

Press Release 20.7.11

New Forest and District Sailability

Double Celebration at New Forest and District Sailability

NFDS celebrated 10 years of sailing for the local disabled community by launching a new boat at its annual BBQ for invited guests and volunteers.

The new boat “Freedom” was launched by Yachtsman of the Year Geoff Holt, MBE, (a wheelchair sailor who sailed single handedly around Great Britain and then across the Atlantic to Barbados); NFDS chairman Eric Blyth, and Anthea Green winner of the “name the boat” competition.

Sainsbury’s Ringwood has nominated NFDS as its charity of the year and the boat naming competition was held at a recent collection event at Sainsbury’s Ringwood.

At the event, cheques were presented by Sainsbury’s and by Liam Foy, whose parents had asked for donations to NFDS instead of presents at their recent 25th wedding anniversary.

NFDS is a charitable organisation which provides dinghy sailing for disabled people of all ages and disability. It has a fleet of 10 double seater dinghies and 4 single handed dinghies. The double seater dinghies are those mainly used for taking disabled people for sails and training and the first of these was bought 10 years ago. The donations are being used to replace those boats which are becoming too old to repair effectively, so that there are always enough boats to accommodate the over 100 disabled people who come to sail at NFDS each week. As each new boat costs around £6,000, with sails, the donations by Sainsbury’s and Mr and Mrs Foy helped to finance the new boat “Freedom”.

NFDS is grateful for all the support of many people, groups and companies over the last 10 years.



Shown in the photo are: To the left of the dinghy: Anthea Green and Simon Church, the manager of Sainsbury’s Ringwood branch; then front row: Eric Blyth, Chairman of NFDS; Yachtsman of the Year Geoff Holt, MBE; and Liam Foy presenting the cheque on behalf of his parents. Second row: Christine Paul and Natasha Gama, staff at Sainsbury’s