

NFDS Sailability

Newsletter – June 2012

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Queen's Award for Voluntary Service:

Nearly a year ago Xav's mother approached me about putting our Group forward for the Queen's Award and in the Queen's Birthday Honours list we heard that we had won the award! Watch this space for further news.

The season is now well under way, having kicked off with the Nationals at Spinnaker Sailing Club in April. Those who were there need no reminder of the weather, with sailors and volunteers struggling with the weather on the Saturday and everyone in the Clubhouse on the Sunday watching the rain. Oh that rain!

Accounts of the weekend follow, and for all those of you who took part a big Congratulations, even if your name was not in the top three, you were there, you did it and you were part of the action.

UK NATIONAL SAILING RACING FOR DISABLED SAILORS

On the last weekend of April 2012, New Forest & District Sailability ('NFDS') hosted the UK National Championship racing for disabled sailors in the Access 303 and 2.3 and Liberty classes.

The Access 303 dinghies are designed specifically for disabled sailors and can be sailed either singly by the disabled sailors or by a disabled sailor with a helper. The 2.3 dinghies are smaller, single sail, single handed boats. The Liberty is slightly larger and can be sailed with full servo controls for both main and jib. During the season, NFDS uses the dinghies for volunteer skippers to take out people of all disabilities, or ensures a safe environment for disabled sailors to sail independently.

However, on Friday 27 April 18 disabled sailors turned up at NFDS host club, Spinnaker Sailing Club, Ringwood, to take part in the Access National Championship racing. They were joined by 5 members of NFDS and practicing took place. Just like any sailing event (and similar to motor sports), the sailors were testing the conditions of the lake and ironing out any "bugs" in their boats.

On Saturday, the racing started in earnest! 23 boats started the races with a mixture of the Access 303's, the slightly larger Liberty's and the 2.3's. There were two races in the morning in conditions of 17 – 20 mph winds and rain, and a further two races in the afternoon – in slightly better conditions.

The morning and afternoon races were interspersed with a high degree of excitement as a small fire broke out behind the clubhouse and everyone was evacuated – fortunately just about everyone had finished lunch. So whilst the fire engine was called and the clubhouse was sealed off, the intrepid sailors just went back to their boats and carried on racing! By the time they had finished the fire brigade had isolated the cause and made everything safe. It was discovered that there was an electrical fault in the mains cable which meant no hot food or beverages on Saturday afternoon. But, to their everlasting credit, Southern Electricity fixed the problem on Saturday night, by Sunday morning power had been restored and bacon rolls and hot drinks were back on the menu!

This was just as well, because Sunday morning brought winds of around 35 mph with gusts of up to 50 mph. Looking out at the lake from the clubhouse, the horizontal rain made the conditions extremely unpleasant and the hot bacon rolls even more welcome.

The race director, Marcus Frith, having checked the conditions every hour from 8.30 am onwards, eventually conceded that conditions were not likely to improve sufficiently to enable sailing to take place on Sunday and the racing was abandoned.

The class rules require a sailor to register 4 races in an event, and the races which took place on Saturday were enough for the event to be officially recognized by the Access Association.

The results were:

Access Liberty

1 st place	Alex Hovden
2 nd place	David Durston
3 rd place	Vince Barton

Access 303 single

1 st place	Margaret Foreman
2 nd place	Paul Phillips
3 rd place	Monique Foster

Access 303 double

1 st place	Ian Clements
2 nd place	Chris Atkins
3 rd place	Jason Meakers

Access 2.3

1 st place	Lindsay Burns
2 nd place	Christine David
3 rd place	Keith Harris

On Saturday night, a dinner for 70 competitors, their “crews”, and NFDS volunteers was held at Sandy Balls with disabled sailor Geoff Holt, MBE, as the guest speaker. The prize giving was held on Sunday afternoon with Sainsbury’s providing the food.

NFDS sailing captain, Rory Morrison, MBE, commented “It is amazing how many Access sailors love to race. Their disabilities make life very difficult for some of the sailors but the huge grins on their faces when they return to shore – whether they have won, lost or been somewhere in the middle of the fleet – makes the work put in to organizing an event like this well worthwhile. You would think that those who have won would get the greatest pleasure, but just competing in these races is an achievement and a great joy to all the sailors”.

