

## Press Release

27 May 2011



BKA racing on Farr 45 Kólga at the 2011 RORC Easter Challenge  
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### **Squad applications now open for the British Keelboat Academy**

The British Keelboat Academy, the joint keelboat racing initiative between the RYA and UKSA, are delighted to announce that applications are now open for 2012's squad selection trials which will take place over two weekends in September.

John Derbyshire, RYA Racing Manager, said: "The Academy has been running for over two years and in this time has gone from strength to strength offering sailors aged 18-24 the perfect opportunity to develop their keelboat racing skills.

"The BKA provides training in a range of areas both on and off the water, including boat handling, sail trim and campaign management, and also a number of areas of personal developments including teamwork and personal goal setting. Training is delivered by RYA qualified Keelboat coaches and industry specialists. All of this gives the BKA squad members the tools to run a successful keelboat campaign, fast-tracking their development and progression towards racing at the highest level," Derbyshire explained.

Luke McCarthy, British Keelboat Academy Head Coach, commented: "Preparations are already underway for next year's campaign and I am very excited to see the next wave of talented keelboat sailors at the selections in the autumn. The BKA offer a unique programme so are looking for people who have a passion for the sport, are determined and eager to learn and who have the right attributes to fit into the BKA squad. "Over the last couple of years the BKA has produced a constant stream of talented young keelboat sailors who have been able to identify a clear pathway for their future sailing. Members of the Academy sail regularly on the Farr 45 Kólga, loaned to the BKA by the professional Rán Racing team, and UKSA's fleet of J80 keelboats and enjoy competing in a range of events throughout the season.

McCarthy concluded: "There are still spaces available on the BKA race training weekends and I would urge sailors to attend one of these if possible as it will definitely give them an advantage going into the selection process. Spaces are bound to be limited at either one of the three regional centres so I would recommend booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment."

Online applications for 2012 BKA squads are now open with selection trials scheduled for 17/18<sup>th</sup> and 24/25<sup>th</sup> September at UKSA. Applications close at 12pm on Monday 15th August. To apply, please visit [www.britishkeelboatacademy.org](http://www.britishkeelboatacademy.org) and click on 'Squad applications'.

There are regional Keelboat training sessions taking place at Plas Menai, Port Edgar and UKSA throughout the summer. For a complete list of dates see the '[Regional Centres](#)' pages of the website, where you will also find the contact details for the centres to book places.

The BKA's sponsors include X-Ray at 77 and Group Dental, plus a number of generous supporters and suppliers. For more information about the British Keelboat Academy and how you can help with fundraising visit BKA website at [www.britishkeelboatacademy.org](http://www.britishkeelboatacademy.org), or follow the BKA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BritishKeelboatAcademy](http://www.facebook.com/BritishKeelboatAcademy) or on Twitter (@tweetbka).



**UKSA racing on J80 at the 2011 RORC Easter Challenge**  
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#### **Notes for Editors:**

##### **About the RYA**

- 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 103,000 personal members, the majority of whom choose to go afloat for purely recreational non-competitive pleasure on coastal and inland waters.
- It represents a further estimated 500,000 boat owners nationally through its 1600 affiliated clubs and boat owner associations.
- Olympic and Youth sailing is a beneficiary of the Lottery funded World Class Programmes (WCP) and administered by the Sports Councils. The Programmes focus on performance sport with the aim of achieving sporting excellence on the world stage. Further information can be found on the UK Sport website at [www.uksport.gov.uk](http://www.uksport.gov.uk) and Sport England's website at [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org).
- Further information can be found at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

##### **About UKSA**

- UKSA is the UK's leading youth maritime charity, working to change lives through maritime education and personal development.
- Based in Cowes, UKSA's 3.5 acre on shore campus and fleet offers a comprehensive range of industry accredited yachting and watersports careers, programmes, leisure, training and multi activity watersports activities for schools and youth groups. UKSA has a strong alumni network in the global maritime industry including the world-renowned sailor Dee Caffari.
- The charity celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. [www.uksa.org](http://www.uksa.org)