Greig City Academy

SCARAMOUCHE SAILING TRUST

Greig City Academy Sailing Programme: Annual Report 2023

The Greig City Academy students had another packed and successful season on the water in 2022/23. This report outlines their main activities and achievements. It covers our programme from getting started in dinghies on the local reservoir, to racing squads in charge of yachts on the Solent, all the way through to elite level competition.

2023 Season

2023 has been an incredibly successful year for the Greig City Academy Sailing Programme.

With constant hard work and many early morning starts, our students have made the most of the opportunities sailing has to offer, and turned them into everything from silverware at Cowes to careers they had never dreamed of. We continued to be inspired by their commitment, ability, and achievements. We hope you are too!

Scaramouche

Crewed by students as young as 15, Scaramouche, our 1981 45-foot ex-Admirals Cup yacht, remains at the heart of our sailing programme. The yacht was used virtually every weekend in the sailing season to provide introductory sessions for new students, as well as to train our race teams for upcoming challenges. Based in Town Quay, Southampton, over 100 students sailed on her during the 2023 season.

Samiya providing instruction onboard Scaramouche.

Juniors

Our junior teams started their sailing journey at West Reservoir Centre Haringey, with 30 students sailing each week, and 80 involved in total. Their progress has reached a level where they can now benefit from dinghy sailing delivered by our regular coaches on the Solent.

They also undertook several wonderful trips to the Andrew Simpson Foundation in Weymouth, which provided high-quality experiences, despite challenging weather conditions. And we are very grateful to UKSA in Cowes for hosting more of our dinghy sailing.

The junior teams also embarked on a series of three-day trips on Scaramouche, sailing to locations around the Solent, ably assisted by more experienced Scaramouche sailors and our alumni.

Micah on the helm, of Scaramouche

Senior Boys

The senior boys have had a remarkable year of progress and growth. Eight students participated in an intense programme of ILCA dinghy sailing. Their constant hard training, week in & week out, paid off as the foundation for all their achievements.

Competing in May 2023.

The squad achieved great success in the challenging Round the Island Race on board our Quarter Tonner Cote, securing three trophies: the Quarter Tonner Class trophy, 1st School boat, and 1st Youth boat in the IRC Class.

Riot, in action above, sponsored by M7 Real Estate in action at Cowes Week, 2023 and below a happy crew alongside, post racing.

During Cowes Week, the team sailed an Etchells and consistently ranked in the top 3. And their performance in the Etchells Worlds in Cowes secured them funding to undertake qualifying races and compete in the Etchell Worlds in Miami. Their impressive performance left a strong impression and highlighted their potential for further development.

Jaydon and Jessye competing in Vilamora. Portugal December 2023.

In December Jaydon, Kai and Jessie were invited to compete in 7th Algarve Dragon Winter cup and travelled to Vilamora, Portugal, where they had an incredible time racing against international teams.

Felipe, Kyle and Corneille at the South Coast Championships

The students' achievements have garnered attention within the sailing world. Christopher-Joel was awarded the inaugural Cowes Week Youth Trophy, while Kai, competing in the Etchells class, became the highest-ranking under-25 helm in the entire Cowes Weeks regatta, winning the Musto Young Skipper Trophy. These accolades are a testament to what young people from inner-city backgrounds can accomplish when given the right opportunities.

Left to Right: Jessye, Kai with the Musto Young Skipper Trophy, Jaydon, and Christopher-Joel, with the Cowes Week Youth Trophy.

The senior boys are now also members of King George Sailing Club and hone their skills further, racing during their free weekends.

"This year I have become the lead sailor for Greig City Academy. It seems like yesterday that I was the youngest sailor to do the Fastnet at 13 years old. This year I have loved the chance to sail against some of the best sailors in the world in the Etchells fleet. My outlook on life and what's possible have completely transformed!