She continued “But my thanks must go to all those who have made the event possible. Without wanting to sound like an acceptance speech at the Oscars – thank you to all the volunteers who helped the sailors into their boats; to the safety crew on the water; to the “back room” people who manned the reception and made sure the sailors knew the timetables etc; to Paul for the food and bacon rolls; to the fire brigade who got us back into the clubhouse as soon as possible; and to Southern Electric for their sterling effort in working overnight to get the power back on. An event like this cannot take place without all those concerned working as a team – and we have a superb team at NFDS.”

It is back to 'normal' at NFDS and anyone who wants to volunteer or anyone with disabilities who wants to sail with NFDS, please contact Eric Blyth on 02380 867438 or chairman@newforestsailability.co.uk

Contributed by Rowena Marsh

Bringing up the rear

The National Championships on 28-29 April 2012

These were held at Spinnaker Sailing Club and organised by our Race Team leader Marcus. The weather forecast was very dire for the whole weekend with Gusts of up to 60 mph. However the Friday training day was very good sailing, and from my point of view went very well, the wind gusts were up to 15 mph and everyone who sailed was happy with that aspect. David made some modifications to our boats that I hoped were not illegal.

On the Saturday we all turned up bright (well perhaps sleepy in my case) and early. The volunteers had the boats all ready for us. Marcus gave us a short chat on what was happening 4 races on Saturday and 2 on Sunday if weather permits. As we were getting into the boats the rain came down and poured all day. The wind was quite strong and we all hoped that the gusts would not send anyone swimming as Keith did in Bristol last year. I tried to remember all the checks we had learnt with Marcus, and took my Darren Drum with me on the boat in case of anything breaking whilst sailing.

The 1st race we all had a slow start and were off the start line by about 10 secs. I seemed to make some progress and even got in front of most of the Frensham sailors, who are very good, but for some reason I fell back and only finished 5th. In the 2nd race I made a better start on the last second but I think at the other end of the line I could not tack in front or behind the boats so had to wait for them to tack and lost any advantage I had, I made up some ground but this race was longer and I found it exhausting and dropped back.

After a fairly quick lunch break we all piled back into our boats for the afternoon session. When I made a good start but was luffed up good and proper by a Frensham sailor and just dropped back like a lead balloon to the back of the pack, and Martin who had been grounded caught me up and passed me as well. So I ended up at the back of the pack. In the last race all the tacking calls I made were the wrong ones or I could not tack when I wanted to be, I was not sailing at all well, but someone has to prop the top boats up!

Well done to all the other members of our team who were placed:-

Vince 2nd Liberty, Tom 1st full servo Liberty, Martin for Endeavour trophy 303. Keith 3rd in 203. James in double 303 best Novice sailor trophy, with Malcolm.

My thanks to all the volunteers who made the day flow and the very quick turn over of boats lining up for the hoists.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 15th and 19th

Pam Druce will be taking orders for clothes with our logo on during these two days the 15th is a Friday and the 19th is a Tuesday

Waterfest – Tuesday, June 19th

This will take place At Spinnaker Sailing Club between 3.00 and 7.00pm and will be a match between the staff of Ringwood Sainsburys and the staff of their Bitterne Store. Those of you who remember the race Mary had last year against the Ringwood manager for our own version of the Round the Island Race will remember Simon the Ringwood Manager who is now at the Bitterne branch.

This time it will be a larger fleet, and we are asking for Volunteers to sail with various members of the Sainsburys teams and for a good crowd of supporters.

There will be a Bring and Share supper after the races. Sainsburys are kindly providing the wine, even though the main purpose of the event is to thank them for their 2 year sponsorship, so lets have a really special supper spread for everyone to enjoy.

The superb support Sainsburys has given us over the two years of their sponsorship has given NFDS well over £3000.

We will also be naming and launching our two new boats during the afternoon.

The names chosen are **Blyth Spirit** proposed by **Carolyn Chapman** for the 303 red boat no 8, and **Jubilee**, proposed by **Jaine Logan** for the 2.4

Congratulations to the two winners and thank-you to all who took part.

Visit to Langstone Sailability on Sunday June 24th.

The group who went a few years ago all had a good time. More details from Rory, so contact her direct.

