

Tune up your racing skills at Dinghy Show



SailX is a unique online game that enables you to race virtual sailboats against racers from all over the world in real-time around short courses and in strict accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing, with each race lasting approximately five minutes.

The game's creator Amando Estela explained: "SailX is designed to 'game' the mental aspect of inshore racing, with

the gamer able to issue simple instructions to a virtual sailor on board their race boat. These instructions are very simple (tack now, gybe now, etc.) yet the rationale behind them is based on the same complex strategic and tactical considerations that exist in real-world racing. Because of this (like chess or checkers) the game is simple and addictive for the 'newbie' and, at the same time, extremely challenging for the advanced user and real-world sailor.

"We even have current Olympians training and being coached on SailX in the build-up to the London 2012 Games," he added. The registration and practice period runs until the 29 January so there's still time for you to give it a try and warm up for the quarterfinals that start on the 30 January and run until the 12 February. Semi-finals will take place between 13 - 26 February before we crown the class and individual champions at the Show.

"It's a very simply process to get involved," Amando continued. "To play SailX and join the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show Championship all you need to do is visit the SailX website www.sailx.com/ryavolvodinghyshow and register for the championship. Registration and racing is completely free and once you've registered you'll be racing as part of a truly global community of racing sailors with some 25,000 racers from 98 countries worldwide taking part."

Of course a computer game could never test all skills involved in sailboat racing, but as a high-performance rules and strategy-based racing game, SailX does offer an interesting insight into who really has the best understanding of these fascinating and vital areas of our sport. On top of this, given the importance of these mental aspects, SailX also provides sailors with a great platform to shout about what makes the sport so special and to engage new people in sailing's fascinating game play. "We're really thrilled about SailX coming to the show this year and I'm sure the finals will be very exciting. There will also be the chance to win a wildcard entry in to the finals at the SailX stand during the show, so if you miss out on the pre-show qualifying you could still take part if you come along to the show", explains RYA Shows Manager Helen Waterhouse.

In addition the famous Endeavour Trophy will also be associated with this event, with the winning class being awarded the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show SailX Championship Trophy 2012, and the winning individual being awarded with the Virtual Endeavour Trophy 2012. The Endeavour Trophy, a fine silver replica of the J Class yacht,

Endeavour, donated by Beecher Moore in 1934 and awarded to the Champion of Champions of the British dinghy world on an annual basis, will also be on display throughout the show. For more information on the RYA Volvo Dinghy Show SailX Championship 2012 and to register to take part visit the SailX website .