



Recognising Volunteers in Sailing & Boating

The RYA Volunteer Awards, the MBE's of our sport, recognise the outstanding contributions made by volunteers throughout the UK.

RYA Award - to outstanding individuals for their commitment and services to boating and the RYA at a regional or national level.

Francis Elkin Award - Presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution in time, effort and personal endeavour in enabling people with disabilities to become involved in sailing.

RYA Community Award - to outstanding individuals for their exceptional commitment and services to boating at club or grass roots level. Individuals must be nominated by their club/centre or organisation to receive an Award, in one of three categories. Clubs may only make one nomination in each category.

RYA Community Award Categories

Lifetime Commitment - someone who has shown exceptional commitment and dedication to their club or organisation for at least 15 years

Outstanding Contribution - someone who has volunteered for less than 15 years but who has none the less made a significant contribution. This could be a single or 'one-off' contribution.

Youth - someone under the age of 25 on the 1st October 2012 who has demonstrated a regular commitment and/or inspirational contribution which is over-and-above their own participation or achievement within the sport.

Nomination Criteria

1. Nominations must be from an RYA affiliated club, centre, group, association, or region not normally an individual. Nominations will not be accepted from close family members. Nominations for National and Regional awards should be nominated by or, at the very least, be supported by the Regional or National body they represent.
2. A club, centre, organisation or association can make up to **three nominations**, one in each of the three Community Award categories in any given year. Each individual can only be nominated for an award in **one** category in any given year.
3. A person who is presented with an RYA Award will not normally receive a Community Award in subsequent years. It is however possible for Community Award winners to subsequently receive an RYA Award, or for individuals who receive a Youth Award, to then be awarded an Outstanding/ Lifetime Community Award or an RYA Award.
4. Joint Awards may be made where it is not possible to distinguish between the contribution of two individuals (e.g. husband and wife) and where each individual is considered worthy in their own right.
5. If the person being nominated for an Award, also has a 'paid role' or is 'employed' to undertake similar duties, they must also have given the equivalent service in a voluntary capacity. i.e. given significant time *in addition* to their paid work or employment. The nomination should make a clear distinction between their paid and voluntary efforts.
6. Posthumous awards will not normally be made.

7. Successful nominations will need to clearly show how the individual has 'put something back' into the sport, and that this effort/contribution is above and beyond normal participation in activities.
8. Nominations will only be accepted on the RYA Volunteer Awards nomination form.
9. Letters of support should be limited to 2 per nomination, 1 page A4 (approx 500 words) in length, and typed if possible, and must be from someone other than the person completing the nomination form.
10. Nominations should reach the RYA by Tuesday 8th May 2012.

Confidentiality

All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence. The RYA suggests that you **do not** inform the nominee that you are putting them forward for an Award to avoid raising expectations which may not be met.

RYA Awards Panel

The Awards Panel will consider each nomination and their decision will be approved by RYA Council in June 2012. This decision is final.

The RYA will endeavour to inform you and your nominee by early August 2012 if the nomination is successful.

If the nomination is unsuccessful the RYA will endeavour to inform you by early August 2012. The RYA will not inform the nominee if the nomination is unsuccessful.

Presentation of Awards

Successful nominees and their guest will be invited to receive their Awards at a special luncheon and presentation ceremony in November 2012 in London. (date t.b.c.)

Conditions of Entry

- All material submitted as part of any nomination and the copyright thereof shall become the property of the RYA. No nomination will be returned.
- The RYA may, at its discretion, change the award category for which the nomination is made.
- Only nominations received by Tuesday 8th May 2012 will be considered for the RYA Volunteer Awards 2012.
- Submission of a nomination form to the RYA is deemed acceptance of these conditions and agreement to be bound by them.
- The RYA reserves the right to change these conditions at any time by posting changes on the RYA website.

Please send the completed nomination form and supporting letters to:

Nell Power
Project Assistant - Volunteering
RYA House, Ensign Way,
Hamble, Southampton,
Hampshire SO31 4YA

Envelops should be marked 'RYA Volunteer Awards - Private and Confidential'.

Deadline for Receipt of Nominations – Tuesday 8th May 2012

How long has the nominee been involved with your club/ region/ activity?

How is the nominee known to you?

What role/s, tasks or activities has the nominee taken on or been involved with during this time?

Role/Tasks/Activities	From Approx	To Approx	Comment / Narrative

Please continue on separate page if necessary.

How has the nominee directly influenced the club/region/ activity?

What is so special about the nominee's contribution or achievements?

Is there anything else you would like us to know about, or consider regarding this nomination?

Letters of Support included: YES 1 or 2 (Please circle)

Signature of the person making the nomination:

By signing, you confirm that you have authority to make this nomination on behalf of the organisation you represent.

Date: