

Starboard Newsletter

Summer 2009



Charity No. 1105212

Peter Bircham receives Awards for Services to Sport

On Monday 10th March 2009, Peter Bircham from New Forest District Sailability (NFDS) received the '**Ken Brooke Award for Services to Sport**', presented by Paul Woods, New Forest Councillor. This qualified Peter for entrance into the Hampshire & IOW Sports Awards and on Wednesday 25th March, Peter scooped the prize for **Senior Volunteer** at the Hampshire Rosebowl. You all know Peter. He's always with us. He is the only Founder Member of our Group still working.



Keith Goes Continental!

The highlight of Keith's year so far must be the **French Nationals** in which he came **3rd**. With a crew of Tom, Rory and Bruce (friend and carer) we caught the ferry to Cherbourg and drove the 210 miles south to Nantes. We sailed on the Erdre, a small tributary from the north, which opened into a pretty lake. Locals said that the Erdre is famous as one of the two most beautiful rivers in France. The welcome was excellent and a good time was had by all. For more details about Keith's Web site go to: www.Excalibur-sailing-team.com



Disability Awareness

RYA Sailability ran this course for us. It was not as well attended as I had hoped but all who came found it very informative. Fun, too, as we walked our blindfolded partner along the edge of the lake and up the steps. The RNIB Action for Blind People "Sail On" is coming on 27th August to try sailing.

At the end of March **Maurice** ran a **sailing skills** refresher in the morning, followed by a **racing refresher** by **Rory**, based on the video taken at Clare's course last autumn. Spike's **Safety Boat Refresher** was not well attended. Will all volunteers licensed to drive the boat please make an effort to come next time this is offered

Looking back at last year, it was Sailability to the rescue!

Barbara's Eventful Day

It was going to be a great day sailing. Little did I know that I had taken the wrong right hand turn off the Salisbury Road into Snails Lane and was now going down Woolmer Lane - a "no public access" track ! I kept thinking "where is the Sailability place?" "Where can I turn?" I drove on and on. The road became narrower and narrower. I really could not turn.

At last I managed to stop [*the track became narrower than the car*] with the driver's side teetering over a very wet ditch. I couldn't get out of the driver's side so I "leapt" out of the passenger side. Being me, I burst into tears.

Bright idea! I actually had my mobile so I 'phoned my great friend, Helen Baldwin, and cried a bit more. She 'phoned the Club for me. A dog walker came by and she was an enormous help too. Peter Bircham and Philip Steedman came out from the club but could not find me. I 'phoned my friend again and another search party was sent out. They arrived car-less and asked if I could push. "Not with MS," I replied. So Philip took off his T-shirt. Still no luck moving the car. Peter said, "We need Spike". "Who?" I said.

Spike, now my hero, appeared. After assessing the position of the car and finding the suspension jammed on the wrong side of a large lump of concrete at the edge of the ditch, it was determined that serious mechanical force would be required for recovery. He went to the tractor depot on the main road [New Forest Farm Machinery]. They were unable to lend a tractor but willingly sent three muscle men in a van. The assembled team eventually picked up my car, turned it round and put it back on the track from where it could safely be driven out. While they did this I was sent to the club for a cuppa.

Thank you very much for being there. I'll try not to give you any more unwanted splashes and I promise to come down the correct road in future.

Roll-on, roll-off

The mid-morning inter-island ferry was about to leave Nidri. Its itinerary would include Meganisi, Keffalonia and Preveza. A last lorry had rumbled aboard over the ramp and the Mate had instructed the Buffer to "single-up"

At the final possible moment a last passenger strode on board. Doubtless his battered suitcase contained his vestments and his pyx. His commanding presence and his biretta made him unmissable. The question "quo vadis" came to the spectator's mind.

Eurotraveller

[Guess who this is!](#)

23.~vi.~2k+9

April – the Sailing Season begins!

Sussex Challenge

The first opportunity to take up the Sussex Challenge came on Friday 3rd April when they arrived with 3 boats and a great crowd of people. It was a beautiful morning, but not for sailing. In very light airs Eric won the first race just before the wind died completely. Poor Paul Harper (Amy's Kitchen) was suddenly greeted by a hungry mob at least an hour earlier than expected. As usual, he rose nobly to the occasion.

After lunch the wind sprang up and we held another two good and interesting races although, sadly, some of the Sussex contingent had to leave early. This was the first day that Keith's "Orville" had been on the water and he had lots of problems. Nota Bene: Preparation! Preparation! Preparation! Will the next time we get together be at Shoreham?

