



**Keep your sailors sailing  
longer**

# Keep your sailors sailing longer



- Keep your existing ageing membership active for longer
- Accommodate a diverse range of potential members
- Equipment and adaptations



# Show of hands...

- Dinghy clubs
- Yacht clubs
- RYA Training centres
- Cruising clubs
- Sailability sites
- Percentage of your existing membership who are over the age of 60
- Percentage of your membership who are 'active'

# Making the most of your assets

Activity:

What does your club do well to support your existing members to get on the water regularly?

(small group activity)

What barriers do you think there may be at your club for older members?

(thoughts to take away)

# What simple things could help people to continue to get aboard?



# What have other clubs done to help keep people sailing longer...

crew pool/crew matching service

boat taxi to moorings

allocation of moorings/boat park spaces

member/tractor assistance to take boats to the beach/slipway for launching

handrails on pontoons/hoists,

seats in showers, handrails/wide benches in changing rooms

hi vis sailing instructions, flashing lights to accompany any blasts of the whistle for hearing impaired sailors

midweek activity programme

'silver sailors courses'

# What some sailors have told us...

“I used to be an instructor and race lots. I’m now in my 70’s and after my stroke I didn’t think I’d get out sailing anymore but I have started racing a challenger and I am loving competing again!”

“Our club has a fleet of 2000’s, several owned by sailors in their 60’s and 70’s who were sometimes struggling to find an agile crew. Our club is an RYA training centre and we actively signpost newly qualified sailors who don’t have their own boats to our fleet captain and they get lots of crewing experience.”

“I thought my sailing days were over when I found it harder to move around a boat but then I started sailing an access dinghy and it means I can still sail independently”

# Improving access around the site

- Take time to walk around the site and review any hazards
- Sometimes the smallest changes can have the biggest impact
- Think about the whole environment from car park, boat park, bar, toilets, stairs, changing rooms, pontoons and slipways
- Seating in changing rooms or a handrail in a shower cubicle could make all the difference
- Your Sailability DDO can help with reviewing accessibility at your club



# How can your club accommodate a diverse range of potential members?

- Make your membership offer clear
- Accessibility statement
- Consider marketing to new audiences
- Buddied sessions
- Basic training/induction sessions
- Make the most of your facilities
- Site audit to identify areas that can be improved/developed
- Club boats and equipment
- Disability awareness training

# Keep your existing ageing membership active for longer

Survey members to find out what's needed at your club

Access to pontoons, handrails to help step aboard

Assistance with recovering boats

Different racing/session formats

More variety to cater for a wider audience

Basic training/induction sessions

Make the most of your facilities

Site audit to identify areas that can be improved/developed

Club boats and equipment

Disability awareness training

# What next?



List 3 ideas/actions that you can take back to your club to help keep people sailing for longer



# Help and support

Disability Awareness Training

Support for site audits

Information and guidance on accessibility

Resources

Support to become a Sailability Accredited Site

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