



## RYA Connected Conference 2025

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 9am–4:30pm**

The Castle School, Wellington Rd, Taunton TA1 5AU

Time	Session
9:00am	Registration & Networking
9:45am	Welcome & Morning Plenary
10:30am	Refreshments & networking opportunity
11:00am	Power of Community forums Select one option
12:00pm	Lunch Buffet lunch with time to socialise and connect
1:00pm	Learning from Others presentations – Session 1 Select one option
1:30pm	Learning from Others presentations – Session 2 Select one option
2:00pm	Afternoon Workshops Select one option
4:00pm	Final Plenary Connecting to deliver Together on Water
4:30pm	Close

Please note, timings are approximate and subject to change



Time	Power of Community Forums Select one forum
11:00am	<b>Sailability</b> – Connect with others in the Sailability community; share your successes, challenges and learning. Develop a collective voice, celebrate the impact of what you do and help Sailability grown in strength and resilience Shape the insight the RYA collects to tell the Sailability story and develop the support you need
	<b>Welfare Officers</b> – Connect with other welfare officers within clubs; share your successes, challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of what you do to keep the Sport safe and help the community grow in strength and resilience
	<b>Training Centres</b> – Connect with other Chief Instructors and Principals, share your successes challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of what you do to keep people learning and help the community grow in strength and resilience
	<b>Club Racing</b> – Connect with others leading racing activity; share your successes, challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of what you do to keep people engaged and help the community grow in strength and resilience
	<b>Environmental Champions</b> – Connect with other club volunteers who have a motivation for improving our club’s environmental impact
	<b>Female Futures</b> – Connect with other women in leadership roles; share your successes, challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of what you do for female participation and help the community grow in strength and resilience
	<b>Committees &amp; Boards</b> – Connect with other committee members; share your successes, challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of your leadership and help the community grow in strength and resilience
	<b>Non-competitive Activity</b> – Connect with others leading non-competitive activity; share your successes, challenges and learning. Increase your collective voice to celebrate the impact of what you do to keep people engaged and help the community grow in strength and resilience



Time	Learning from Others presentations Select one presentation from Session 1 and one from Session 2
1:00pm	<b>Delivering RYA training flexibly:</b> Delivering RYA courses flexibly to suit your learners and your team
	<b>Making racing easier with tech and other tools:</b> Exploring the tech, tools and support that makes it easier to run racing.
	<b>Bowmoor Sailing Club – efficient use of volunteers when running a club open day:</b> Hear how Bowmoor Sailing Club efficiently used volunteer time and effort to recruit new club members at their recent Discover Sailing day. Busting the myth that open days are a drain on volunteer resources.
	<b>Thornbury Sailing Club – encouraging and thanking volunteers:</b> Get an insight into how Thornbury Sailing Club are developing their volunteers and highlighting the successes that volunteers are enabling. This approach is enthusing and encouraging a positive volunteer ethos within the club.
	<b>Recruiting a welfare officer</b> – Top tips on appointing the right person
	<b>Learning from accidents &amp; incidents (1 hour):</b> Learning from accidents, incidents and near misses over the last year. This presentation runs from 1pm to 1:50pm.
1:30pm	<b>Employing people or using volunteers – pros and cons:</b> Exploring the implications and benefits of employing or contracting staff or using volunteers.
	<b>Creating a strong volunteer culture:</b> Find out how two Class Associations (ILCA and Scorpion) and a Sailability organisation created a strong volunteer culture.
	<b>Support statements – empowering people with disabilities to become instructors:</b> Learn how RYA support statements have empowered and enabled sailors with disabilities to become instructors. Breaking down the barriers to volunteering.
	<b>Stoke Gabriel Boating Association – Investing in your volunteers to share the load and support succession planning:</b> Understand how Stoke Gabriel Boating Association are investing in their instructor team to create long term stability and high levels of motivation within the team.
	<b>Sailability@Whitefriars – How a structured approach to volunteer management promotes recruitment and retention:</b> Hear how Sailability@Whitefriars have gone on a journey to successfully recruit, retain and reward volunteers. This story of success is applicable to all clubs not only Sailability sites.





Time	Afternoon Workshops Select one workshop
2:00pm	<b>Planning for key volunteer roles:</b> Identifying the need, role descriptions, mentoring/shadowing; passing the torch; identifying and preparing future leaders – mentoring strategies, leadership pipelines, knowledge transfer, embedding succession into your culture (including competency)
	<b>Protecting your organisation and people – oversight and governance:</b> Reflecting on the activities you run on the water, the people that take part, the duty of care that exists and the liabilities you face – consider the assurance and oversight you need to protect your organisation and people.
	<b>Developing senior and chief instructors:</b> Explore how to create pathways for senior and chief instructors and a culture of support. Consider the levels, characteristics, skills, knowledge and training needed.
	<b>Enabling women and girls to thrive:</b> How can you create better experiences for women and girls and places where they can thrive in volunteer and leadership roles?
	<b>Enabling disabled people to thrive with RYA Training:</b> How can you use RYA Training to enable disabled people to learn and develop as sailors, volunteers and leaders?