Results:

303s				2.3s	
1	Jenny Monger & Brian Tarmar	6	Scott Palmer & Adrian Jordan	1	Richard Jackson (Sussex)
2	David Kenyon & Rodney Wood	7	Xavier Champeau & Irene Hincks	2	Mikey Jones
3	Katie Turquoise & Pat (Sussex)	8	Lawrie Phillips & 2 others!	3	Pat & Alan (Sussex)
4	Janet Lee & Doug Taylor (Sussex)	9	Tim Warner & Martin Hadley	4	Martin & Frances (Sussex)
5	Eric Blyth	10	Barbara Houston	5	Keith Harris

Spinnaker's Clear Up Day

Lots of us helped at **Spinnaker's Clear Up Day**. There was a good turn-out of Spinnaker's members too – better than usual! It is important that we are seen to do things for Spinnaker. Without them we wouldn't exist.

To the Rescue!

Rory organised 2 practice rescues this year:

Rescue 1: Crew: Andrew Allen, Jonathan Jackson

Jonathan has had 30 years in Marine Education, training cadets in boat handling for DOT certificates and is therefore experienced in rescuing people from the water.

By arrangement with me only, Phil Steedman donned his dry suit, sailed away in a 2.3 and jumped out when the safety boat was out of sight near the 2.4s. He shouted very loudly and everyone heard him, including Andrew in the safety boat. **Reaction from the other**

volunteers: After a couple of minutes Beryl blew her whistle.

Expected reaction: a) Lots of whistles

b) someone run to reception and ask them to call the safety boat.

Safety boat problems:

I had asked Phil to fall in as the biggest and heaviest of our volunteers!

Problems: His buoyancy jacket slipped up and nearly strangled him.
He found being pulled in over the ridge of the boat bow very uncomfortable

As a result, we have learnt many lessons and are looking into improving our techniques.

Rescue 2: Crew Charles Shavren, Robert Poth

I (Rory) was wearing my dry suit after hauling out 2.4m. Without telling anyone I took out a 2.3 single and fell out in sight of, but well away from the safety boat. The 2.3 sailed away. One minute later I heard Jaffa's engine speed up. At 2 minutes they arrived beside me. I told them that I was unconscious! At 4 minutes they had me in the boat, having rolled me in over the side. I don't weigh much so it was comparatively easy. Well done guys!

I asked why they hadn't dropped Jaffa's bow and Charles said he didn't think that Robert knew how to do it. Robert replied that he knew, but had never done it. So he dropped the bow, unaided, and I jumped back in. It wasn't difficult to pull me out but the edge of the dropped bow did pose a slight problem to me and to them.

Shore reaction:

A volunteer spotted a boat very close to the shore and alerted the pontoon co-ordinator, Rob Biddle, who called the safety boat on the radio and was told that the matter was in hand. However, further attempts to obtain information were not heard by the SB crew. At debrief it was found that the radio channel was not locked, so it might have turned off or changed channel. It is essential to check the lock when you pick up a radio.

Volunteers: Amazingly, we have 19 new volunteers this season. Welcome to you all! And we're still short on some days.

2.4 metre boats: We have lent two of our boats to the British Paralympic Squad for training. They are currently at Weymouth. Adrian and Rory went to visit them. A big sea wall has enclosed a marina and other facilities inside the old Portland Harbour wall. From the top of the new National Sailing Academy building only the tops of the 2.4m were visible. Disappointing.

Fund raising events and publicity ventures so far this year:

- As a result of Peter's awards, he and Eric talked to Roger Johnson who came to the lake with a cameraman. Their short film was shown on BBC South Today.
- Spinal Unit, Salisbury Open Day
- Val Stevens Choir

And a look forward to this year:

Wednesday 5th August Coffee morning with Ann and Brian Pierson at 32 New Road, Moortown, Ringwood 10:30 a.m

£2.50 per person. Tombola. Proceeds to Sailability and Disabled Riding.

Apologies there is no wheelchair access

Wednesday 26th August: Access Travellers Meet. 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Amy's Kitchen providing food (at a cost!)

Thursday 27th August: "Sail On" Action for the Blind. 10am – 4pm. Times to be confirmed

Ringwood Carnival: 2 Teams needed: 9am – 4.30 pm Stall on the Bickerley.

4.pm – 10 pm Procession

PLEASE NOTE:

NO SAILING TUESDAY 28 JULY

FRIDAY 31 JULY OPPI CAMP

NO SAILING TUESDAY 11 AUGUST

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST

TOPPER CAMP