

## **YOUNG WINDSURF AMBASSADORS SPREAD THE WORD**

Two young windsurfers from Suffolk have been appointed RYA Team 15 Ambassadors in a bid to encourage even more youngsters to sign up for the leading youth windsurfing programme and to help in the education of young sailors.

Jack Trollope and Matthew Barton both sail with Alton Water Wipeouts T15 windsurf team based at Stutton near Ipswich and are members of the East Zone Windsurf Squad. They are the first windsurfing ambassadors to be appointed in the region.

The new ambassadors are youngsters from the RYA Zone Squads, who typically range between eight and 15 years old and are tasked with helping develop their Team15 club by promoting Team15 and the RYA pathway and Zone Squad programme to other young sailors.

The ambassadors will also represent the RYA at Team15 inter-club events and act as a point of contact for any young sailors who may have questions about the zone squad and other training opportunities.



Gillian Wright, RYA Windsurfing Development Officer said: “The ambassadors are a great way for the youngsters to share their skills and knowledge with other young sailors. All the children taking part are so enthusiastic, but with some events having 50 plus competitors they are going to have their work cut out for them.”

The first Team15 Ambassadors were presented with their certificates and specially designed rash vests at a recent Zone Squad training weekend.

T15 was set up by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) to help make windsurfing more accessible and appealing to youngsters at a grass roots level and is supported by industry leaders Neilson, Tushingham/Starboard, Windsurf magazine, Boards magazine and Neil Pryde.

The emphasis is on fun and weekly informal training sessions by specialist RYA coaches take place at T15 clubs all over the country for youngsters up to the age of 15. Kit can be borrowed from the clubs and the cost of sessions is kept low. Here in East Anglia the RYA Eastern Regional Committee recently purchased a ten-board fleet of the latest windsurf kit for youngsters to get involved with the sport.

To add spice and give the youngsters a competitive edge and race training for those keen to hone their skills, there is an inter-club T15 competition, which runs throughout the summer across the region.

To find out how you or your local club can get involved in Team15 visit:

[www.team15.org.uk](http://www.team15.org.uk) or contact the RYA **0845 345 0400**.

So, if you're a windsurfer in one of the RYA Zone Squads and would like to apply to become a Team15 ambassador, then email [team15@rya.org.uk](mailto:team15@rya.org.uk) for an application form.

