

## Honda RYA Youth RIB Champions - 2008



This year's Honda RYA Youth RIB Champions are Steven Curtis (11) and Aaron Lowther (15), both from this region! Congratulations to both boys for their individual achievement and for being the first pair from the same region to win both classes.

Steven Curtis lived the dream of his young life when he won the junior class in the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship at the PSP South Hampton Boat Show (Sunday 21 September).

To make it an even more special day his older team mate Aaron Lowther, of the Island Sailing Club, Canvey Island, Essex, won the senior class – both in record times.

After a summer of fierce and highly competitive regional finals and a national final that proved a real nail biter, both boys beat off competition from 28 other youngsters from around the country to win their respective classes and clinch the coveted titles of Honda RYA RIB Champions. Steven stepped up his game by spending the summer practicing in tidal waters. Aaron, well used to the tides of the Thames Estuary, had originally been picked as a reserve driver but hours of practice clearly paid off.

In the 8-12 age group, Steven put in a winning time of 1.13.60, whilst Aaron, in the 13-16 age group raced home with a winning time of 1.03.27.



Both skillfully manoeuvred around a tricky and testing course which included a slalom run, 360° reverse around a buoy and a man over board test.

Each won a 4.8m Ribcraft RIB with Honda BF50 Outboard, on an Indespension trailer with an Icom 505 VHF radio, for their club – one complete RIB package for each class. The boys also won a selection of other goodies thanks to the event sponsors which included: a Sea Lite remote control sail boat courtesy of Honda, Henri Lloyd clothing thanks to Indespension, £100 from Ribcraft and an Ipod each from ICOM, as well as their much deserved winner's trophies.

Steven, who is younger brother to previous Honda RYA Youth RIB Champion Katrina Curtis, said of his win: "It feels fantastic to have won. Half of me thought I would win and the other half thought I really wouldn't. This is the third year I've competed in the event so I'm really pleased to have finally clinched the title.

"I did some extra tidal race practice which I think really helped me do well this year. I shall definitely be back next year to defend my title and maybe in the future I will go on to race powerboats as a job."