

~ PRESS RELEASE ~
Under embargo until 1st December 2022

Sailing to success in the south west!

Whitefriars Sailing Club in the Cotswold Water Park is a worthy finalist for RYA Club of the Year 2023 - and needs your vote to bring home the top prize!



*Birds eye view Whitefriars Sailing Club:
RYA Club of the Year finalists 2023. Photography: Bob Bewley.*



*Whitefriars Sailing Club:
RYA Club of the Year finalists 2023. Women on the Water*



*Whitefriars Sailing Club:
RYA Club of the Year finalists 2023. Photography: Meg Kelly*



*Sunset over Whitefriars Sailing Club:
RYA Club of the Year finalists 2023.*

Link to folder with high res images: <https://nexchex.co.uk/index.php/s/enTHE2ipA7t5Ypa>

Whitefriars Sailing Club has been chosen as the Royal Yachting Association's south west region finalist for The Club of the Year 2023.

This prestigious award recognises the best dinghy sailing clubs from each of the ten RYA regions and Whitefriars is the only finalist out of 130 clubs in the south west region.

"We're thrilled to announce the finalists for the 2023 RYA and Sailing Today with [Yachts & Yachting Club of the Year Award](#)," said RYA Club and Volunteer Support Officer, Cat Ferguson.

"The shortlisted clubs were selected by the RYA Awards Panel who judged them on how well they promote the sport, encourage people onto the water and make their activities varied and accessible to their community. Our special thanks must go to Sailing Today with Yachts & Yachting and Gallagher for their continued support," added Cat.

Whitefriars Sailing Club at Lake 26 in the Cotswold Water Park has 700 members and offers a diverse range of on and off-the-water activities, including racing, cruising, an extensive RYA training programme and social activities for all the family.

"It is a real honour for our club to be representing the whole of the south west. It's a testament to our beautiful lake, our inspirational dinghy instructors and family-friendly approach, topped off by a well-maintained fleet of club boats". said Barry Hargreaves, Commodore of Whitefriars.

*"Our membership continues to grow each year because we are supportive, inclusive, safe and fun and we genuine live up to our motto as **the friendly club**."* he continued

The overall winner will be chosen based on the public vote. So take a moment to go online and show your support for sailing in the south west by [voting for Whitefriars here](#) until the public vote closes on Monday 23rd January.

The overall winner will be announced on the main public stage at the RYA Dinghy and Watersports Show, Farnborough International Exhibition Centre, on Saturday 25 February 2023.

If you happen to be there, don't miss the chance to see whether Whitefriars win first prize at the awards presentation.

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Royal Yachting Association:

Web: www.rya.org.uk
Insta: [@RoyalYachtingAssociation](https://www.instagram.com/RoyalYachtingAssociation/) / [@ryadinghyshow](https://www.instagram.com/ryadinghyshow)
FB: www.facebook.com/RoyalYachtingAssociation
Contact: Cat Ferguson catherine.ferguson@rya.org.uk
Tel: 02380 604218
Tickets: www.rya.org.uk/events/dinghy-show

Yachts and Yachting Club of the Year (supported by Gallagher):

Web: www.yachtsandyachting.co.uk/awards.yachtsandyachting.co.uk/rya/
Contact: Rob Peake, Group Editor of Sailing Today

Whitefriars Sailing Club:

Web: www.whitefriarssc.org
Email: commodore@whitefriarssc.org
Insta: [@whitefriars.sailing.club](https://www.instagram.com/whitefriars.sailing.club)
[@whitefriarssailability](https://www.instagram.com/whitefriarssailability)
FB: www.facebook.com/groups/18908217384
Contact: Barry Hargreaves (Commodore) 07721 371315
Tanya Kelly (Membership Secretary) 07732 493537

Notes for editors:

Whitefriars Sailing Club at Lake 26 in the Cotswold Water Park has 700 members (up from 450 at the end of 2020).

The club offers a diverse range of on and off the water activities, including racing, cruising, an extensive RYA training programme and social activities for all the family.

Proud to be one of the top clubs in the UK for Sailability capabilities, their friendly team of enthusiastic volunteers support this varied programme throughout the year.

The main club has a buoyant Juniors group with 120 active members working their way through the RYA Stages with the help of a team of keen qualified Dinghy Instructors, overseen by the Club's Chief Instructor.

Other groups include Women on the Water with 30 members who enjoy tuition and socialising once a month through the season. A radio-controlled sailing group of (mainly) ex-dinghy sailors race international class boats twice weekly and on Fridays a more relaxed atmosphere prevails when some beautiful scale replica sailing vessels take to the water. A local sea cadet group uses the lake to kayak and sail and the club leases the banks to South Cerney anglers who relax in all weathers.

The club is run by a committee of volunteers with five flag officers, seven additional committee members, 12 club officials and four long-standing Trustees.