

Developing Partnerships between Clubs and Centres/other clubs

For the majority developing a relationship with other clubs or centres was seen as a topic which could produce huge benefits. Obviously with many clubs or centres there is a competition element for membership which will need to be considered, but for club development working together has many different advantages. Discussing current issues and sharing best practice between different local clubs, many found extremely useful and thought it may be worth setting up (if there is not one already) a local meeting on an annual basis where relevant issues can be discussed and fresh ideas shared. At the annual regional local meeting the points which could be discussed are:

- Calendars. Planning events so that there aren't any clashes in the calendar, but also agreeing to support each other's regattas or race meetings. Or combining junior trips away to other clubs.
- Membership; Developing membership can be done by working with commercial Recognized Training Centre's, Uniform groups and Schools (OnBoard).
 - Commercial centres are often taking people for "Tester Sessions" or "Start Sailing Lessons" for both individual and schools. However, they do not have the structure to keep the sailors in the sport in the long term.
 - Uniform Groups usually only keep sailors up to specified ages and they do not usually give the sailors the opportunity to get involved with junior or youth racing. (Scouts, Seafarers etc.)
 - Some clubs have had to establish relationships with recognized training centres, where they have organised courses for the club's junior and adult sailors. For example, adult & junior beginner courses where the club is not a recognized training centre or advanced courses with spinnakers or high performance boats for juniors who have completed youth stage one to four.
- Training; A number of clubs have joined together to run training groups between clubs. This may be a sea and an inland club for junior and youth racers. Increasingly we are seeing organized programmes to support junior sailors and develop the fleets between two clubs. It is not uncommon for some clubs to combine their resources to run training throughout the winter and racing to support their junior sailors. This is often "class" specific (Optimists, Toppers.)

- Racing; the combining of the racing between two clubs. Generally, we found that this results in better club sailors and stronger fleets for both clubs if managed and handled correctly.
- Class Focused for Fleet Development. We often found that where clubs worked with other clubs, it was usually organized around a particular class. For example two fleets combining to race and train over a period time
- Training of volunteers could be more local and inspiring if clubs combine, making it cheaper for all involved and easier to fill courses, funding could be made to go further. Again, sharing ideas and keeping the courses local in known environments are some added benefits.

Setting up a local training and racing circuit is another aspect where clubs and centers could work together, with the following advantages:

- Better fleet racing and training for small club fleets
- Social networking
- Increased numbers for training, e.g. Larger, more crowded start lines
- Change of scenery and environment for sailors and volunteers
- Motivation to be the best, introduces a competition element
- Introduces traveling for parents and young sailors on a local basis – a good stepping stone for those who may progress onto open meeting circuits

Inter-club away days (doesn't have to be racing, could be coastal/ non coastal), for social networking and general fun for both juniors and adults.