

NFD Sailability

Newsletter – September 2012

We blink, and it is September, or perhaps I have just had my eyes closed all this summer. Where has our summer weather been! But no more moaning.

The most compelling event this year has been the award of an MBE to Rory for services to Disabled Sailing. Below you will read her account of the events connected with the award. Well done Rory, we all know it is well deserved. And well done to all those other members who sit on the committee, turn up every week, rig boats, help the sailors, make tea, wash-up, keep the books in order, keep the volunteers in order, mend the boats when necessary, put boats away at the end of each day and keep that shed at the rear of the club house so tidy.

We are a little short of material for this edition of your Newsletter, not through lack of activities on your part, but, as I have not been about each week to nag you all, material did not arrive.

Rory's MBE – for Services to Disabled Sailing

It was both a huge surprise and a shock when I received a very official looking envelope last November and discovered that the Committee and others has put me forward for an MBE.

Names of people who are to receive honours are given to the Press a few days before Christmas and both the local radio and TV's South Today rang me asking for an interview. I said "yes, if you can come today or tomorrow before 11.30 am." So they did! First, that afternoon a lady from the radio arrived and then, at 11 am the next morning, South Today complete with camera. They were packing up by 11.30 and at 11.45 Tom arrived to take me to the coach for my visit to my daughter in Canada!

MBE Day – Windsor Castle

Each recipient is allowed three guests so my son and younger daughter and Eric Blyth accompanied me.

Friday 2nd March dawned grey and misty. We drove into Engine Court where Eric and his wheelchair were taken to the lift while the rest of us walked up the magnificent staircase. At the top we separated, me to join the recipients and the others to find Eric in the Waterloo Chamber.

Members of the Queen's Household explained what to do and then we walked through all the magnificent State Apartments to a side door into the Waterloo Hall. Here we waited our turn beside a Gentleman Usher, me trembling with fright. 20 yards forward to stand beside another Usher until our surname was called. Another few yards, turn towards the Queen, curtsy, walk forward to the small dais on which she stood to attach the Honour to a pre-prepared hook. She then asked how long I had been working with the disabled. I have no idea what I said, but my family said it made her laugh. A few steps backwards, another curtsy, and out of the hall. We were directed round the back to join the audience and watch the others receive their honours before being given a short tour of the State Apartments.

Outside the sun was shining! We met the rest of the family and some friends for an excellent Luncheon at the Harte & Garter Hotel.

IMPORTANT

RINGWOOD CARNIVAL Saturday, September 15th.

NFDS will be entering the evening procession, and will be assembling at 5.30 pm
The Procession starts at 7.15 pm and the route will take us round Ringwood town centre.

Our theme will be -Noah's Ark

We are converting a boat to be our ARK and the idea is that we dress up as animals to follow two by two.

This can be achieved by Masks, Face paint or if you are able by Fancy Dress.

We would also like to adorn the ark with large toy animals, so if you are willing to loan anything suitable we would make sure they are well cared for and returned to their owners if you are able and to take part in this real fun event to support Sailability, please do so.

All are welcome.

Please indicate your support by either adding your name to the list on the club notice board,

or by contacting either Mary, Val or myself.

Please support this venture, it is one way of being seen by a wider audience.

Rob Biddle

RYAS LOGBOOK SCHEME

There seems to have been some misunderstanding about the Logbook scheme.

Our Chairman Eric explains the following to clarify the situation. 'It is totally up to you if you wish to join the scheme, and if you don't, it will make no difference to you being a volunteer at NFDS or the groups RYAS status.

It is felt that the misunderstanding may stem from the fact that in the logbook introduction, all the category descriptions start with the words;

"All volunteers must complete any five tasks", more appropriate wording could be something like;

"Participants in the scheme are required to complete any five of the tasks listed"

The logbook scheme was introduced by the RYAS after requests from Sailability volunteers who wanted some form of documented recognition of their achievement and qualifications as Sailability volunteers. This would be along the lines of the sailing and powerboat qualifications.

A good number of the NFDS volunteers see it as just that, and are happy to be part of the scheme.

So the bottom line on the subject of logbooks is;

All NFDS needs to do to retain the RYAS Centre of Excellence Status is to implement the scheme.

IT IS TOTALLY UP TO YOU whether you hand your logbook in filled out or not, but please hand them in so they can be reissued.'

Any comments may be sent to Eric

2.4mR CLASS BOATS

For those who are qualified, or who aspire to sail the 2.4mR Class boats at NFDS, a Challenge 'Ladder' has now been started for the 2012 season and can be found on the NFDS Notice Board in the Spinnaker Clubhouse.

Conduct of this challenge is described in the following link on the "Members\Beginner to Winner" Page of the NFDS website.

http://www.newforestsailability.co.uk/2.4_Challenge/Challenge.html

If the link does not work direct from the above, just copy the link and paste it into your Browser's address line.

Please submit any comments to: <mailto:bosun@newforestsailability.co.uk>

copy to: <mailto:sailingcaptain@newforestsailability.co.uk>

Happy sailing Spike

THE REAL ROUND THE ISLAND RACE took place at Spinnaker Sailing Club. Mary's account of the Sainsbury's Waterfest is below and gives us a flavour of the fun event that it was. She writes;

Hi everyone,

Many thanks to all those who made this event such a success.

Feedback from Sainsbury's was very positive and those members of staff, who had not visited us before, were most impressed with our set-up.

