainability Officer for each club. Their role was to organise, encourage and lead their club through the challenge to successfully complete a number of sustainable boating actions.

As part of the challenge, a set number of sustainable actions had to be achieved and evidenced by competing university sailing clubs. These included performing an environmental audit of their sailing venue to identify and improve areas that can be made more sustainable, ensuring all their members use reusable water bottles as opposed to one-use plastic bottles, installing an oil/fuel spill kit at their sailing venue to clean up accidental spills when refueling, and demonstrating 'check, clean and dry' best practice to minimise the spread of alien species around UK waters.

Next year's challenge!

The Green Blue has teamed up with BUSA to invite all UK University Sailing Clubs to enter into next year's University Sailing Sustainability Challenge 2019-20. If you know or are part of a university sailing club that is interested in getting involved or want to find out more about the challenge, contact Kate Fortnam, The Green Blue's Campaign Manager at kate.fortnam@thegreenblue.org.uk or call 023 8060 4227.

You can cheer on next year's University Sailing Clubs through the sustainability challenge by following @thegreenblue on Twitter and Facebook. Keep up-to-date with all the latest RYA Dinghy Show news and information by visiting the website www.dinghyshow.org.uk and following us on Facebook www.facebook.com/RyADinghyshow and Twitter #dinghyshow.

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

About The Green Blue

- The Green Blue is a UK wide programme created by the [Royal Yachting Association \(RYA\)](#) and [British Marine](#) in 2005 to enable the UK recreational boating sector to decrease its impact on the environment by: raising awareness amongst industry and users; reducing harmful discharges; reducing environmental disturbance; and encouraging sustainable choices.
- Since its launch The Green Blue has worked with hundreds of clubs and marine businesses – through workshops, guidance documents and bespoke advice – to improve environmental performance around waste management, resource efficiency, pollution prevention and compliance with environmental legislation and best practice.
- A more focused educational programme for The Green Blue now sees the project concentrating on two main areas: maintaining freedom of access and rights of navigation for recreational boaters in the UK's marine protected areas, as well as between water bodies (specifically concerning invasive non-native species).
- Core funding for The Green Blue is provided by the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine. For more information, visit www.thegreenblue.org.uk

About the RYA Dinghy Show

- The RYA Dinghy Show is a grass roots show run for enthusiasts. The RYA Dinghy Show provides a national platform, at an affordable cost for a blend of RYA Departments & staff, commercial exhibitors and for RYA affiliated class associations and clubs to interact with current and potential customers.
- The RYA Dinghy Show hopes to raise the profile of the sport & foster enthusiasm, increasing participation and frequency of dinghy sailing through the provision of a programme of talks, seminars, coaching and demonstrations. It also aims to increase the interaction between RYA staff & programmes and the public, promulgate good practice through seminars and talks, as well as celebrate the achievements of clubs and volunteers through awards and recognition.
- The first show, called “The Build your Own Dinghy Exhibition and Conference”, took place in 1952. By 1965 the show had moved to Crystal Palace, changed its name to “The London Dinghy Exhibition” and gained the active backing of the RYA, before becoming under full RYA control in 1983.
- From 1996 to 2004 the show, now held at Alexandra Palace, was known as the Sailboat and Windsurf Show. In 2004 the show title changed to the RYA Dinghy Sailing Show, to reflect the show's focus on dinghies and is today known as the RYA Dinghy Show.

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