

News Release



5 November 2019

RYA AWARD AND ROYAL APPOINTMENT FOR WALTON ON THAMES SAILOR



A Walton on Thames sailor will be presented with one of the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) most prestigious awards by HRH the Princess Royal, President of the RYA in recognition of his commitment to Papercourt Sailing Club (PSC).

Jeremy Riley was nominated for an Outstanding Contribution Award by his club and selected as a winner by the RYA Honours and Awards Panel. It will be presented at One Great George Street, London on Friday 22 November.

The RYA is boating's national governing body and the Volunteer Awards are considered the 'MBEs' of the sport, honouring people throughout the UK for their outstanding contributions across all the disciplines the RYA represents, including sailing, windsurfing, motor cruising, inland waterways and personal watercraft.

Jeremy is Vice Commodore and has been a member of PSC for 13 years, leading the youth section for over 11 of those. He is pivotal in ensuring the club runs smoothly, looks ahead and follows a long-term path to a sustainable future. When he took on the youth role there were fewer than 20 sailors training at the club, but his initiatives have resulted in a significant increase in participation, with over 150

youth sailors now regularly training and a consistent group of 30 RYA qualified trainers.

He has made sailing at PSC a fun and inclusive sport for children. This was recognised by the RYA when the club was chosen as Club of the Year in 2013 and also awarded British Youth Sailing Recognised Club status in 2018.

Jeremy has given outstanding service to sailing by concentrating on grassroots development of future champions whilst encouraging others to become instructors and help to expand the sport. His inspirational leadership, boundless enthusiasm and total commitment have substantially affected the lives of over 1,500 youngsters for the better.

On hearing that he had been selected for the award Jeremy said: "I'm thrilled to have won this award and accept it on behalf of all our members, especially our huge team of volunteers at PSC without whom we could not promote sailing.

"Sailing brings a sense of excitement, fun, individual development, personal challenge and achievement, and its positive impact on the lives of so many cannot be underestimated. As a family orientated club we recognise the importance of getting young sailors into the sport and then keeping them engaged for life.

"The volunteering ethos is embedded within our club and we actively encourage and support people of all ranges and abilities to take up sailing for life. This award should be seen as recognition for what makes PSC so successful and I'm humbled and honoured to accept it on behalf of all our sailors."

For more information about the RYA Volunteer Awards visit www.rya.org.uk/go/volunteerawards

Find out more about [PSC](#)

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For more information contact:
Michael Haigh
RYA Regional Communicator
Tel: 07925 609909

Email: mick.haigh@icloud.com
www.rya.org.uk



Notes to Editors:

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 111,000 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 recognised standards for training for both leisure and commercial boating through a network of more than 2,400 RYA Recognised Training Centres across 58 countries. More than 250,000 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
- You can find the RYA at RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA