



Frequently Asked Questions about the THAMES VALLEY CHALLENGE 2016 READING SAILING CLUB 2nd JULY 2016

What is the Thames Valley Challenge?

The Thames Valley Challenge is a 3 boat junior team racing event sailed in Fevas. The event is designed as a means of introducing young sailors to inter-club competitive sailing, in the form of team racing. It's an exciting competition between clubs but it's also great fun! Last year we had 12 teams and over 80 children sailing. It is an annual event, this year held at Reading Sailing Club with help from Goring & Thames Sailing Club.

When is it?

Saturday 2nd July. Entries to be made as soon as practical – see the Notice of Race for details and the entry form.

Do I need any particular experience?

You need to be able to sail competently around a course but no particular racing skills or team racing experience is needed. This is the perfect first event to do away from your home club or even a good introduction to racing.

So what is team racing?

3 crews sail together as a team. They race against similar teams in a series of short races, usually around 10 minutes, on an S shaped course. The aim is to beat the team you race against by scoring more points for the positions in which you finish (so 1st, 2nd, 3rd beats 4th, 5th, 6th obviously but lots of other combinations win too!)

Sounds complicated

Not really - if you can add up to 10 you can work it out. But we'll have live scores on display on the day so you can see how you are doing. And there will be a briefing on the day so you know how it all works.

Do I need to bring a boat?

No, all boats are provided on the day and we tell you who is to sail in which boat in the different races. But don't worry, they will all be rigged the same so nobody gets an advantage.

If you have Fevas at your club, and can lend them for the event, that will be really helpful. Please contact us to discuss on thamesvalleychallenge@gmail.com or let us know via the entry form.

So what do I need to bring?

You will need to bring a buoyancy aid and your usual sailing kit (wetsuit, swimming trunks, wet shoes etc.) and a change of dry clothes. There will be tea, coffee and soft drinks on sale, as well as food available to buy from a catering van on-site all day. We would also encourage teams to bring their

own gazebo and deckchairs as space in the club house is limited – this will allow teams to have some shade if it's too sunny, or shelter if it rains. There are toilets and showers located in the clubhouse.

What's the age limit?

You need to be 16 or under (as of 31st August 2015).

Can we enter more than one team?

Entrance is limited. You can enter more than 1 team although we cannot guarantee additional spaces at this stage. See the Notice of Race and entry form, available at <http://www.readingsc.org.uk>.

Where is it?

This year it's at **Reading Sailing Club** which is situated on a large picturesque former gravel pit adjacent to the river Thames in Sonning near Reading.

The club is located at Sonning Eye, clearly signposted just off the B478 Playhatch Road, to the north of Sonning and the River Thames. Access to the lake is by a gated private track.

The address is: Reading Sailing Club, Sonning Eye, South Oxfordshire, RG4 6TT. We will send out detailed directions after receipt of entries.

Sounds great - how do we enter?

First get together your team, 6 sailors plus up to 2 reserves. You also need an adult to be Team Manager to organise you on the day. Contact Stephen Day (thamesvalleychallenge@gmail.com) to enter, let us know early because there will be a limit on the number of teams.

How much does it cost?

The entry fee is a £90 a team. We also ask for a deposit cheque for £300 a team in case of any boat damage

Can I volunteer to help?

Absolutely. If you are not competing then there are lots of roles which we will need help with. Goring & Thames Sailing Club are helping to run the event with Reading SC, but we also ask that all competing clubs provide a couple of volunteers to help on the day - whether that's as a race officer, in safety boats or making the tea! All help gratefully received and we'll feed you on the day!

Need to know more?

Please see the Notice of Race and the RSC website <http://www.readingsc.org.uk> or contact: Stephen Day (thamesvalleychallenge@gmail.com)



Reading Sailing Club

With help from



Goring Thames
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