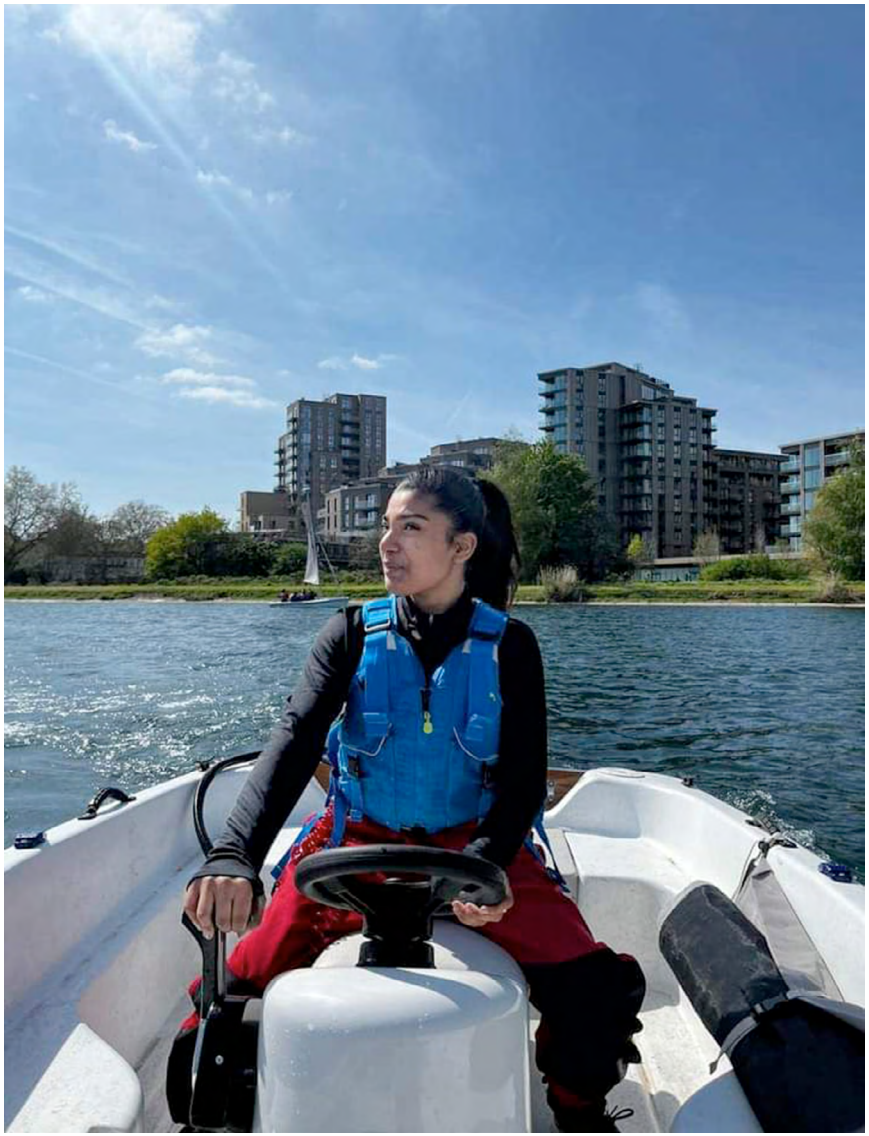
In the past year I have been to the Mediterranean to compete on a Cape 31. It was amazing to see the level of detail which the crew members go to before racing. I have so many opportunities for next year to combine my education with sailing!" – **Kai**

Girls Team

The girls' sailing programme has seen significant progress, with consolidation of skills, increased success across various disciplines, and expanded experiences. Samiya, who helmed Scaramouche for most of the Round the Island Race and the Silicon Cup, now works as an instructor at West Reservoir Centre.

