



RYA Press Release

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HRH The Princess Royal watches the action at the 2005 RYA Youth National Championships and Trials at Largs SC. Credit Marc Turner

Final call for entries as Royal visit confirmed for 2009 RYA Volvo Youth Nationals

Sailors still to enter the 2009 RYA Volvo Youth National Championships and Trials are reminded they have until **SUNDAY 29 MARCH** to get their entries in.

Meanwhile, Great Britain's most promising young sailors will have the chance to show off their talents in front of a Royal audience after confirmation that HRH The Princess Royal will be attending the Championships at Largs Sailing Club next month.

Around 250 of the country's best Youth (19 and under) dinghy racers and windsurfers will converge on the West Coast of Scotland for five days between Monday 13 and Friday 17 April to do battle at what is regarded as British Youth sailing's premier annual racing event.

Having previously attended the RYA Youth Nationals at Largs in 2005, HRH The Princess Royal, President of the Royal Yachting Association, will again return to the

venue to see the latest crop of talented British sailors coming through the ranks on Wednesday 15 April.

RYA Youth Racing Manager, Duncan Truswell said: "It will be a great privilege for the competitors to race in the company of HRH The Princess Royal and as always we are very grateful to Her Royal Highness for supporting this event. We are always made to feel so welcome when we bring the Youth Nationals to Largs and are looking forward to another week of top class racing this year."

As well as acting as the RYA Volvo Youth National Championships, as always the event doubles up as a selection event for the Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships, which this year take place in Buzios, Brazil in July. Last year, Great Britain finished top of the ISAF Youth Worlds medal table and claimed the prestigious Volvo Trophy for the top performing nation for the first time since 1996.

This year Skandia Team GBR star Sarah Ayton will be among the panel of Youth Worlds selectors in Largs.

Ayton herself won an ISAF Youth Worlds Radial silver medal in South Africa in 1998, having won that year's RYA Youth Nationals crown, and the two-time World and Olympic Yngling champion admitted she was really proud to have been invited to join the selection panel at Largs.

She said: "Being asked to be a selector at the Youth Nationals is a real honour, when I got the call it took me straight back to my Youth Nationals win in 1998 and discovering that I had been selected for the Youth Worlds team. Competing at the ISAF Youth Worlds gives the young sailors a real taster of what an Olympics is like and can hopefully inspire those sailors to go on and win Olympic medals."

To get your entries in for the 2009 RYA Volvo Youth National Championships and Trials now visit www.ryaracingevents.org.uk.

Meanwhile sailors who have already entered for the event are asked to check that their entry has been confirmed by checking the online entry list. If your name does not appear on the entry list, you should contact Jenny Campbell-James immediately on 01243 641176. Entries are only complete once payment has been received.

No entries will be accepted after midnight on Sunday 29 March.

The latest RYA Youth Classes selection policy, incorporating the selection criteria for the 2009 RYA Volvo National Youth Squad, 2009-10 National Youth Squad, International Competition Support and the Tailored Support (TS) Programme, and selection notice for the 2009 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships can be found at www.rya.org.uk/Youth/youthsailracingprogrammes/Pages/aboutyouthsail.aspx

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