



Steering
the Course 
Women's Sailing
Festival

Steering the Course 2022 Review

sport / nature / technology



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Townsville Sailing Club,
Australia (Facebook)



Introduction

2022 saw the return of Steering the Course, Women's Sailing Festival. This second year of the festival saw even more nations and sailing clubs taking part, with activities in over 32 different countries.

We saw a broader range of activities than ever before including women's regattas, introductions to officiating, question and answer sessions and of course, opportunities to come and try sailing for the first time.

We invited MNAs, Class Associations, Sailing Clubs and communities to sign up and host events and were overwhelmed with the support and events that took place worldwide.



Who took part



Festival 1 - Activities Around the World

These activities all took place during the first Northern Hemisphere Steering the Course festival from 20 – 29 May 2022.

Barbados Sailing Association

Participating again in 2022, Barbados ran a Girls Dragonflite regatta for Steering the Course 2022. The beginners had a great introduction to Radio Sailing, getting to see how sailing works, with lots of interest in signing up for beginner sessions.

Bahamas Sailing Association

On Saturday 21st May, **the Royal Nassau Sailing Club**, along with the female sailors from **New-Providence** hosted a fun regatta. Sailors took to the water in a range of boats to compete and have fun. Social activities at the club followed including a wrap up BBQ.

Royal British Virgin Islands Yacht Club

Building on their successful participation in 2021, **the Royal British Virgin Islands Yacht Club** hosted another open day with more women coming to join in with sailing activities and signing up for future sessions.

It was great to see an update from 2021 with the club saying...

“One year on from the inaugural edition, our women’ sailing classes are booked out and last weekend we celebrated the journey from first time out in May 2021 and the excitement of our newest students who began their own journey just a few weeks ago”.



Royal British Virgin Islands
Yacht Club (Facebook)





The Sint Maarten
Yacht Club (Facebook)



Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association

The **National Sailing Academy** again hosted a range of activities as part of the festival including guided sailing sessions for all ages, giving participants a chance to get out on the water with an instructor and experience sailing. They also hosted their first women's regatta as part of the event with racers taking part in a variety of boats. There were also opportunities to try other water sports at the centre as part of the day including kayaking.

Sint Maarten Yacht Club

The **Sint Maarten Yacht Club** coloured pink on Ascension day, May 26th, as 60 women and girls tried out sailing and Paddleboard Pilates! After last year's success, the Sint Maarten Yacht Club decided to participate again in the Global Women's Sailing Festival 'Steering the Course'. There was a great vibe with opportunities to be active and try out sailing or Paddleboard Pilates, as well relax on the dock, catch up with friends and enjoy some drinks.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Sailing Association

Over 40 ladies and girls were involved in this year's event, focused on getting Women on Water. Participants had the opportunity to take a trip around the bay or try sailing for themselves.

Women on the Water Regattas

Joining in as part of Steering the Course, the **Women on the Water Regattas** took place across Denmark, Germany, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

Boats are supplied at the event and they focus not only on getting more women on the water but also networking and social opportunities on land too.

Hungarian Sailing Association

Hungary hosted a range of women sailing events celebrating both their youth and senior sailors as well as hosting a women's race with Steering the Course branded prizes!

RYA

The RYA embarked on a substantial 10 day program of Social Media activation across their main and regional channels. Stories from participants, coaches, instructors, officials and sailors alike were highlighted.

Clubs could then host their own activities too including activities at:

Queen Mary Sailing Club hosting 'Women at the Helm' Club Races as well as hosting a Women's Keelboat Day, with 27 women attending plus 4 female instructors it made for an amazing day. With perfect breeze and sun, sailors went from learning about the boats to bringing all 7 boats together for some racing and a victory lap around the reservoir.

Brading Haven Yacht Club hosted activities on how to become an instructor and open days for new sailors.

