



## **RYA PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL VOLUNTEER RECEIVES AWARD FROM HRH PRINCESS ROYAL**

Hilary Davies from Bridgnorth, Shropshire was presented with an RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Community Award, one of the boating communities most prestigious awards, by HRH the Princess Royal, President of the RYA at an annual awards ceremony, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, at London's Church House.

A total of 60 awards were presented to winners hailing from across the UK from as far afield as the Isle of Man to Plymouth.

Hilary was put forward for the award by the Chelmarsh Sailing Club and Training Centre, where her great enthusiasm and knowledge of the sport has helped many others learn to sail. Her willingness to take on whatever task has to be done, and to ensure that it is carried out, together with her friendly and helpful approach, has resulted in many people who come to the club retaining

the impression that Hilary Davies and Chelmarsh are synonymous. Hilary is unique to dinghy sailing and is a credit to her sport.

The RYA Awards and Community Awards acknowledge the importance of volunteers within the sailing and boating communities. They recognise the outstanding contributions, time, effort and experience individuals have made to making it possible for others to enjoy boating and sailing, from establishing clubs, committee participation, to boat maintenance and training.

Jackie Bennetts, Volunteer Development Officer, RYA said: "This years' Awards have attracted a very high calibre of nominees with award winners putting in an average of 30 years service as volunteers for their clubs – one volunteer has given an incredible 50 years of volunteer services.

"Occasions like this allow us to fully recognise and celebrate the continuous hard work these people put in to our sport, many of which often go unnoticed – they really are the unsung heroes."

All the winners enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the presence of HRH the Princess Royal, and were presented with a commemorative medallion and certificate.

Rod Carr Chief Executive of the RYA said: "The work and voluntary time that RYA Community Award and RYA Award winners put into our sport is simply astounding. Every one of the 60 award winners has exceeded the reasonable expectations of their fellow volunteers, club members and the boating community in general. Without their sheer hard work, commitment, and expertise our sport would be immeasurably poorer.

"These people are an inspiration to us all and it is my pleasure to recognise and celebrate their work through these awards."

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**For further media information:**

RYA Press Office

Tel: 02380 604208

Email: [ellie.williamson@rya.co.uk](mailto:ellie.williamson@rya.co.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

- 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 103,000 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 a recognised standard for recreational boat training through a network of 2,220 RYA Recognised Training Centres in over 20 countries. On average 155,000 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](http://www.rya.org.uk)
- RYA Sailability is the leading UK charity for disabled sailing and is the official charity of the RYA. Registered Charity Number: 1084351
- You can find the RYA at RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA