

JUNIOR RIB CHALLENGE 2014



by Eibhlin Smith



Participants in Craftinsure Junior Rib Challenge 2014

This is the second year for this very popular competition, which is generously sponsored by Craftinsure. The Challenge took place during the 2014 Shannon Boat Rally. The competition is aimed at young boat handlers under 18 years of age in RIBs, speedboats, PWCs and dinghies. The competition promises to challenge all skill levels and is divided into appropriate age brackets. Emphasis is on water safety, boat handling, respect for others and the water.

The competition is aimed at future mariners being put through a rigorous assessment in all aspects of boat handling designed to

improve their ability to handle craft in challenging conditions and to improve confidence and competence. There are some technical, health and safety considerations too but the focus is mainly on 'on the water' handling with some manoeuvres at speed for over 12s. Some parts of the competition take place in confined spaces.

The judges will only accept people for the competition who comply with legislation, which at present means under 12's should not be in control of any craft with an engine of more than a 5hp (3.7kW) and under 16's should not operate any craft capable of 17 knots or more.

This year saw over thirty competitors take part in the challenge which lead to over 150 competitions being judged on the water in a practical environment in their own craft. This was scrutinised by a team of judges.

A closely fought competition this year saw Oisín Morgan take the very sought after Craftinsure Cup followed closely in second place by Fiachra O'Dowd. The prizes were presented at the Gala Dinner. The Junior category saw Blathnaid Smith take first place and Jordy Laird second place.

Photos: Nora Sleator

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