The Sussex Yacht Club pulled together a Watersports Festival to offer taster sessions of the many different watersports that take place at SYC. SYC women showcased the various water sports and offered Sonar sailing, powerboat, SUP, outriggers and diving taster sessions. It was a successful event and it was such a pleasure to meet so many women curious about water sports. Over 100 sessions took place and approximately 80 women came to Shoreham to try a new activity and the feedback has been amazing. Well done to SYC for supporting this venture.



Queen Mary Sailing Club
(rya.org.uk)



Brading Haven Yacht Club
(@royalyachtingassociation
instagram)



Dominican Republic



Japanese Sailing Federation

Building on their activities from 2021 the Japanese Sailing Association hosted a range of activities. These included:

- **Hansa Sailing Taser Sessions** hosted by Para Sailing Tokyo, this event gave opportunities for everyone to take part in festival.
- **eSailing Taster Sessions** to build on the racing experience of female eSailors
- **A Radio sailing session.**

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic celebrated during Las Terrenas Regatta from May 20-22nd. At the regatta 10 out of 49 competitors, were female: 4 optimists, 3 ILCA 6, 3 Sunfish. There were also 3 Office Staff, and 4 Officials in the Race Committee who were female. Alongside this the Federation trained 2 new female officials, where it was their first-time officiating.

T-shirts with pink sleeve were distributed with the steering the course and phrases on the back such as:

- **Cambiando el Rumbo - Changing the course**
- **Las Chicas llevan el Timon - Girls handle the wheel**
- **Girls power, yess!!**

Slovak Sailing Union

Events were hosted across the country including:

- **“Don’t ask me, why I sail, I ask, why you don’t” ...inspire your schoolmates to sail with you.**
Sailing taster day for young girls.
- **Female breeze**
Sailing taster day for women – introduction to dinghy sailing and boat handling experience
- **Sail with her**
Female coach sessions
- **A boat goes by a female gender**
Women and Girls Taster session
Women and Girls Beginner Course
Women at Helm
- **Beat your fear – just sail**
Sailing taster day for women – introduction to dinghy sailing and boat handling experience.

Chile

Taking part in Steering the Course for the first time, Chile hosted their first female nautical festival with over 100 women taking part.

Festival 2 - Activities Around the World

These activities all took place during the first Southern Hemisphere Steering the Course festival from 30 September – 9 October 2022.

Hong Kong

Sailability Hong Kong held an incredible range of activities, that saw:

30th September - Senior Sailors with Ladies at the Helm

1st October - Saturday Sailors (SEN) with as many female volunteers as we can get and Ladies Helm + Sailing for underrepresented youth - Ladies helm

2nd October - Para Sailing Team racing + TREATS Charity with Women's Helm

4th October - Ladies Day for VI & ASD Sailors

5th October - Joining Hebe Haven Yacht Club for Race Management Training and trips out on our new flagship Mo Han with female helm

6th October - Ladies Day for Direction for the Handicapped Assoc sailors

8th & 9th October - Port Shelter Regatta with Mo Han - Ladies Helm

9th October - Hong Kong Society for the Blind - celebrating Women on the Water

Hebe Haven Yacht Club hosted the Women on the Water Wednesdays, opening the sessions to the public. They could learn about race management from volunteers, and then take part in some racing aboard J80s. They also hosted the Port Shelter regatta.





Egypt Rowing Club



Hellenic Sailing Federation

The Hellenic Sailing Federation hosted a fantastic day of activities from the Athens International Sailing Centre.

The program is addressed to mothers and daughters, young and teenage women, who want to live the wonderful experience of sailing, to be fascinated by the freedom and joy it offers, and who want make a “revolutionary” change in their demanding everyday life. To make sailing essential in their lives.

To get educated, train and - why not - take part in competitions and win. Additionally, rewarding themselves by improving their mental and physical well-being.

The day included boat familiarisation, knot challenges, water safety and of course the chance to have a go at sailing.

With the EUROSARF Match Racing, Women’s European Championship 2022 also taking place in Greece in October they used the event to further promote opportunities in womens sailing.