"Since joining the sailing project with Scaramouche Sailing Trust, I have been able to become a fully qualified sailing instructor. This means I have a qualification which I can take with me around the world - earning as well as sailing. I'm looking forward to taking our girls team further next year competing on our mini tonner Eboat. Sailing has given me a real sense of responsibility - looking after the safety of the youngsters who I teach." – **Samiya**

The girls initially focused on a 10-weekend dinghy instructor course at London Docklands. Three of the girls successfully became RYA Dinghy Instructors, while the other five obtained qualifications such as RYA Powerboat Level 2.



This experience led to the emergence of an all-girls mini-tonner team on board Eros, which showed immense potential and trained with a GBR squad member on the Eboat. They regularly competed in the Island Sailing Club series, rapidly building up their skills and abilities.

Additionally, 3 junior teams of 10 girls took to sea in two sailing voyages with the Ocean Youth Trust on their Sail 23.4m Sail Training Vessel Prolific. Each voyage was five days long, sailing around the South Coast.

These voyages provided valuable lessons in self-discovery, teamwork, and skill development in an intense and structured environment.

Careers

Our students have taken advantage of new career opportunities including Jaydon who was awarded a four-year Superyacht Cadetship scholarship at UKSA. He will gain industry qualifications alongside real world experience, providing him all the skills he will need for a bright future in yachting. Others looking at opportunities within the industry such as crewing on superyachts, apprenticeships and sailing instructing.

Jaydon, undertaking navigation training ashore at UKSA in Cowes.

"Sailing has provided my with amazing opportunities. Last year with the support of the school I gained 12 professional MCA and RYA qualifications which made me sure I wanted to get into the marine industry. This year with the support of SST and UKSA I have been able to progress even more, and I am about to complete my Yachtmaster course. Sailing has totally transformed my education and employment opportunities. I would recommend it to everyone!" – **Jaydon**

Riot and Cote Crew, on board Cote, Cowes Week, July 2023 as featured in the Daily Mail. Photo: Murray Sanders.

Publicity

Following our successes in the Round the Island Race and Cowes Week, our programme received significant media coverage.

We were featured in The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail as well as BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio London, BBC London News, ITV London News and Channel 5 News, and in a Daily Mail feature.

Furthermore, at the end of the year we were joined on the water on Scaramouche by the BBC Travel Show crew filming for a feature on our sailing programme which aired in January 2024, which is available on iPlayer.

See what the world is saying about us!

BBC Travel Show

City Kids on the High Seas

Daily Mail

How a dinghy bought on eBay launched a truly unique group of pupils from Tottenham and their inspiring teacher to a haul of trophies at this year's Regatta

Olympics Website

Inner-city London schoolkids compete against yachting elite after buying boat on Ebay

The Telegraph

Sailing 'no longer elitist' after inner London teenagers win regatta prizes

Donors

The SST and GCA are enormously grateful for the donations of funds or equipment we receive from many individuals and organisations, as well as many contributions in the form of time and expertise. Without this support, we would not be able run the incredible sailing programme and to offer so many opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our sincere thanks to all who have supported us in many ways, including:

- Alan Stannah
- Alex Mills
- Ancasta Yacht Services
- Angel House Foundation
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Betty Lawes Foundation
- Chris and Victoria Preston
- David and Patsy Franks
- The Ethos Foundation
- The French Huguenot Church Charity
- The Greig Trust
- Louis Kenna
- M7 Real Estate
- Ocean Cruising Club Charitable Trust
- Peter Binning
- Red SP
- Ron Hoile
- Russell-Cooke Silicon Cup
- Simon and Harriet Patterson
- Spring Capital
- St. Paul's PCC
- Tottenham Grammar School Foundation
- Wickens Family Foundation

We are thankful to have again been an official charity the Russell-Cooke Silicon Cup Regatta. We have had incredible support from many individuals and organisations 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. You are a crucial part of our team and make everything we do possible. Thank you so much for everything.

We are particularly grateful for the donations we received in memory of David Riley. David was a wonderful man, a familiar face in Cowes and an inspiration to many. We are honoured by our association with him.

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.