

## **RYA PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FRASER MAKES IT HAT TRICK FOR LARGS**

The best young RIB drivers in the country went head to head on Saturday (13<sup>th</sup> 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 had to limit the numbers of drivers at the Finals to a maximum of two per club. 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.

The winner in the 8-12 year group was one of a pair of drivers from Largs Sailing Club. Fraser McMillan, age 12, stormed round the challenging course in 1 minute 30.83 seconds. Not only was Fraser part of a two man Largs team, he could claim the invaluable support of a "third man" in the team, 2007 national winner Gordon Bamford, who had coached Fraser in preparation for this final. Fraser's win meant that this was the third year in a row that a Scottish final winner came from Largs. Mark Spacey, 11, from Dalgety Bay SC took second place, with Ben MacDowell, 12, of Royal Forth YC in third.

Seventeen competitors came from all over Scotland to do battle at the Port Edgar final, including two person teams from Cramond BC, Largs SC, Clyde CC, Dalgety Bay SC, Intuition Petrolheads and East Kilbride Sea Cadets. Organised by boating's national governing body, the RYA, and main sponsor Honda, this regional final was part of a search to find Britain's best young RIB drivers.

In the 13-16 year old category, the winner was Ross Barker, 16. Ross, from St Andrews SC, made a cracking time of 1 minute 7.85 seconds. He needed that fast time to hold off second placed Kyle Maxwell Cox, from Largs, by just a few seconds. Kyle Hughes, of the East Kilbride Sea Cadets, took third. It was second time lucky for Ross Barker, who had competed in the 2008 final.

The final followed a Schools event the previous day, in which local schools were invited to send teams to try powerboating. Andrew Barnett, 10, won the 8 to 12 year category, while Lee Dickson led a trio of Craigmount High School pupils to a one- two-three in the older category.

The winners all received prizes from organisers RYA and sponsors Honda, and the two winners Fraser and Ross now go forward to the national Honda RYA Youth RIB final at Southampton in September.

There they both will have the chance to win a brand new 4.8m Ribcraft RIB powerboat with a 50hp Honda four stroke engine on an Indespension trailer, equipped with an Icom 505 VHF radio, all ready to take home to the competitor's sailing club or centre.

Martin Moll, Head of Marketing for event sponsor Honda said: "We are very proud and pleased to be associated with the RYA Youth RIB Challenge for another year because it allows us to create links with the wider community - giving a younger generation access to our products and helping them engage with interactive, team based, social activities.

Furthermore, as a manufacturer which puts safety at the heart of everything we do, the RIB Challenge gives us a great opportunity to underline this commitment."

Thanks to Championship sponsors Honda, Ribcraft, ICOM and Indespension Trailers.

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](http://www.rya.org.uk) .

**-Ends-**

Attached images;

HYR Younger group top three, L to R Adrian Bannister Event Organiser, Ben MacDowell third, Mark Spacey second, Fraser McMillan first, Jane Campbell Morrison RYA Scotland.

HYR Older group top three, L to R Adrian Bannister Event Organiser, Ross Barker first, Kyle Hughes third, Kyle Maxwell Cox second, Jane Campbell Morrison RYA Scotland.

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**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 the region at the National Final.
- The championship series aims to teach young RIB drivers how to manoeuvre RIBs and other small powerboats safely and skilfully under adult supervision. Split into two age groups 8-12 and 13-16, the competitors each in turn race against the clock, completing a course of challenging manoeuvres including a stop exercise, high speed slalom and reversing. Skill and control, and not necessarily speed, are the most important factors which help the young drivers achieve good times round the course.
- A RIB is a type of small powerboat

## 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](http://www.rya.org.uk)
  - You can find the RYA at RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA
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