Egypt

Participating for the first time, introductory sessions were held at the **Egypt Rowing Club** in Cairo for young female sailors to have a go in the Optimist! Participants had a fantastic time and will be back for more in the future.

Australia

Australian Sailing hosted their annual SheSails Conference webinar, as part of the Steering the Course Festival. The 2022 event was a blockbuster with over 250 participants dialling in from sailing clubs across Australia & New Zealand; breaking last year’s record to become the largest SheSails gathering to date. Speakers included:

- **Jessica Watson OAM**, sailor & pioneer
- **Nina Curtis**, Olympian & Australia SailGP team member
- **Freya, Lucy and Alexi** from Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club in NSW, Australia
- **Bronwynne Howse** from Kohimarama Yacht Club, Auckland in New Zealand
- **Lee Renfree** from Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club in VIC, Australia

Across the country, clubs hosted their own events too. **Townsville Sailing Club** took new and experienced sailors out on their fleet of Pacers on Cleveland Bay

Uruguay

Steering the Course initiative in Uruguay was fostered by **the Yacht Club Uruguayo-YCU**.

Two short courses were held at YCU on the one hand we had 2/5 women at theoretical-practical course for nautical instructors and; and on the other 27% girl participation (Clara Arhancet, Rocío Capoferri, Manuela Cresci) at the upgrading skills course for optimist children sailor. In addition, at the South American Optimist Championship (up to 15 years of age) which was held in Rio de Janeiro, the Uruguayan team was present with a total of 15 participants, 9 of them girls, being the highest participation of girls in the history of our national teams.

Within this context, we saw the opportunity to push beyond the 10th of October, as the month is still running, and we proposed ourselves to give visibility to the efforts and brilliant results of five young women that had continued the path towards competitive international sailing in our country, conceiving a media campaign Excellence & Generosity. This has been really we received on social media

South Africa

South African Sailing embarked an AMAZING 10-day country wide program. Each day saw a new feature celebrating the different pathways in sailing as well as encouraging clubs across the country to host their own activities. Some club activities included:

Milnerton Aquatics Club welcomed all ladies to come try sailing with lots of new participants.

The Sail Africa foundation in Durban, played host for all ladies eager to learn more about sailing. 12 girls experienced sailing and got to make their own waves whilst being shown the ropes.

Lake Denys Yacht Club played host to over 30 ladies - 15 years and up from diverse cultural backgrounds for a Learn to Sail weekend! The ladies were introduced to the theoretical and practical basics of sailing and then the following day get to hop on board participating in the '42nd annual LDYC Ladies' Round-the-Island Race'.

South African Sailing highlighted role models from across the sport including sailors from across the county.

@Southafricansailing
(instagram)



Brazil

As a part of Steering The Course 2022 **Snipe Divas** organised a women's only snipe regatta: Snipe Women's Cup for the 4th year in Sao Paulo, and as a legacy from the Snipe Women's Worlds in 2021 we managed to expand the regatta for 1 more location in Rio de Janeiro.

- 8 and 9 October 2022 - Snipe Women's Cup Sao Paulo - Troféu Marina Prada
- 5 and 6 November 2022 - Snipe Women's Cup Rio de Janeiro

New Zealand

Yachting New Zealand collaborated with SheSail to be part of the SheSails conference. Engaging speakers with the new #ItsMyMove

Events took place in clubs across New Zealand. Activities were encouraged through the Club network that has been created to support more female sailing.

Pleasant Point Yacht Club held a Wahine on the Water event where beginner sailors were welcomed on day one and more experienced sailors had the chance to race on day two. Both days drew fantastic numbers.



Snipe Divas Brazil
(www.snipewomen.com)



Yachting New Zealand
(www.yachtingnz.org.nz)

World Sailing Activities



eSailing

The eSailing challenge evolved from 2021 with this year offering a place in the eSailing World Championships Semi-Final up for grabs for the Steering the Course winner.