Thanks goes to all the skippers who took part, to the pontoon workers, to those who brought all that fantastic food, and most of all to those very efficient people who put all the food out and cleared up so well and quickly in the kitchen, that, when I turned up, everything was finished and cleared away.

A final big thank-you goes to Spike for organising great racing.

And weren't we lucky with the weather!

Sainsbury's are very keen to make this an annual event, even though they have a new charity to work with, so watch this space!

Regards, Mary.

The photos from the 'Sainsbury's Waterfest 2012' are now available

Click on this link below to view. http://www.newforestsailability.co.uk/Gallery/Events_2012.html

By the time you are reading this these two events will have taken place.

Spinnaker Olympics

This took place on Sunday, 12 August. Proposed were a series of relay races, 6 teams of 6 people who it was planned would race round various islands or buoys. Ben Lees, member of the race squad, was in the winning team

Paralympic Flame

Unfortunately the event planned by New Forest District Council did not take place. Instead we hosted our own Flame Festival on Friday 31 September.

Charlie Rogers, who is doing his D of E Award with us, also carried the Olympic flame. So he came to us in his white uniform and Spike brought him down the lake standing in Jaffa with the flame held high. Our fleet followed. He disembarked on our pontoon and lit our cauldron which was actually 4 of the garden flames that people use when they have a BBQ to keep the midges away! He also lit a small replica Welsh Miner's lamp similar to the ones used when the Paralympic Flames, lit on our highest mountains, were brought down to be transferred around our Nation. These burnt at the Club all day. Photos on our website.

OooooooooO

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RYA SAILABILITY SUNSAIL REGATTA SEPTEMBER 10TH – 11TH 2012

Last years event was attended by Rory and Malcolm Bentley and below is an account of the weekend given to us by Malcolm.

Rory and I joined this regatta last year and it was really enjoyable. The racing on both days was great with 7 or 8 boats from memory and being one class 40'ers can give some good competition. We were on an RYA Sailability boat crewed by individual people like us as opposed to a whole yacht booking from, say, a corporate entry. Another Sailability boat won the regatta, nominally skippered by the chief executive or chairwoman but David Bedford happened to be the afterguard! They say a wheelchair user can be catered for on the yachts although they are not adapted for wheelchair use and so this would need to be carefully discussed with them by anyone wanting to come. Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron is quite an experience as ordinary mortals are rarely let in! Princess Anne presented the prizes back at Port Solent accompanied by Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Lawrence. I am thinking of going and can provide a lift. They are offering a 10% discount and it raises good money for Sailability.

Malcolm Bentley

Look at the Web-site at www.ryasailability.org.uk or lornaconder@rya.org.uk

While the Sailability Nationals may seem to have been a long time ago, we received many words of thanks and much praise for the weekend. Below are just a few of the messages sent to NFDS. They have been left in their original format.

From: Lindsay Burns - Frensham and Access Committee

Hello Rory

Just a note to formally thank New Forest and District Sailability for all your efforts in running the Access Nationals. I'm amazed you all managed to keep smiling in such inclement conditions!

The weather did at least do us a favour for the racing on Saturday, with the wind direction allowing the perfect long beat and, therefore, a true test of sailing skills.

My thanks again to all involved.

Kind regards Lindsay

From: Monique Foster - Frensham

Dear Rory,

I hope you have recovered from the weekend by now.

I have very much enjoyed the racing and outstanding competition. Thank you for letting me sail "Inspiration".

When I came home I had a warm bath to defrost and the next day the sun was shining! That certainly helped the recovery.

It was so nice to see so many familiar faces again, and seeing Geoff Holt was another nice surprise.

Hope to see you again soon,

Kind regards Monique

From: a member of NFDS - Steve Kitson

Hi Eric and Rory

Many thanks to you, Rory and all the volunteers for hosting the Nationals and a great evening meal. To organize such an event with all the thrills and excitement of the local fire brigade was very impressive. I also would like to thank Stefan Hart for his support and making my first time racing a memorable experience.

Kindest regards Steve Kitson

From Simon Walworth - Commodore Spinnaker Club

I got the impression, weather apart, that a good time was had by all. The shore and support operation was impressive, well done Spike & Marcus.

Even hurricane winds, sheet rain and fires failed to phase Rory, what a girl.

Wonderful praise from a visitor which has come to us via Eric.

I spoke to Kevin for some time a few days ago, and I got the impression he was rather envious of the dedication and harmony we have at NFDS and the way everything runs so smoothly. He also expressed his envy of the relationship we have with Spinnaker, compared with the relationship they have with their host club.

So a big thanks to all you NFDS volunteers for the wonderful job you do, and a big thanks to Spinnaker for being there.

And more recently:-

My Thanks

Just a short message to say thanks for showing me around last week, especially to Xavier Champeau who was very knowledgeable and helpful. You clearly have a great setup there and are doing a wonderful job for your disabled members.

Many thanks - Kevin Taylor, President, Waveley Sailability

Then there was the excitement in Poole Harbour earlier this summer

'Just listened on Radio Solent's Steve Harris Show talking about Brian's exploits in rescuing a young person from the harbour. Well done Brian, and wonderful publicity for disabled sailing.'

Poole Sailability Rescue

A Closing Word (or two) from your Editor

Many thanks for all those members who put pen to paper – perhaps fingers to keyboards would be a better way of putting things, - and supplied material for your Newsletter.

If there is something you would like to see here please let me know. My Email address is still the same jean.brownmayes@btinternet.com

So what was that item you thought about last week which you just knew you should write about?