Greig City Academy

SCARAMOUCHE SAILING TRUST

Greig City Academy Sailing Programme: Annual Report 2022

The Greig City Academy students had another packed and successful season on the water in 2021/22. This report outlines their main activities and achievements. It covers everything from students getting started in dinghies on our local reservoir, to racing squads taking charge of their own yachts on the Solent, and all the way through to elite level competition, including national championships. One of our crews even competed against sailing Olympians and the elite of our sport at the international Etchells World Championships. We believe this is another first for a state school, as much of a breakthrough achievement as completing our first Fastnet back in 2017.

Once again, we are extremely proud of our students' hard work and dedication, making the most of the opportunities available to them. Our racing squads train week in, week out on the water soaking up knowledge from expert coaches. They take their fitness seriously and even manage their schoolwork around it all (which has seen greatly improved results!)

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported the programme, including the warm welcome we continue to receive across the sailing community and the financial support of many generous donors.

Girls-only Programme

20 girls trained on dinghies every week at the West Reservoir in Haringey, North London. They worked towards their RYA levels, and this led onto three trips sailing Wayfarers at Brightlingsea for a week at a time which was terrific experience.

The girls then undertook two five-day voyages with the Ocean Youth Trust. Sailing longer distances on a bigger boat, in and out of the

Solent, was a great experience, along with challenges such as anchoring at night on the South side of the Isle of Wight.
A core crew of eight girls chose to get seriously involved in racing. They formed a squad for Eros, our E-boat, which is highly competitive and lower rated than the other mini-tonners. During the year, the girls completed their first training outings with an excellent new coach. Now they are all set for competing as hard as they can in the year ahead.

Boys Programme

Approximately 60 boys in total trained on dinghies at the West Reservoir in Haringey, in groups of 10 per week throughout the year. These sessions keep getting better and better, with the improved coaching available.

Building on this initial training, 30 students went on to benefit from higher level dinghy training at the Andrew Simpson Foundation in Weymouth. The quality of coaching there is exceptional and our students have developed the skills to take their dinghy sailing and racing to the next level.

The Year 9 boys then took these skills to train on one of our mini-tonners, IF. We hope that next season they will mount their first campaign to race this mini-tonner, with its new sails and new rating certificate.

Riot completed Cowes Week 2022, two Hamble Winter Series Races and two ISC Inshore Series Races. This squad of eight students from Year 10 came a long way during the year. They won the Christchurch Bay race in July in a dying breeze and were well placed in their class in the Round the Island Race. We expect that the squad will now progress to the quarter-tonner Cote, freeing up Riot for another team in 2022/23. Riot underwent extensive modifications during the year, to stay competitive.

Eight students from the Sixth Form formed the squad for Cote. They competed in the IRC Nationals and won an amazing three trophies in

the 2022 Round the Island Race (the IRC Youth Prize, the Schools Prize and the winning ¼ Tonner). In Cowes Week, they scored a very creditable 4th place finish in their class and also won a race in the IRC Nationals. Through constant practice and application, this squad has established itself as the most competent crew we have ever had.

These students then also had the amazing opportunity of switching to Etchells during the summer. They were immediately competitive.

For the first time ever, they trained for and competed in the Etchells Worlds. We believe we are the first state school ever to have done this. And their effort went beyond just racing. They refitted their Etchells to overcome the issues faced by our previous Etchells crew and make the boat more reliable.

Five GCA students also undertook the ILCA (Laser dinghy) National Youth Series. This series of demanding national races takes place around the UK. We had to overcome significant logistical challenges to get the boats and students to the right place at the right time with the right support, changing the vehicle we use three times until we settled on the best solution! This is the area of sailing where we have had to overcome the greatest socio-economic barriers in order to compete, requiring a big investment in a relatively small number of students. However, we believe that this experience can provide a pathway for our students into the national youth squad in future.

In April, our flagship boat, Scaramouche was relaunched after a major refit. The hydraulic propulsion system was completely refurbished. Scaramouche made over 16 overnight trips around the Solent during

the year, each with at least eight students on board, enabling approximately 100 students in total to get experience of yacht sailing with all its technical and physical challenges. Our crews competed the boat in the 2022 Round the Island Race, Cowes Week, ISC Inshore Series, Needles Relief and the ASTO races. The future of Scaramouche is still being discussed and there is a possibility of changing the rating and rig configuration before the start of next season.

Thank you

All in all, we have had another exceptionally busy and successful year. None of this would have been possible without extremely generous support and donations from many people. Their donations make these experiences possible for our inner city students from North London. We can't thank them enough.

The Scaramouche Sailing Trust (UK registered charity no. 1183400) raises money for the GCA Sailing Programme.
We are very grateful to everyone at the charity for all their fundraising.

A huge thank you to our major supporters and funders:

- Sport England
- Dual Underwriting
- Greig Trust
- Tottenham Grammar School Foundation
- The Wickens Family Foundation
- The TK Foundation
- The Silicon Cup Regatta
- David Franks
- Richard Jacobs
- Darren Doherty
- Simon Patterson
- Louis Kenna
- Alex Mills
- The Betty Lawes Foundation
- The Royal Yachting Association

We are very grateful to have again been an official charity of Cowes Week 2022, and for the active support of many friends across the sailing world, including: the Cowes Harbour Commission, Cowes Town Waterfront Trust, Red Funnel, members of Team INEOS Britannia, the Wight Shipyard, the Cowes Week organising committee, the Cowes Quarter Tonner fleet, the Cowes Etchells fleet, North Sails, Spinlock, Marlow Ropes, the Royal Ocean Racing Club, UK Sailing Academy, Alex Thomson, Mike Golding and too many others to list. Our heartfelt thanks to you all. You are a crucial part of our team, and make everything we do possible.

We were exceptionally honoured to receive individual donations in the memory of Sam Richmond and Jamie Mears, both of whose lives and sailing careers were tragically cut short. We strive to live up to the faith their friends and family have placed in us.

The difference sailing makes:
Jaydon Owusu

"I was going nowhere with school. But when I started sailing, I saw the point of learning. Since then, I've achieved more than most people I know.

I was one of the youngest people ever to do the Fastnet and now I race as much as I can on Cote.

I've even had two job offers in sailing, that I never could have dreamed of. It's a million miles from my situation in Haringey. Sailing has taught me so many life skills- including organisation, resilience and the importance of working hard at all times to maximise performance."