



Local youngsters have been competing in the Royal Yachting Association's Honda Rib Challenge in Havelet Bay. Pictured in action is Jacob Brady, 12. Inset is Matthew Le Vasseur, who set the fastest time locally and who is currently leading the national competition. Seven more events are due to be held in the UK. (Main picture by Peter Frankland, 4746116)

Rib racer is fastest so far

A 14-YEAR-OLD islander has set the fastest national time in a rigid inflatable boat around a set course and will be going to Southampton to try to win a new vessel for the Guernsey Yacht Club.

The Honda Rib Challenge comprises 14 regional events in which young people compete around the same course.

Matthew Le Vasseur achieved a time of one minute and five seconds in Guernsey, which was the seventh heat and in which most of the times were closer to one-and-a-half minutes.

The closest competition so far has come from a Northern Irish youngster who managed the course in one minute and nine seconds.

There were 14 children taking part in the eight- to 12-year-old group and five in the 13- to 16-year-old class.

A special team from the Royal Yachting Association travelled to Guernsey with their own vessel to set up the very precise course in Havelet Bay.

The participants had to do two laps without hitting the marker buoys or getting the

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adult inside the rib wet.

In the younger class, nine-year-old Lily Parkes said her laps had gone quite smoothly.

'It was a bit scary and I was quite nervous,' she said.

'I think I hit some buoys, but I didn't get the adult wet and I was pleased with how I did.'

Eloise Tanguy, 13, who came second in the older class, said her laps went really well.

'It was really flat, which was great,' she said.

'It was a new boat [brought over by the RYA] so we had to get a feel for it.'

GYC committee member Nikki Tanguy said the participants had all done very well.

'It has been fantastic,' she said.

She added that Matthew would be practising hard to be ready for the final at the Southampton Boat Show in September.