



News Release

4 March 2017

WINNERS REVEALED IN THE 2016-17 UNIVERSITY SAILING SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

**Making it onto the podium...
...it's Cardiff, Kent, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Edinburgh and Bangor!**



Certificates and cheques presented to the Gold standard winners at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show at the Alexandra Palace by BUSA President, Peter Saxton and Kate Fortnam, Green Blue's Environmental Outreach Officer
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The RYA and British Marine's joint environment initiative 'The Green Blue' has today revealed Bangor University Sailing Club as the overall winner of the University Sailing Sustainability Challenge 2016-17.

Environmental issues are a hot topic in lecture halls and common rooms across the UK and most students are more than familiar with sustainability challenges that cause greatest concerns. Set up by The Green Blue and supported by the British University Sailing Association (BUSA), the University Sailing Sustainability Challenge 2016-17 provided an ideal platform for university sailors to demonstrate how achievable sustainable boating can be to the rest of the boating community.

Champions of sustainability

After six months of enthusiastic competition, the successful students from Bangor University Sailing Club accepted their prize on the main stage at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show at the Alexandra Palace in London

Having clinched first place, Bangor University Sailing Club received the competition's £500 top prize along with their certificate of congratulations.

Edinburgh University Sailing Club (EUSC) clinched 2nd and the £250 prize, and in 3rd place was the University of Plymouth Sailing and Powerboating Club who were awarded £100.



BUSA President, Peter Saxton
congratulates Bangor

Representatives of all three university sailing clubs were invited onto the main stage at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show to have their awards presented by Olympic medallist Mark Covell.

Hotly contested

In recognition of the exceptional standard of entries in this year's competition, a joint fourth place prize of £50 was also awarded to the university sailing clubs at Cardiff, Kent and Portsmouth.

Environmental Outreach Officer for The Green Blue, Kate Fortnam, congratulated all the universities for their efforts and achievement with their certificates and prizes. She said: "It's been fantastic to see so many University Sailing Clubs committed to making their sport as

environmentally sustainable as possible. This year's number of entries doubled since the inaugural challenge, so the competition was hotly contested.

“Our winning universities have clearly demonstrated their dedication and commitment to keep their sailing environment clean, safe and beautiful for themselves and future generations of sailors.”

Sustainable actions

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

At each achievement level, a 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 refuelling, 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 2017-18. 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 Environmental Outreach Officer, 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. Keep up to date with all the latest RYA Suzuki 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.
- The Green Blue has worked closely with event organisers and teams including WPNSA, Sunsail and Land Rover Ben Ainslie Racing to support them to achieve ISO 20121 – the international Sustainable Events Management standard.
- The Green Blue has also more recently developed a suite of environmental outreach activities to encourage instructors and training centres to integrate sustainability and environmental awareness into their work.
- Core funding for The Green Blue is provided by the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine. The Green Blue also receives support from The Crown Estate's Marine Stewardship Programme. For more information, visit www.thegreenblue.org.uk

About the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show

- The RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show is a grass roots show run for enthusiasts. The RYA Suzuki 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 Suzuki 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 Suzuki Dinghy Show.

About Suzuki Marine

- Suzuki Marine has been a sponsor of the RYA Dinghy Show since 2007 where it has sponsored the Safety Boat Area.
- All Suzuki Marine four stroke outboards provide quiet, fuel-efficient technology without sacrificing power and performance. So from the lightweight, portable DF2.5 to the award-winning power of the DF300AP Lean Burn, Suzuki Marine has an outboard for every application, including Club safety boats.
- Suzuki Marine was proud to be the sole supplier of marine outboard motors to the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Sailing Regatta. With the DF300AP, DF200, DF140, DF90A and the DF40A being used for this prestigious event it just goes to show that Suzuki’s outboards are ideal for commercial use as well as leisure.
- For more information, visit www.suzuki-marine.co.uk