***Access Training July 15th**

***Access TT Event July 16th**

***Rutland Multi Class Event, 22nd July**

This is an opportunity to sail lots of different boats. If there is sufficient interest it has been suggested we might hire a holiday cottage or bungalow.

More information from http://www.accessclass.org.uk/eventRYA_Multi_Class_Champs_day1.html

Volunteers B.B Q. on Wednesday September 5th

This will be at lunchtime on the day and more details will be available later

***Bristol Docks 15 September** – very good for watching, videoing/photo shots.

More information available from:- www.balticwharfsailing.com

***September 26th Oxford Sailability at Farmoor Reservoir**

More information available from:- www.oxfordsailingclub.com

*The Race Team would be grateful for some help at the 'away' events if possible. Lifts could be arranged. The main help required is in off loading the boats (not on your own), rigging/setting them up the New Forest way. There have been several instances of other clubs helping but things being put on the wrong way.

Ringwood Carnival

We will be taking part in the Evening procession only this year, so hopefully there will be lots of volunteers available to help decorate the boat and to carry the buckets to collect money from the crowd. See you ALL there.

Walk Around the Beaulieu Estate Sunday July 1st

Hythe Rotary are organising 8km, 5km or 1km mini walks around Beaulieu Estate in support for Headway, Southampton, who have been bringing a group of people to us at NFDS for many years.

The walks start at 1pm and finish depending on how fast you walk!

Its a lovely walk. The track is similar to those encountered in the New Forest. The walk is suitable for families, and you can even bring dogs along too! Unfortunately the track is not suitable for wheelchairs or push chairs.

Last year the event was really successful, we raised £1000, and it is hoped it will be even better this year!

There is a registration form which needs to be filled in and sent to the Rotary. You can either send it to them yourself or bring in to us and we will send them in bulk. To register it costs £5 for an individual or £10 for a family of up to four people. Please fill this out as soon as you can so that the Rotary know how many people are attending, it helps them with their organisation. Any questions please just email me.

Further details can be obtained from reception@headway-southampton.org.uk

Anita Sharma Rehabilitation Officer of Hythe Rotary

We have been told that 75% of the money that the sponsors pay will go to Headway, and 25% to Hythe Rotary Charities. Also - it sounds like a nice walk.

Poulner Players

Last but by no means least The Poulner Players will present *Disposing of the Body* a play of passion and mystery. The dates are Wednesday June 6th to Saturday 9th. All performances start at 7.30. The production is being sponsored by the Co-operative Funeralcare and the profits from Front of House sales will be matched by Barclays Bank £ for £ and will be donated to NFDS. Performances will take place at Poulner Church Hall, Linford Road Ringwood BH24 1TL. Tickets are now available from Ringwood Fabrics, High Street Ringwood, by telephone 07927 380214 or Email tickets@poulner-players.org.uk

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

To clarify the various duties which make up the day to day running of our sailing days the committee have produced the following explanatory notes.

ROLES OF CO-ORDINATORS AND "IN CHARGE" ON THE DAY

To spread the load of running the NFDS sailing days, we have introduced various roles and, where relevant, have appointed individuals to fill some roles.

These notes are to explain the roles and how it is hoped the scheme will work. Inevitably, there will be some evolution and any suggestions you may have to make NFDS run more smoothly will be welcomed.

Volunteer co-ordinator –“outside” volunteers. We have appointed two individuals to co-ordinate the “outside” volunteers for Tuesdays and Fridays, ie. the volunteers who work on the pontoon, safety boat drivers, skippers etc.

The co-ordinators are:

Tuesdays David Pratley email: depratley@talktalk.net - phone: 01425 473475

Fridays Lawrie Phillips email: tolhurst2@tiscali.co.uk - phone: 01202 855919

They will have the details of the relevant volunteers and when they are available ie. Tuesdays, Friday am and/or pm etc.

“Receptionists” co-ordinator In the same way, we have appointed two individuals to co-ordinate volunteers who tend to work on reception, in the kitchen, and in making sure the sailors and their helpers have life jackets etc.

The co-ordinators are:

Tuesdays Chris Duncan email: acsduncan@waitrose.com - phone: 01425 478709

Fridays Liz Holmes email: Andrew.liz@btinternet.com - phone: 01425 472422

Again, they will have the details of the relevant volunteers and when they are available – as above.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you cannot attend on your usual day, please email or phone the relevant co-ordinator (not Rory, as at present!). The co-ordinator will try to ensure that there are sufficient volunteers available to run the session and if there appear to be “gaps” will ask specific people if they can assist. This should save a general email and either a deathly silence or an influx of volunteers!