In May, eSailors took part in the Steering the Course challenge event. the challenge was open to all players, however the top 20 ranked female sailors would qualify for the live playoff in September, to get the place in the Semi-Finals! The challenge took place across Barbados, Copenhagen (DEN) and Plymouth (GBR) – with the boats changing from ILCA to 49er to Nacra 17 for each location.

In total, there were 6376 unique players, and together they sailed 44986 miles. The leaderboard after the challenge:

Female ranking:

1. Ayaka Nakayama (Hell2U)
2. Natalia Pryba (AntilaAquila)
3. Rosalba Giordano (sosi)
4. Sandra Schaer (Yuzu)
5. Barbara Cavyn (TRAP Barbie22)
6. Nana Hu (Laser201314)
7. Alma Atzori (Alma-AZ)
8. Jenna Snedker (Rooster Jenna S)
9. Maria Cristina Gatta (CRIOK700 – CVD)
10. Miki Hanako (Kanakano_)

In September the top players, returned to battle it out. Held over six races and rotating between 49er, Laser and Nacra 17 boats. The winner was Yuzu from Switzerland, who won the opportunity to take part in the eSailing World Championship Semi Finals, held on 2 October.

Steering the Course Panel Discussions

Two panel discussions were held across the festival to give viewers from across the world the chance to hear from females in specific topics. Panel 1 was held live during the mid-year meeting in Abu Dhabi in May, and featured two of World Sailing's Vice Presidents, Özlem Akdurak (TUR) and Cory Sertl (USA). The panel was hosted by Pınar Coşkuner Genç.

This panel looked at Female Leadership, with commentary around the World Sailing Governance reform, Board positions and areas for further development in the future.

The second panel was held in October, focusing on Race Officiating and how to develop more women across the different positions. The panel consisted of:

- International Judge – Rosemary Collins (AUS) – events include Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and 2022 Youth Sailing World Championships
- International Measurer – Dina Kowalyshyn (USA) – Dina is an IM in the J70 Class, as well as chair of US Sailings measurement committee, and has done vast amounts of work on Class Rule and compliance. As well as leading the equipment committee through equipment selection for the Windsurfer and Dinghy events in Paris 2024.
- International Race Officer- Elena Papazoglou (CYP) – Elena is an International Race Officer with experience including being PRO at the 2018 Optimist World Championships. Elena is also chair of the World Sailings Women Forum.
- EUROSAF Vice President – Timo Haß – Timo leads on the Race Officials Exchange Program EUROSAF offers.
- International Umpire & Judge – Chris Lindsay (IRL) - Chris is the chair of the International Umpires Sub Committee and a trainee Instructor. Chris is active in the development of officials and he was at Tokyo 2020 as a Digital Official.
- Ricardo Navarro (BRA) – Ricardo is an extremely experienced Technical Delegate and will be one of two technical Delegate at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Both panels can be watched back on the Steering the Course Youtube playlist [here](#).

Role Model Videos

World Sailing also wanted to promote more female role models across all areas of the sport. These videos highlighted some key areas of their journey including:

- How did you get into the role?
- What's been your highlight in the role?
- What drives you to get up and come to complete your role each day?
- What challenges did you come across getting to where you are today?
- What advice would you give to someone interested in becoming involved?

Our features included:

- **Neus Jordi** – Media Manager
- **Pınar Coşkuner Genç** – Principal Race Officer for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

Working with World Sailing Partners

TMusto, World Sailing's Clothing partner, also engaged in Steering the Course, promoting their brand ambassadors as part of the May festival.

Their ambassadors shared their experiences in sailing in order to inspire other women to give it a go. Profiles included **Sam Davies**, **Vita Heathcote** and **Alexandra Wardall**



@mustoclothing



@yachtcluburuguayo (instagram)



@corfusailingclub (instagram)



@southafricansailing (instagram)



@hellenic_sailing_federation (instagram)



@hungariansailing (instagram)



Hebe Haven Yacht Club



@southafricansailing (instagram)



@svgsailingassociation (instagram)



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