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New Forest & District Sailability (“NFDS”) are delighted to learn of the award to Mrs Rosemary (“Rory”) Morrison of an MBE in the 2012 New Year’s Honours list.

Rory is the sailing captain of NFDS, an organization based at Spinnaker Lake, Ringwood, which provides dinghy sailing in over 15 boats for people with disabilities. The MBE was awarded for Rory’s tireless work in the growth and improvement in the facilities for disabled sailors at NFDS over the last 8 years.

Mr Eric Blyth, the Chairman of NFDS, commented “The award of the MBE is a well-deserved recognition of all the hard work undertaken by Rory over the years. Without her efforts in increasing the profile of NFDS, attracting volunteers to help run the sailing days, and her fund raising, we would not have the successful club we have today. I offer my sincere congratulations to Rory on this honour.”

This award comes on top of Rory’s invitation to attend a very special Reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the centenary of Captain Robert Scott’s final expedition to the South Pole. That reception, which was hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, recognised the accomplishments of those involved in exploration and adventure in pursuit of achievement, research and education. Rory was nominated for that honour by RYA Sailability, the national organisation for sailing for disabled people, again in recognition of her personal achievements and her work with Sailability

Rory said “The award of the MBE was a complete surprise and I must thank the people at NFDS who nominated me and supported the nomination. It is the icing on the cake, after my excitement at being invited to attend the Scott Centenary Reception at Buckingham Palace. But my thanks also go to all the volunteers at NFDS who have helped make the organisation run so efficiently, and who enable the sailors with disabilities to experience the fun and thrill of sailing. Over the years we have been able to get many people to forget their disabilities on the water, some then go on to race and, in one case, was a member of the training squad for the 2012 Paralympics. That is the most satisfying part of belonging to this organisation.”

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