Your role:

1. Obviously, let your co-ordinator know in plenty of time if you are unavailable.
2. Let the relevant co-ordinators for both Tuesdays and Fridays know if you can be flexible and help out at times other than your “normal” session.
3. For Receptionists duties continue to let the receptionists know if you cannot attend the following week etc. They will

fill in the “not available” folder – or you could fill it in yourselves.

OFFICER OF THE DAY (“OOD”)

This is the person who is “in charge” on the day. The role is designed as a first call for decisions on any matter and to try to make sure that there are sufficient volunteers actually carrying out the relevant roles – and making sure the volunteers do have proper breaks.

The types of decisions which may be needed are:

- i. How many boats should be rigged and available.
- ii. Whether the conditions are suitable for sailing, or whether sailing should be abandoned.
- iii. Whether sails should be reefed.
- iv. Whether specific individuals can be taken sailing and whether sailors can go “solo”.
- v. How many boats are to be left out on Tuesday for the Wednesday sailing.
- vi. When to start putting boats away.

The name of the individual who is OOD is shown at the top of the booking board being operated by the reception volunteers.

OTHER CO-ORDINATORS

In addition to the OOD, there is a reception co-ordinator, pontoon co-ordinator, and a safety boat driver and crew. All three are in radio contact to co-ordinate the skippers, the boats and the safety for the sailors.

The names of the pontoon co-ordinator and safety boat driver/crew are also shown at the top of the booking board at reception. The reception co-ordinator may be also, or may be the person in charge at the desk. Please ask on the day, if in doubt.

Safety boat

The safety boat skipper and crew are needed to keep a look-out for boats and for sailors in difficulty. They cannot take out sailors or visitors on “joy rides”. Occasionally a carer will ask to go in the safety boat to make sure their client is coping with the sailing. In such circumstances, another safety boat should be “prepped” and a safety boat driver available in case of emergencies with other boats.

MEMBERS’ REPRESENTATIVE

You will also see Xavier Champeau around the club most Tuesdays and Fridays. He is the members’ representative, so if you have any suggestions or comments you can talk to him - or any other member of the committee. We are always willing to talk to you and bring relevant matters to the committee.

Rowena Marsh Hon Secretary

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM PETER BIRCHAM

Peter is our longest serving volunteer, and he recently did a TANDEM SKYDIVE to raise money for disabled sailing. The event was organized by The Jubilee Sailing Trust and took place at Netheravon Military Airfield..

He tells us:- “There is a website where money can be donated,

www.virginmoneygiving.com/PeterBircham or you can go to the virginmoneygiving home page and type Peter Bircham in the window provided.”

The website includes Jubilee Sailing Trust and Poole Sailability, and Peter continued “I was unable to put NFDS on the website but NFDS will share the proceeds with Poole Sailability after JST have received the amount they require for organizing the event.” There will also be a sponsorship form at reception on sailing days with a couple of photographs from the event.”

A big thank you in anticipation for all your help and support.

A Closing word from the Editor

Once again I have to apologise if, having been nagged by me you sent photographs for the Newsletter and they are not now included. While I have been blaming my own incompetence, I now like to think it may be the system I have here. Yes! OK! I admit it! I *am* blaming my tools. Many thanks to all the members who sent me pieces for the Newsletter. As I have said before the Editor can only publish what arrives in her In-box.

If there is someone out there who could lift the photographs I have been sent, make a separate page of pictures, annotate them and send it independently to Rory for dispatch with the rest of the Newsletter that would solve the immediate problem while I get my head round yet another update to my computer or update to my competence levels.

I understand that in the past I have failed to include several items sent to me, if this is you, please accept my apologies, perhaps if every Email title could start with NEWS my incompetence rating might go down.

If you would like a chat about something to do with the Newsletter or there is something you would like to see in it let me know. My email address is jean.brownmayes@btinternet.com

And last but not least have another look at our Websites www.newforestsailability-raceteam.co.uk and www.newforestsailability.co.uk there is always something worth reading there.
