



**Chanonry Sailing Club, The Harbour,  
St. Andrew's Walk, Fortrose, IV10 8TP**  
[www.chanonry.org.uk](http://www.chanonry.org.uk)



## **Recognised Training Centre (RTC) Report for 2025 AGM**

### **Introduction**

With a change of RTC management at the last AGM, the training team ran a similar programme to previous years. This included running formal RYA courses in sailing for beginners for both children and adults, and in power boating. As before, informal training consisted mostly of "Dolphins" for juniors and "Improvers" for all ages - fortnightly instructor-led sessions through the main season. We also ran a Club Safety Officer course for Assistant Safety Officers keen to progress onto being Safety Officers, and a women-only sailing taster session. Two of our sailing instructors attended an instructor continuous professional development day run by Findhorn Watersports, free of charge. The RYA inspected the RTC in July and gave us a clean bill of health.

### **Formal Training**

We have issued 34 RYA certificates this year:

15 Junior Dinghy Stages

8 Adult Dinghy Stages

11 Power Boat Level 2

Both the Junior Stage 1 week and Junior Fun Sailing Week in July were fairly windy, but for both weeks we had hardy junior sailors who were game for the tougher conditions, and as a result made extremely good progress, whether or not they were chasing RYA certificates. The more advanced junior sailors were again able to make the most of the advanced features of the Quests to learn techniques such as trapezing and sailing with spinnakers. The versatility of the Quest was once again demonstrated as it proved very useful in being able to take smaller, less experienced sailors out on the water when the conditions would otherwise have been too challenging for them in the smaller boats.

As usual, excessive winds played a part in hampering some of our training sessions, and the adult beginners ended up completing their course on a Wednesday evening, after exhausting both the scheduled and the back-up days programmed.

We had good interest in the PBL2 courses with the result that we have another raft of 11 newly-qualified power boat drivers who can help with safety duties to cover club sailing and other events.

### **Informal Training**

Attendance for Dolphins and Improvers was down a little bit on last year, although as always there was a surge of interest towards the end of the season once newly-qualified sailors had joined the ranks. These sessions are very much aimed at new sailors looking to get more time on the water with instructors, to practice basic skills, but also to provide opportunities to sail with other people at a similar stage, and to try out using the different boats under a range of conditions. Again, the Quests were popular and useful for adults and juniors alike to experiment with different aspects of sailing.

### **Instructors**

We have 14 club members who are volunteer instructors with RYA qualifications to instruct/coach sailing and/or powerboating as part of the RTC. We are very grateful for the time that they give to enable us to deliver the training programme through the season. Also in particular thanks are due to Chris Taylor as Chief Instructor Dinghy, and Mike Wilson as Chief Instructor Power.

### **Parental Help**

Formal and informal training for juniors relies on extra adult help. This year we encouraged some of the parents of our junior sailors to join a cohort of safety boat crew members who could act as assistant safety officers for our instructors on the water. Some parents gained their PBL2 during the season. They, and those who were already qualified, provided very valuable support to the training team to enable Dolphins and Junior Week activities to go ahead. We also very much appreciated the help provided by parents on shore to help launch and recover boats, and to supervise the hosepipe frolics associated with washing down the boats and putting them away! Thank you to all those parents who come forward to help – it really makes a difference.

### **Club Boats**

Our fleet of dinghies is a year older, and the older boats – principally the Topazes - are showing signs of wear and tear. However, Richard Jenner has done a sterling job in keeping them functional with timely repairs throughout the season – and in particular during Junior Week – so that we have been able to get the maximum number of sailors out on the water when we wanted to. Mike Wilson has worked hard to keep the RIBs afloat – including having to replace both the trailers this year, as age plus saltwater corrosion had rendered them both unusable.

### **The year ahead**

We expect the programme for 2026 to follow similar lines to this year, including RYA courses for beginner sailors, junior and adult and power boat courses. And informal instructor-led training for junior and adult sailors, and safety boat skills building sessions for our safety boat crews.

Due to family circumstances, I will be standing down as RTC Principal at the 2025 AGM. Rob Bashford has kindly volunteered to take on this role. He has considerable sailing and powerboat experience, including in senior and advanced instructor roles. He has

run his own RYA RTC previously too, so he is well qualified to take on this role, and we are very fortunate that he is prepared to do so, as such a relatively new club member. He is joining a well-established training team, who will support him into this new role.

Marisa Astill-Brown

RTC Principal

Chanonry Sailing Club

November 2025